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**DAVID
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Flamborough-Glanbrook

*Member of Parliament/Député
Flamborough-Glanbrook
National Conservative Caucus Chair/
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Clerk
House of Commons Special Committee on Electoral Reform
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Ottawa, Ontario
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Dear Parliamentary Colleagues,

Your Special Committee studying electoral reform has worked diligently over the summer months to seek the input of Canadians on the desire for electoral reform, potential processes and models.

Thank you for your work on behalf of all of us in the House of Commons.

As part of your consultations, you asked each Member of Parliament to seek input from their constituents over the summer months and report back to this committee by today's deadline.

I took that responsibility very seriously and actively sought input from my constituents in the riding of Flamborough-Glanbrook. In fact, I concluded a town hall meeting in Binbrook (Glanbrook) just last evening.

Feedback last evening in Binbrook was consistent with what I have been hearing over the past few months. There is a very strong desire that any changes to the process of how we as Canadians elect our Members of Parliament must be put to Canadians in a referendum. I can say with certainty from the many conversations I've had with constituents that this is viewed as a fundamental expectation in a democratic society such as Canada.

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In addition to the Town Hall in Binbrook, I held a Town Hall meeting in Waterdown on the other side of my geographically-large riding on Tuesday, October 13th. While both town hall meetings covered a range of federal issues, there was consistency in the call for a referendum when I raised the topic of electoral reform to ensure this issue was aired for all attending to comment.

Further to these two town hall meetings, I mailed a Householder Newsletter to every home in Flamborough-Glanbrook in September which detailed the timeline of electoral reform, the arguments for and against, and included a mail-back ballot where constituents could directly state their view on the need for a referendum.

As of this morning, my office has received 1,014 replies – which is the best response we have received to a Householder survey in over a decade as MP.

In response to the question, *“Before changing how we elect our MPs, should the government hold a referendum to get the approval of Canadians?”* there were 902 replies “yes” and 101 replies “no”. There were a further 11 undecided replies. This is a 90 percent call for a referendum from a large sample of Flamborough-Glanbrook residents.

This response was re-confirmed to me at each of the Fall Fairs in my constituency that were held over the past three weeks: Binbrook Fair, Ancaster Fair and Rockton Fair. At my booth at each of the fairs, we provided copies of the Householder as information to passers-by. While many fairgoers had other issues on their mind, those that did have an opinion on electoral reform were decidedly in favour of a referendum on the matter – echoing the views of the Householder survey.

For context, there were tens of thousands of people attending the three fairs.

Mr. Chair and members of the Special Committee, thank you again for your service. I trust that this grassroots feedback from Flamborough-Glanbrook is helpful in your deliberations as a Special Committee.

Sincerely,



David Sweet, MP
Flamborough-Glanbrook
National Conservative Caucus Chair