

MP GAGAN SIKAND
MISSISSAUGA-STREETSVILLE



GAGAN SIKAND DÉPUTÉ
MISSISSAUGA-STREETSVILLE

TOWN HALL REPORT
ON ELECTORAL REFORM
PUBLIC CONSULTATION

RAPPORT SUR LES CONSULTATIONS
PUBLIQUES SUR LA RÉFORME
ÉLECTORALE

HOUSE OF COMMONS
 CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
 CANADA

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. Sept 12/16	6pm-8pm	Meadowvale Community Centre and Library	50 people
2.			
3.			
4.			
<p>Form: Yes- Use of the Library of Parliament's visual presentation Yes- Presentation from the MP's office Yes- Open microphone No- Question and answer session Yes- Guest speaker Other (please specify): A 29 question questionnaire based on questions included in Abacus Data's and Fair Vote Canada's Poll was completed by attendees</p>			
SUBJECTS DISCUSSED (summary)			
Voting systems: Yes	Replacement of the current voting system: Yes	Voter turnout: Yes	Accessibility and inclusiveness: Yes
Mandatory voting: Yes	Online voting: Yes	Local representation: Yes	Other (please specify and describe below) <input type="checkbox"/>

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

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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)

With regard to their feelings toward the current electoral system, based on the results of the questionnaire 40% stated that they believed major changes needed to be made and 33% believed that the system needed to be changed completely.

When asked what about our current Electoral system needed to be improved the most, based on the results of the questionnaire

- 48% stated its engagement with voters
- 32% stated its effectiveness and legitimacy
- 11% stated its integrity
- 9% stated its accessibility

When asked if they felt our current Electoral system truly represents the beliefs of all Canadians, based on the results of the questionnaire

- 30% Agreed (28% Somewhat-2% Strongly)
- 63% Disagreed (22% Somewhat- 41% Strongly)
- 7% Didn't know

When asked if they felt that they would be more motivated to vote if they felt that the electoral system better reflected the beliefs of Canadians, based on the results of the questionnaire

- 89% agreed (63% Strongly-26%)
- 2% Strongly Disagreed
- 9% Didn't Know

When asked if they felt their vote mattered under the current electoral system, based on the results of the questionnaire

- 65% Agreed (41% Somewhat- 24% Strongly)
- 35% Disagreed (11% Somewhat- 24% Disagree)

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)

Attendees were asked to rank the Electoral Systems included in the presentation in order of preference

- Keep in mind, the results may be skewed as many respondents claimed to not have a firm understanding of the different electoral systems and may have been biased by the presentation from Fair Vote Peel
- 33% stated Mixed Member Proportional Representation was their first choice

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- 26% stated Proportional Representation Open List was their first choice
- 16% stated Proportional Representation Closed List was their first choice
- 16% stated Ranked Ballot was their first choice
- 5% stated Two Round was their first choice
- 5% stated that First Past the Post was their first choice

When asked what they felt the 5 goals of an electoral system was, the 5 most common choices were

- The system ensures that the number of seats held by a party in Parliament closely matches their actual level of support throughout the country
- The ballot is simple and easy to understand
- The system allows you to directly elect MPs who represent your community
- The system ensures seats in parliament reflect the proportion of the vote a party receives nationally
- The system prevents a party that did not receive a majority of the votes from passing laws without the support of other parties

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)

There was a strong call to introduce online voting as many attendees expressed that they felt voter turnout would increase if introduced.

Furthermore, based on the responses of the questionnaires a majority of the attendees stated that they have supported a particular candidate but not the party they belonged to (or vice versa). This could suggest that there is a struggle to determine where to place their votes as a result of this.

A portion of attendees felt that the implementation of Proportional representation would increase voter turnout as they felt voters would be encouraged by the possibility of candidates from smaller parties getting elected.

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

When the idea of mandatory voting was raised by one of the attendees during the open microphone portion of the evening, the audience was quite divided.

A certain portion of the audience liked the idea of some form of financial incentive to voting (tax

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break etc.) and felt mandatory voting would produce results that truly reflected the beliefs of all Canadians. However, many attendees felt mandatory voting was undemocratic.

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)

Online Voting was discussed with enthusiastic support as many attendees called for its implementation. However, other voting practices (registering to vote, vote secrecy) were not stressed during the evening.

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

The issue of a referendum was discussed. The audience was divided on the issue. Proponents of a referendum argued that a referendum was the only way to ensure Canadians voices are heard and is the most democratic way to conduct electoral reform.

Opponents of a referendum argued that referendums were a way for governments to make promises and then bury them.

However there seemed to be a consensus that if a referendum were to be held the government needs to ensure that the public is well informed on the different electoral systems.

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

- With regard to the content discussed in the PowerPoint presentation many attendees expressed their confusion with the different electoral systems.

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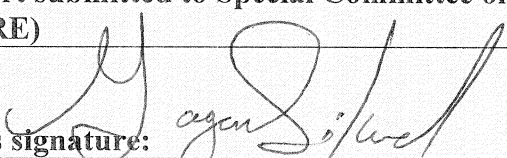
- A number of attendees expressed a support for some form of Proportional Representation system
 - However this may be biased as a result of the presentation from Fair Vote Canada who explicitly expressed support for Proportional Representation
- As for their thoughts on the current electoral system, the consensus among the discussion was that some form of reform must be done as many expressed their displeasure with the current system
 - Felt that the current first past the post system is undemocratic and does not truly represent the beliefs of all Canadians
- The idea of mandatory voting was raised, however the audience appeared to be divided on the matter
- With regards to the idea of a referendum, again the audience was divided as some of attendees were vocal in support of a referendum while some were vocal against a referendum. A number of attendees when discussing the idea of referendum stated that if a referendum were to be held the government would have to ensure that the public is well informed on the issue
- The issue of online was addressed in the discussion with overwhelming support
 - A number of attendees expressed their belief that electronic voting can be done securely given that income tax returns could be completed securely online
 - It was also mentioned that online voting would encourage more younger voters to participate in the electoral process

Please refer to attached Word Document for complete results of the Questionnaire

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Report submitted to Special Committee on Electoral Reform (ERRE)	Date: October 13, 2016
MP's signature: 	MP Gagan Sikand

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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