

DAN RUIMY, PITT MEADOWS –  
MAPLE RIDGE

TOWN HALL REPORT  
ON ELECTORAL REFORM  
PUBLIC CONSULTATION



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MAPLE RIDGE

RAPPORT SUR LES CONSULTATIONS  
PUBLIQUES SUR LA RÉFORME  
ÉLECTORALE

CONSULTATION(S)			
Date(s) of the Meeting(s)	Time and Length (start time and end time)	Location of Consultation	Total Number of People in Attendance (you may indicate the number of volunteers and employees who assisted with the meeting)
1. July 17/16	6:00 – 8:30pm	Open Door Church – 11391 Dartford St., Maple Ridge, BC	121
2.			
3.			
4.			
<b>Form:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Use of the Library of Parliament’s visual presentation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Presentation from the MP’s office <input type="checkbox"/> Open microphone <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Question and answer session <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Guest speaker <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify):			
SUBJECTS DISCUSSED (summary)			
Voting systems: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Replacement of the current voting system: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Voter turnout: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Accessibility and inclusiveness: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mandatory voting: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Online voting: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Local representation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other (please specify and describe below) <input type="checkbox"/>

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS
<p><b>What did participants say about the current system for electing Members of Parliament (benefits/flaws)? Did participants feel that their votes are fairly translated? (suggested limit: 500 words)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Group of participants who viewed their vote as being ignored. Request for a system that protects the vote to the greatest degree possible.</li> <li>• Elections Canada should be re-empowered.</li> <li>• All voting systems are better than what we have right now.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Which alternatives to the current system were discussed? Did participants identify specific features that are important to them in an electoral system (for example local representation, proportionality, simplicity, legitimacy etc.)? (suggested limit: 500 words)</b></p>

Please return to:

Special Committee on Electoral Reform (ERRE)  
131, rue Queen Street, Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6  
Tel./tél.: 613-992-3150 Fax/télécopieur: 613-947-3089 [ERRE@parl.gc.ca](mailto:ERRE@parl.gc.ca)

Deadline: Friday, October 14, 2016

- There was fear of wild swings of power and super majorities over fractional changes of voting patterns. This concern was primarily with ranked ballot.
- Concern in regards to what the size of the ridings will be and the ridings being too large that accurate representation of the constituents will get lost.
- Equal representation was a common priority brought up and discussed.
- Diversity and good representation of Canada is important for multiple participants.
- Suggestion for multimember ridings so that the majority of people have a Member of Parliament who represents their values.
- Mixed member proportional
- Proportional representation is strongly advisable as it would allow for more clarity in government processes and results
- Lower age to 16 years old
- Implement maximum voting age of 85 or 90 as at that age votes are based on dogma/tradition/revenge and the elections results will not have a significant impact on them.
- Not in favor of the party getting to put forward/elect candidates as they believed it should be the people who have the say of who is representing them.
- Concerns surrounding potential collations and the reality of how offer this would happen and having party values compromised.
- Concerns around how much the reform to the electoral system will cost
- Consider a shorter mandate (3 years)

**Did participants discuss why they feel many Canadians choose not to engage in the democratic process? Did they suggest ways to encourage participation? (suggested limit: 500 words)**

- Suggestion that figuring out why people are disengaged in the political system is the first step.
- Suggested going beyond social media for engaging youth.
- Suggested to do digital advertisement and interaction to get individuals involved in not only voting, but also politics.
- Many seniors are not computer literate so they need to be communicated with by personal letters and phone calls.
- Low engagement occurs when there is misinformation and misrepresentation through advertising. This can be controlled by stricter laws on political advertising.
- Some individuals feel decisions are made by the powerful corporations buying the leaders in Ottawa.
- Chances of wasting one's vote is too high
- Majority governments proceed with their own agenda and don't listen to the people
- More polling stations that can access the youth i.e.: all campuses, youth centers etc.

**Did participants feel that it should it be mandatory to cast a ballot? (Can include spoiling a ballot.) (suggested limit: 500 words)**

- Some participants in favor of mandatory voting but suggest that the youth be educated first. Further, prisoners in high-security should be excluded.
- Suggestion of mandatory voting with a financial reward from the money collected from personal income tax
- Participants against mandatory voting (4): if individuals are forced and they are not educated it will lead to skewed results; can lead to "joke" voting

**Did participants discuss online voting? Did they express a desire to maintain current voting practices? (i.e. presenting themselves at a polling station, vote secrecy etc.) (suggested limit: 500 words)**

- Participant was for online voting
- Concerns around fraud

**Were any other major topics raised by the participants? (i.e. referendum, women/minority representation, accessibility, voter turnout etc.) (suggested limit: 500 words)**

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- Referendum: the people should have the final say of whether electoral reform needs to go ahead. It was compared to the BC HST referendum.
  - Some participants asking to not cave into a referendum as Canadians may fall into believing propaganda
- Women: easier access for women to get to Ottawa
  - Subsidized daycare was one suggestion
- First Nations: are their needs being addressed?
- Youth:
  - Students in high school should be getting education on politics in order to be educated when they place their first vote.
- Seniors

**SUMMARY OF KEY RECOMMENDATIONS AND COMMENTS FROM PARTICIPANTS (suggested limit: 1000 words)**

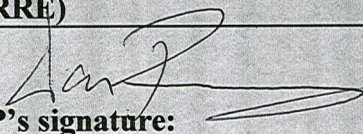
**General Question/Comment Themes**

1. Making votes count:
  - a. What system will best allow for every individual's vote to be heard?
  - b. What system best protects Canadian's votes?
2. Engagement and Integrity:
  - a. Is it possible to harm a candidate when you vote for them in an alternative voting system?
3. Referendum:
  - a. Is the committee going to consider a referendum?
  - b. Suggestion made around a referendum similar to the HST referendum that was held in British Columbia.
4. Consequences of the different systems:
  - a. Will there be wild swings from party to party over fractional changes of voting patterns?
5. Disengagement in the political system:
  - a. We need to figure out why people are so disengaged in the political system and how we can enhance engagement.
6. Riding sizes in a mixed proportional system
  - a. How would PEI work under larger ridings?
  - b. Would our specific community needs still be met?
7. Equal representation:
  - a. How can we ensure that Parliament represents the diversity in Canada?
8. Issues surrounding the parties choosing the candidates:
  - a. Some belief that it should be the constituents that make the decision, not the party
9. Certain regions or people having more power than others:
  - a. Would Quebec then become a 'king maker' in the system?
10. Attention brought to the underpinnings of the electoral system:
  - a. The way in which money is distributed
  - b. How can we make Parliament more women and family friendly?
  - c. How can we better support our youth so that they will engage?
11. Digital advertisement:
  - a. How can we reach a greater target audience through the digital world?
12. Gerrymandering:
  - a. How do we ensure that there is no political advantage given through gerrymandering?

**Report submitted to Special Committee on Electoral Reform (ERRE)**

**Date:** October 12, 2016

**MP's signature:**



**(Name)**

*Dan Ruying*

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