

**PETER SCHIEFKE, MP  
VAUDREUIL-SOULANGES**

**TOWN HALL REPORT  
ON ELECTORAL REFORM  
PUBLIC CONSULTATION**



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES  
CANADA

**PETER SCHIEFKE, DÉPUTÉ  
VAUDREUIL-SOULANGES**

**RAPPORT SUR LES CONSULTATIONS  
PUBLIQUES SUR LA RÉFORME  
ÉLECTORALE**

<b>CONSULTATION(S)</b>			
<b>Date(s) of the Meeting(s)</b>	<b>Time and Length (start time and end time)</b>	<b>Location of Consultation</b>	<b>Total Number of People in Attendance (you may indicate the number of volunteers and employees who assisted with the meeting)</b>
23 <sup>rd</sup> July,	11am-2:30pm	Vaudreuil-Dorion, riding office	70 peoples
<b>Form:</b> X Use of the Library of Parliament's visual presentation X Presentation from the MP's office <input type="checkbox"/> Open microphone X Question and answer session <input type="checkbox"/> Guest speaker <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify):			
<b>SUBJECTS DISCUSSED (summary)</b>			
Voting systems: X	Replacement of the current voting system: X	Voter turnout: <input type="checkbox"/>	Accessibility and inclusiveness: X
Mandatory voting: X	Online voting: <input type="checkbox"/>	Local representation: X	Other (please specify and describe below) <input type="checkbox"/>

<b>DISCUSSION QUESTIONS</b>
<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> <p>Many participants did not feel like their votes were fairly translated, many felt that our current system allow for strategic votes which does not necessarily reflect the values of the society. Also once the Government has the majority of the House there is no need to cooperation, coalitions are less likely and only the ideas of the majority party are represented.</p> <p>Participants appreciated the simplicity of the current electoral system. They however feel that there is a need for more education and for the population to be better informed on the system in order to feel like their voice is heard.</p> <p>Participants also appreciated that the Ministers are selected amongst the elected Members of Parliament; however they felt that this meant that the legislative and executive branch was too close and not independent enough as for example in the United States.</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*

**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)**

Using the Library of Parliament's visual presentation we discussed different alternatives. The one system that was the most referred to and preferred by the participants was the proportional system. It was argued that this system offered:

- A better representation for small parties;
- Everyone feel concern and because your second choice is also important, it makes you feel like your voice is really heard;
- Less strategic votes would better represent the values of the Canadian citizens.

**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)**

This was one of the most answered questions and it seems to be an important subject for our constituents.

- Education: Canadians, even from a very young age need to be better informed on the current electoral system but also on the political system in general;
- The communication between the MP and the constituent need to be one of collaboration, feeling like the Members are working for the people of the riding and not just for the political party they represent;
- One participant mentioned the need to better represent the different cultural communities amongst the riding. Create a connection between all these communities through a representative of each community working with the MP;
- Create more public driven committees to make it easier to understand and also for every individual to feel connected with what's happening in Ottawa

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

- The few participants who mentioned it were in support for making the voting compulsory. On participant mentioned that a tax credit could act as an incentive.

**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)**


Only few participants mentioned they were in support to lower the age to vote at 16 years old. They did mention that this change should be accompanied by a better political education in high school.

**Were any other major topics raised by the participants? (i.e. referendum, women/minority**

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<b>representation, accessibility, voter turnout etc.) (suggested limit: 500 words)</b>	
<p>One of the topics that came up often was the Senate and the need for representativeness. Many suggested the need to change the way the members are appointed and also the criteria's to appoint the Senators. Some gave the idea of creating a group of citizen that would rotate every other year and would represent Canada in gender equality and community representation.</p>	
<b>SUMMARY OF KEY RECOMMENDATIONS AND COMMENTS FROM PARTICIPANTS (suggested limit: 1000 words)</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Education – almost every participant felt there was a need to better educate Canadians on the basic of our political system and keep them better informed of the policies.</li> <li>- Participation: in order to feel like their voice is heard Canadians should be more involved in every stage of the political process, not just the voting process. Create more committees, a better communication between the MP and the riding, etc.</li> <li>- Electoral reform: proportionality was the most often mentioned system as an alternative to the FPTP voting because it better reflect the values and ideas of Canadian and allow for more collaboration between the parties</li> <li>- Many participants also felt the party line was too influential and they felt even with a reform, they couldn't influence the political decisions because once the party line is established MPs simply follow the line even if they consult the constituents.</li> </ul>	
<b>Report submitted to Special Committee on Electoral Reform (ERRE)</b>	<b>Date: 2016/10/14</b>
<b>MP's signature:</b> 	<b>Peter Schiefke (Name)</b>

**Reports must be submitted to the Clerks of the Committee no later than Friday, October 14, 2016 in both official languages.**

*Please note that this document is for illustrative purposes only and can be modified or adapted to your needs. The report will be published on the Committee's web site.*

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