



## RESPONSE TO PETITION

Prepare in English and French marking 'Original Text' or 'Translation'

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PETITION No.: **421-00310**

BY: **MR. REID (LANARK-FRONTENAC-KINGSTON)**

DATE: **MAY 19, 2016**

PRINT NAME OF SIGNATORY: **MARK HOLLAND**

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Response by the Minister of Democratic Institutions

SIGNATURE

Minister or Parliamentary Secretary

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SUBJECT

**Electoral system**

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**ORIGINAL TEXT**

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**REPLY**

The Government thanks the petitioners for their views on this important matter.

The petitioners are contributing to a public discourse that is vitally important to shaping the historic change being brought to our democratic institutions. To maintain public confidence, the Government understands that Canadians expect greater inclusion, transparency, meaningful engagement and modernization from their public institutions. The Government is committed to ensuring that Canadians see real change to the way politics and government work. Canadians can breathe new life into the democratic process by drawing strength from our diversity, by advancing evidence-based policy, by fostering civility in politics, and by placing value on listening and dialogue.

To that end, the Government is committed to ensuring that 2015 was the last election under the first-past-the-post system. Electoral reform is an opportunity for Canadians to work together as a country to ensure that every vote counts. Canada inherited the first-past-the-post system and can build a better system that provides a stronger link between the democratic will of Canadians and the election result, one that inspires

Canadians to take part, and one that reflects collective Canadian values of fairness, inclusiveness, gender equity, openness and mutual respect.

To get there, the process leading to reform must also embody these values. Above all, the Government will focus on listening to Canadians across our diverse society.

The Government will be working to establish a parliamentary committee involving all parties to study a variety of reform options to bring our voting system into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. The committee will be tasked to consult Canadians from coast to coast to coast in order to develop its recommendations to Parliament. Once the committee is formed, further details will be available regarding its consultation plans and opportunities for Canadians to participate in the process.

The Government encourages the petitioners, like all Canadians, to join the conversation and help shape their future electoral system.