

FRANCESCO SORBARA, VAUGHAN-  
WOODBRIDGE



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VAUGHAN-WOODBRIDGE

TOWN HALL REPORT  
ON ELECTORAL REFORM  
PUBLIC CONSULTATION

RAPPORT SUR LES CONSULTATIONS  
PUBLIQUES SUR LA RÉFORME ÉLECTORALE

HOUSE OF COMMONS  
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES  
CANADA

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

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)
September 25 <sup>th</sup> , 2016	6pm-8pm	Vellore Village Community Centre, 1 Villa Royale Ave, Woodbridge, (Activity Rm 1)	48
<b>Form:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Presentation from the MP's office via Handouts <input type="checkbox"/> Open microphone <input type="checkbox"/> Question and answer session <input type="checkbox"/> Guest speaker			
SUBJECTS DISCUSSED			
Voting systems	Replacement of the current voting system:	Voter turnout:	Accessibility and inclusiveness:
Mandatory voting:	Online voting:	Local representation:	Other: Elections Canada Representation
<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>			
They felt that there were flaws with the present First-Past-The-Post system and that in many cases electors were being pressured to vote strategically. Some also felt that as a result their votes were "wasted".			
<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>			
There was a lot of discussion around online or E-voting to encourage greater accessibility as well as increased youth interaction. The participants felt that Elections Canada should play a bigger role in handling the entire voting process. There was discussion around imposing a charge on those who do not vote and the option of a recall vote after one year if electors felt the Member of Parliament isn't doing a			

*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*

good job. In addition many felt the voting age should be changed to 16 and voting by proxy should be re-instated. Some participants felt that we should have proportional representation. At least one in attendance raised the issue of a referendum however most felt that ultimately parliamentarians should decide on any new voting system.

**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)**

Yes, there was a lot of discussion on cultural diversity, freedom of speech, respect for others and the rule law. As well participants emphasized the importance of public involvement in the decision-making process and the need to feel that the government is being held accountable for its actions. Participants also recognized the value of individual and collective initiatives and expressed concern for the welfare, rights and dignity of all people. Some expressed concerns that even when all people are officially recognized as equals, inequality may continue to exist and the roots of the inequality, such as poverty, illness, lack of education, poor living conditions, contribute to a lack of voter participation. Although the discussion was wide ranging, very few of the participants detailed specifics as to why many Canadians choose not to engage in the democratic process. The general feeling was that the biggest hurdles to democratic engagement lay within the current voting system.

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

Yes, some participants said that they felt it was a democratic right/responsibility that should be exercised and if it is not used people should be fined.

**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)**

Yes, e-voting was a very hot topic and when discussed many factors were addressed, the big one being accessibility and increased youth engagement.

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

Yes, (see above responses)  
Also, at least one participant raised the importance of a referendum to determine a new voting system.

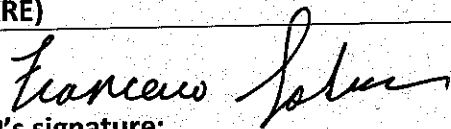
**SUMMARY OF KEY RECOMMENDATIONS AND COMMENTS FROM PARTICIPANTS (suggested limit: 1000 words)**

Generally participants felt that the electoral system needs improving but, there was no call for a complete overhaul and there was no consensus as to how the improvements should be made.

Report submitted to Special Committee on Electoral Reform (ERRE)

Date: *October 7/2016*

MP's signature:



FRANCESCO SORBARA  
(Name)

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

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