

KAREN MCCRIMMON
KANATA-CARLETON

TOWN HALL REPORT
ON ELECTORAL REFORM
PUBLIC CONSULTATION



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

KAREN MCCRIMMON
KANATA-CARLETON

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. April 26 2106	7pm-9pm	Kanata Recreation Complex	125
Form: included presentation from the MP's office and an open discussion using questions and answer format.			
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"/>

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>More than half of participants wanted to maintain the direct link between MPs and their riding, though in roughly similar numbers they voiced support for some form of proportional representation. It was generally felt to be preferable that national popular support be reflected more accurately in percentage of seats each party receives.</p>
<p>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)</p> <p>Alternatives such as Mixed-Member Proportional, and Proportional Representation, were discussed. Particular features that were singled out as desirable included: local representation, proportionality, and simplicity. Further, there was generally-expressed desired to find a system that would encourage and reward cooperation across party lines, and also provide greater opportunity for independent candidates to obtain seats in Parliament. The most popular feature, however, was</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

for a system that decreased the amount of spending in election campaigns.

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)

This was discussed, with some suggesting that more Canadians would participate if they felt that their voices had more impact in the outcome of elections and in government policy. It was pointed out that an electoral system with some form of proportional representation might solve this problem.

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

Some participants suggested mandatory voting as a means of increasing voter turnout, but this was not a majority opinion.

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)

Some participants believed that online voting could make the voting process easier and so raise the voting turnout, especially among Millennial voters (18-34), though they also suggested online voting might be susceptible to hacking. Other participants felt that the voting process was fine as it is.

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

A substantial number of participants voiced a desire to decrease the power of political parties, and thereby empower MPs to represent their ridings more independently. Also a very popular idea was including some element of direct democracy, such as recalls of Members and plebiscites on important issues.


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

Top recommendations included: keeping local representation, adding an element of proportionality, maintaining the simplicity of the voting process decreasing spending in election campaigns, encouraging cooperation across party lines, possibly through a system that results in more coalition governments; and making it possible for more independent candidates to obtain seats in Parliament.

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Report submitted to Special Committee on Electoral Reform (ERRE)	Date: 14 Oct 16
MP's signature: 	(Name) Karen McCrimmon

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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