

Ottawa

Room 425, Confederation Building
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6
Tel.: 613-995-5822
Fax.: 613-996-9655



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

Ottawa

Pièce 425, Édifice de la Confédération
Ottawa (Ontario) K1A 0A6
Tél. : 613-995-5822
Télééc. : 613-996-9655

Constituency

2900 Highway 2, Suite 201
Fall River, Nova Scotia B2T 1W4
Tel.: 902-861-2311
Fax.: 902-861-4620

Darrell Samson

Member of Parliament / Député
Sackville—Preston—Chezzetcook

Circonscription

2900, autoroute 2, suite 201
Fall River (Nouvelle-Écosse) B2T 1W4
Tél. : 902-861-2311
Télééc. : 902-861-4620

Town Hall Meeting on Electoral Reform

Alternative Vote/ Preferential Voting:

- Some people felt this system would eliminate some people's first choice candidate and therefore would disengage people who feel their vote already doesn't count in the current system.
- Our constituents feel that a pro to this system is that it requires a majority in order for the candidate to be voted in.
- They feel a con to this system is that a person's first choice gets eliminated.

Block Vote:

- This system is pretty much the same as the current system however now you vote for more candidates per region.
- Cons: No improvement on the current system.
- Pros: none.
- Our constituents also feel this would be a worse model than our current system.

Closed List Proportional:

- Not an inclusive system
- They do not like how the parties get to choose.
- This option would have a negative impact, however this group does believe that our system needs a change.
- This group believes that we need to make our democratic system more inclusive and this does not offer that.
- Leaves the power to the party.
- Don't like how the party can pick the candidate.
- Your vote does not really reflect the candidate.



Ottawa

Room 425, Confederation Building
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6
Tel.: 613-995-5822
Fax.: 613-996-9655



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

Ottawa

Pièce 425, Édifice de la Confédération
Ottawa (Ontario) K1A 0A6
Tél. : 613-995-5822
Télééc. : 613-996-9655

Constituency

2900 Highway 2, Suite 201
Fall River, Nova Scotia B2T 1W4
Tel.: 902-861-2311
Fax.: 902-861-4620

Darrell Samson
Member of Parliament / Député
Sackville—Preston—Chezzetcook

Circonscription

2900, autoroute 2, suite 201
Fall River (Nouvelle-Écosse) B2T 1W4
Tél. : 902-861-2311
Télééc. : 902-861-4620

- No pros to this system.

Open List Proportional:

- Not geographical.
- More minority governments. Which can be a pro and a con as less bills get passed with a minority government, however more debate allows us to really think about the decisions we are making.
- There would be a lot more elections with a minority government.
- If this system were to be implemented, our constituents still want it to be 4 year terms for those elected.

Single Transferable Vote:

- Our constituents believe this system does not represent their values of democracy and the democratic process and they believe it would give the parties greater control.
- Our constituents believe however that this requires a candidate to receive a majority of the vote to be elected which is good.

Single Non-Transferable Vote:

- Can't vote for the person you want.
- No regional representation
- Creates splits in community if there is no agreement between all representatives.
- Your political values would not be represented.
- More federal party control over all regions
- This system would destroy democracy.
- Reduces voter representation and accountability.
- More expensive
- Loaded government.
- Bigger districts



Ottawa

Room 425, Confederation Building
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6
Tel.: 613-995-5822
Fax.: 613-996-9655



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

Ottawa

Pièce 425, Édifice de la Confédération
Ottawa (Ontario) K1A 0A6
Tél. : 613-995-5822
Télééc. : 613-996-9655

Constituency

2900 Highway 2, Suite 201
Fall River, Nova Scotia B2T 1W4
Tel.: 902-861-2311
Fax.: 902-861-4620

Darrell Samson

Member of Parliament / Député
Sackville—Preston—Chezzetcook

Circonscription

2900, autoroute 2, suite 201
Fall River (Nouvelle-Écosse) B2T 1W4
Tél. : 902-861-2311
Télééc. : 902-861-4620

First Past the Post:

- Lost votes
- No representation for votes cast.
- Encourages low number of parties
- Homogeneity of opinion
- Voter apathy, turnout no incentive to vote.
- Parties too strong
- Whipped vote means no representation of independence of thought.
- No say of members in the house.
- Some people believe we should have had a referendum.
- Over regional representation is not a good thing with this system.
- Representative, one MP is accountable to their constituents.
- Instability to government.
- Clear Winner.
- Simple and easy for everyone to understand.
- Better chance of a majority government.
- Not proportional results.
- It creates wild policy swings to the outside world.

Mixed Member Majority:

- Believe this system might be simple, they like that it improves the First Past the Post.
- Don't like that the party controls the list and that it is not proportional.
- Less of a majority would increase debate and reflect Canadian Values.



Darrell.Samson@parl.gc.ca

Ottawa

Room 425, Confederation Building
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6
Tel.: 613-995-5822
Fax.: 613-996-9655



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

Constituency

2900 Highway 2, Suite 201
Fall River, Nova Scotia B2T 1W4
Tel.: 902-861-2311
Fax.: 902-861-4620

Darrell Samson

Member of Parliament / Député
Sackville—Preston—Chezzetcook

Ottawa

Pièce 425, Édifice de la Confédération
Ottawa (Ontario) K1A 0A6
Tél. : 613-995-5822
Télééc. : 613-996-9655

Circonscription

2900, autoroute 2, suite 201
Fall River (Nouvelle-Écosse) B2T 1W4
Tél. : 902-861-2311
Télééc. : 902-861-4620

Mixed Member Proportional:

- Yes best of all the options available.
- Geographic representation is a bit of a concern.
- More engagement from voters.
- Pros:
 - Eliminates strategic vote
 - You can vote for a candidate you like as well as a party you like
 - Better reflection of electorate
 - Less majority governments
 - Two choices less complicated.
 - Legislation will better represent Canadian values
 - Bigger electoral districts could increase accountability.
 - More diversity
 - No lost votes
- Cons:
 - Bigger electoral district could decrease accountability.
 - PEI constitutionally guaranteed 4 seats which could be lost based on this system.
(This can also be a pro as they could gain more seats than this potentially as well).



Ottawa

Room 425, Confederation Building
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6
Tel.: 613-995-5822
Fax.: 613-996-9655



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

Ottawa

Pièce 425, Édifice de la Confédération
Ottawa (Ontario) K1A 0A6
Tél. : 613-995-5822
Télééc. : 613-996-9655

Constituency

2900 Highway 2, Suite 201
Fall River, Nova Scotia B2T 1W4
Tel.: 902-861-2311
Fax.: 902-861-4620

Darrell Samson

Member of Parliament / Député
Sackville—Preston—Chezzetcook

Circonscription

2900, autoroute 2, suite 201
Fall River (Nouvelle-Écosse) B2T 1W4
Tél. : 902-861-2311
Télééc. : 902-861-4620

Two Round:

- Cons:
 - More expensive
 - 2 election dates
 - Discourages diversity in votes and diversity of party
 - Only encourages 2 dominant parties essentially.
 - Candidates must be a part of a party.
 - Independent votes are lost.
 - Eliminates candidates.
 - Low diversity of thoughts.
 - Discourages voting (they have to show up twice).
- Pros:
 - Eliminates candidates
 - Could result in greater voter participation
 - Boils down to a two party system.

Compulsory Voting:

- 15 out of 32 people believed that voting should be compulsory.
- Some feel we would need to offer some kind of incentive for this.
- Some people believe the government should not do this. They believe that voting is a privilege and by making voting mandatory it is no longer a privilege.
- Some people believe we should have mandatory voting as it would ensure that the electorate has a given mandate to the government to legitimize the decisions on their behalf.



Ottawa

Room 425, Confederation Building
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6
Tel.: 613-995-5822
Fax.: 613-996-9655



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

Ottawa

Pièce 425, Édifice de la Confédération
Ottawa (Ontario) K1A 0A6
Tél. : 613-995-5822
Télec. : 613-996-9655

Constituency

2900 Highway 2, Suite 201
Fall River, Nova Scotia B2T 1W4
Tel.: 902-861-2311
Fax.: 902-861-4620

Darrell Samson

Member of Parliament / Député
Sackville—Preston—Chezzetcook

Circonscription

2900, autoroute 2, suite 201
Fall River (Nouvelle-Écosse) B2T 1W4
Tél. : 902-861-2311
Télec. : 902-861-4620

Online Voting:

- 17 out of 32 people believe online voting should be an option.
- Some people like this as it would be more convenient and accessible.
- Some people feel it would be unsecure (hackers) and therefore they worry about how the system could be rigged potentially. Therefore they don't want it.
- It is time to move this forward as we are in the technology age.
- Some of our constituents felt they were too old to know if this would benefit them.

Lowering the Voting Age:

- 6 out of 33 people believe this should be an option.
- Some people say yes this should be an option because it would get more voters out.
- Some say it should be lowered to 16, as if you are able to legally drive a car, you should be able to have a say in your government representatives.
- Some feel that people often underestimate how developed 16-18 year olds are and their thoughts on our government.
- Some say no because not even everyone ages 18-25 vote so it would waste more taxpayer dollars to print more ballots for these voters who won't vote.
- Some people believe that with age comes a certain amount of wisdom. They don't think children should be forming the development of the country while they are still developing themselves.
- Some believe there is always favour in experience and lowering the voting age would allow teenagers who are too young and inexperienced to form government.
- If the number of teenagers outnumbers the number of adults who vote then the government official they elected could be inexperienced.
- Some say that no even 18 is too young an age for people to vote as brains are still not fully developed at this age.
- Some believe that it is not until young people become 21 years old that they begin to connect cause and effect.



Ottawa

Room 425, Confederation Building
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6
Tel.: 613-995-5822
Fax.: 613-996-9655



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

Ottawa

Pièce 425, Édifice de la Confédération
Ottawa (Ontario) K1A 0A6
Tél. : 613-995-5822
Télééc. : 613-996-9655

Constituency

2900 Highway 2, Suite 201
Fall River, Nova Scotia B2T 1W4
Tel.: 902-861-2311
Fax.: 902-861-4620

Darrell Samson
Member of Parliament / Député
Sackville—Preston—Chezzetcook

Circonscription

2900, autoroute 2, suite 201
Fall River (Nouvelle-Écosse) B2T 1W4
Tél. : 902-861-2311
Télééc. : 902-861-4620

Other Comments:

- Some people feel that coalition governments would be good for our democratic system, as it would encourage debate and take out the political aspect of voting.
- They believe coalition governments are more stable.
- Some people want more education on each of the electoral systems.
- More feedback is wanted on the evaluation process after all the consultations are done.
- Some people wanted more feedback on how the countries that are using these systems are working and what types of problems or benefits they gain from the system.
- Some wanted to know if First Past the Post is still an option.
- Someone said: "Canada is one of the best countries in the world if not the best. I feel that the main reason that we are the best is because our electoral system works. It has been working for 150 years. At 78 years old, I have seen many countries go down to dictatorships because their electoral system was changed when their country changed their electoral system when they had a majority government. If there is going to be any changes in the way we vote it has to be by way of a referendum."
- Another participant said: "What rights would Permanent Residents be able to get with regards to voting? I am a permanent resident and cannot yet become a citizen for different reasons, yet I have been here for over 14 years paying the same taxes as everyone else. I hope whatever the new system is, that amendments are made so that Permanent Residents are also able to vote."



Ottawa

Room 425, Confederation Building
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6
Tel.: 613-995-5822
Fax.: 613-996-9655



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

Ottawa

Pièce 425, Édifice de la Confédération
Ottawa (Ontario) K1A 0A6
Tél. : 613-995-5822
Télééc. : 613-996-9655

Constituency

2900 Highway 2, Suite 201
Fall River, Nova Scotia B2T 1W4
Tel.: 902-861-2311
Fax.: 902-861-4620

Darrell Samson

Member of Parliament / Député
Sackville—Preston—Chezzetcook

Circonscription

2900, autoroute 2, suite 201
Fall River (Nouvelle-Écosse) B2T 1W4
Tél. : 902-861-2311
Télééc. : 902-861-4620

Town Hall Meeting on Electoral Reform

Vote for the Systems:

Top Choice Votes:

Alternative	Block	Closed List	First Past the Post	Mixed Member Majority	Mixed Member Proportional	Open List	Single Non-Transferable Vote	Single Transferable Vote	Two Round
2	0	1	13	1	13	0	0	2	0

From the ballot we created and gave to each member attending our Town Hall Meeting, the two voting systems with the greatest number of votes were the Mixed Member Proportional and the First Past the Post. Alternative Vote and Single Transferable Vote came in Second with 2 votes each and Closed List and Mixed Member Majority both received 1 vote. Of all the other systems, none of them were the top choice from any of our attendees.

Second Choice Votes:

Alternative	Block	Closed List	First Past the Post	Mixed Member Majority	Mixed Member Proportional	Open List	Single Non-Transferable Vote	Single Transferable Vote	Two Round
3	0	2	1	6	1	5	2	4	2

It is important to note that not everyone gave a second choice vote. Only 26 of the 32 people voted for their second choice. Of the second choices, Mixed Member Majority had the largest number of votes with 6.



Ottawa

Room 425, Confederation Building
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6
Tel.: 613-995-5822
Fax.: 613-996-9655



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

Ottawa

Pièce 425, Édifice de la Confédération
Ottawa (Ontario) K1A 0A6
Tél. : 613-995-5822
Télééc. : 613-996-9655

Constituency

2900 Highway 2, Suite 201
Fall River, Nova Scotia B2T 1W4
Tel.: 902-861-2311
Fax.: 902-861-4620

Darrell Samson

Member of Parliament / Député
Sackville—Preston—Chezzetcook

Circonscription

2900, autoroute 2, suite 201
Fall River (Nouvelle-Écosse) B2T 1W4
Tél. : 902-861-2311
Télééc. : 902-861-4620

Third Choice Votes:

Alternative	Block	Closed List	First Past the Post	Mixed Member Majority	Mixed Member Proportional	Open List	Single Non-Transferable Vote	Single Transferable Vote	Two Round
1	0	1	5	2	0	4	1	1	0

In this vote as well it is important to note that only 15 of 32 people voted for a third choice. Of those third choice picks, First Past the Post had the largest number of votes with 5.

Based on our results, it seems that people generally preferred the First Past the Post and Mixed Member Proportional Systems. Nobody voted for the Block Vote at all.

