

JATI SIDHU
MISSION-MATSQUI-FRASER
CANYON
TOWN HALL REPORT
ON ELECTORAL REFORM
PUBLIC CONSULTATION



NOM DU (DE LA) DÉPUTÉ (E)
NOM DE LA CIRCONSCRIPTION

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. August 17 th	120 minutes	Mission Community Centre (Seniors Centre)	Around 45
2.			
3.			
4.			
Form: <input type="checkbox"/> Use of the Library of Parliament's visual presentation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Presentation from the MP's office <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>
Mandatory voting: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Online voting: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Local representation: <input type="checkbox"/>	Other (please specify and describe below) <input type="checkbox"/>

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS
<p>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)</p> <p>According to many of our respondents, the problem with the current system is that it is not truly representative of what the people want through the voting process. FPTP is a winners-takes-all system, where the majority of people who vote can—and often do—feel unrepresented.</p> <p>If electoral reform is to occur, the change should move the democratic system to be more representative as the numbers of total votes should represent those that are elected. People wanted to emphasize the popular notion that one's vote is often deemed to be useless, and results in more strategic voting that serve larger parties. It was also emphasized that MPs should be representing their ridings first and foremost rather than following the agenda of their associated party.</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

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)

The majority of participants were hoping to see some type of proportional representation, either MMP or some derivative of that approach. We were told several times: *Allow voters to vote for who they would actually want in power, not just to get rid of someone else.*

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)

n/a

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

Respondents believed it is necessary to consider different strategies in order to engage the general public with the democratic process and increase voter participation. However, one such approach—mandatory voting—can provoke ill-informed voters to skew the results of the election. It is also not entirely in the spirit of democracy to force people to vote.

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)

The general consensus is that online voting is deemed desirable if it is done right. However, there were several points made surrounding the notion of voting and what it does to communities. Physical voting is deemed to bring neighbors, friends, etc., together to join in the democratic process. To engage voters it was suggested to reduce the amount of wait time when voting, have easier access to voting, and also have more of an online presence via different social media platforms to educate the public.

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

There were a small proportion of respondents—less than ten percent—who wanted to keep the current system and voiced that a referendum should be held before any major changes to our electoral process are given the go-ahead. However, the overwhelming majority of participants in the feedback process have said that change is necessary and a referendum is unnecessary.

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

Key Concerns:

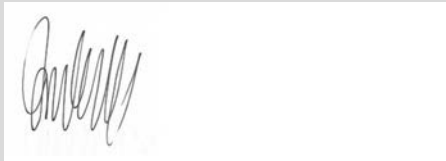
- New electoral processes run the risk of making larger ridings, even larger
- Coalition governments, a regular feature of some electoral systems, are often limited in their ability to pass any meaningful policy

Final point: By changing the electoral system we will change the dynamics of politics in the country. However, if done right, it would improve our democracy.

Report submitted to Special Committee on Electoral Reform (ERRE)

Date: 10/14/2016

MP's



signature:

**Jati Sidhu
Member of Parliament
Mission-Matsqui-Fraser Canyon**

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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