

**MATT DECOURCEY
FREDERICTON**

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



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

**MATT DECOURCEY
FREDERICTON**

**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.Oct. 11	7 pm – 8:30 pm	Oromocto, NB	30
2. Oct. 12	4 pm – 5:30 pm	Fredericton, NB	35
Form: <input type="checkbox"/> Use of the Library of Parliament’s visual presentation <input type="checkbox"/> Presentation from the MP’s office <input type="checkbox"/> Open microphone <input type="checkbox"/> Question and answer session <input type="checkbox"/> Guest speaker <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): Group discussions			
SUBJECTS DISCUSSED (summary)			
Voting systems: <input type="checkbox"/>	Replacement of the current voting system: <input type="checkbox"/>	Voter turnout: <input type="checkbox"/>	Accessibility and inclusiveness: <input type="checkbox"/>
Mandatory voting: <input type="checkbox"/>	Online voting: <input type="checkbox"/>	Local representation: <input type="checkbox"/>	Other (please specify and describe below) <input type="checkbox"/>
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)			
- Half of one group said they want current system to remain the same. The other half felt the current system does not accurately reflect their voting intentions. -One group was fed up with current voting system – don't believe their votes count. -One participant said current system leads to 'lurch policy' i.e. short term thinking, with parties just throwing out previous government's policy, so we have back and forth instead of long term policy looking to the future. -Some participants said while there is no perfect system, they feel the system we have now is the one we have adapted to. -Some participants said there is not much they like about FPTP except the aspect of local representation.			
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)			
-Some participants felt MMP systems could weaken government, make it harder to pass policy. -Some were in favour of MMP because they felt current system leads to adversarial politics whereas MPP encourages coalitions and collaboration.			

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

- Many groups were in favour of either MPP, PR, or ranked ballot.
- Some felt the Committee should recommend what 'family' of electoral system to adopt and let experts decide the details of how it would work specifically.
- Some said an upside of MMP is that it could introduce 'new' people to run for office who might not be the typical politician – would encourage more thinkers and academics.
- Proportional Representation: 30% of the vote should equal 30% of the seats
- Voter Equality: every voter should be able to elect an MP who reflects his/her values
- Diversity: Our Parliament should reflect our diversity, including the political diversity within each region
- Collaboration: proportional representation means parties working together, and policies supported by parties representing a majority of voters
- Some felt a PR system would be the same as the Senate. Don't see how it won't be a reward system to people who are friends with the parties, wondering who will hold them accountable.
- Some like MPP for the opportunity to vote for local representative they like and the party they like.
- Some felt ranked ballot is more likely to cause majority governments.

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)

- Some participants felt people don't vote because: politicians are removed from common people; people don't like whipped votes or following party lines.
- Education system needs to be better – more civics in our schools to increase engagement and voter turnout.
- One participant suggested adding a lottery element to voting. Everyone who votes has their name entered in a ballot to win a prize to increase voter turnout.
- Some participants felt a PR system would encourage greater turnout as it's perceived as a more fair system.
- Some felt young people don't vote because they don't feel any party accurately reflects their values.

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

- Some participants felt people not voting is a problem, but mandatory voting is a bit scary.
- Make it mandatory to vote the first time, at eligible voting age (cited research showing this encourages long-term engagement)

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

- Some participants didn't want to see a referendum because they felt it would be too difficult to ensure voters were adequately educated on various systems.
- Local representation was a priority of many people.
- More openness and transparency from MPs, for example, expenses.
- Low adoption rate of private member bills compared to government bills. Feel a lot of PMBs get defeated but are good.
- When governments change, only elected officials change, the people working in the departments stay the same.
- It's not easy to change, but it's important to change.

Report submitted to Special Committee on Electoral Reform (ERRE)

Date: Oct. 14, 2016

MP's



signature:

Matt DeCoursey
Member of Parliament / député
Fredericton

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