

## Open House Report June 30, 2016

Office of **Anju Dhillon**, Member of Parliament for Dorval—Lachine—LaSalle, QC

### Introduction

This document summarizes the observations, opinions and comments expressed by the residents of Dorval—Lachine—LaSalle during an open house hosted by MP Anju Dhillon on June 30, 2016. This report was created to be sent to the appropriate ministers in order to share the residents' opinions and ideas with the government.

Please note that the facts in this document have not been verified. The observations and comments expressed in this document are not necessarily those of Ms. Dhillon or the Government of Canada.

Each point in the document represents a statement made by a constituent.

### Electoral Reform

**Key point:** Nearly everyone agreed that electoral reform is needed. A system with greater proportionality was considered the best option, as long as it includes a way to ensure higher voter turnout among young people, better representation for minorities, especially indigenous people, and increased cooperation among the parties. In principle, people seemed to be generally wary of mandatory voting and electronic voting.

- We need to encourage participation among young people.
- The voting system should do more than just strengthen the role of elected officials.
- A semi-proportional electoral system is the best option.
- Young people don't vote because they know that their vote doesn't count.
- With a proportional voting system, voter turnout must be higher than 5% in order to prevent what is happening in some countries where extremist parties have disproportionate power.
- You have to feel like your vote counts. The current system gives you a sense that your vote does not count.
- 39% elected a majority government. People feel this isn't fair.
- Knowledge is power.

- Government must start devolving downward into regional governments and assemblies. Montreal must have more say over its affairs. Decentralization of government is important.
- Montreal must have more say over its affairs; budget is controlled by Quebec City. There has to be devolution of powers to the local level.
- Any electoral reform must give a stronger voice to indigenous communities.
- The current system brews confrontation. We must have an electoral system that encourages collaboration.
- Cabinet was elected by parliament under John A. MacDonald and not appointed, why not do this now?
- Electoral reform must encourage us to have more technocratic governments
- Prime Minister or Governor-general can run the government by decree if parliament does not agree. Will encourage Parliament to collaborate and function.
- The Senate is a problem. Originally it was chamber of the lords so that they can make sure they don't get taxed so much because they were the ones who were taxed the most.
- Any change in the electoral system must be followed by an aggressive education and information campaign.
- It's tough to have a referendum with several choices. It should only have two, status quo and a specific reform.
- Proportional representation is the best option to this constituent. Parties will have to work together. In Canada, some of the most productive governments have been minority governments where parties have been forced to collaborate.
- Banning political parties is also an option.
- House of Commons should vet senators or appoint the senate themselves.
- We need a simple system so people can understand it.
- Important to have an individual whom you can go to with your concerns. That is the great and probably only advantage with the FPTP system. Proportional representation dilutes that.
- If you vote electronically, how will we identify the voters?
- A lot of advertising would be needed to get people to trust an electronic voting system.
- Abstention is a type of voting, obligatory voting takes that option from citizens
- Parties that don't keep their promises should have to pay fines.