

## DEMOCRATIC REFORM

To the honorable members of the Special Committee on Electoral Reform,

I would like to express my support for the ideas below, in regards to electoral reform and democratic renewal. It is my hope that the members of the House of Commons can work in concert to:

- I. Provide Elections Canada with the resources it needs to investigate voter fraud and suppression, illegal financing, and other matters that threaten the integrity of our electoral process and ensure the Chief Electoral Officer, and Elections Canada, have the tools and mandate to encourage more Canadians to vote;
- II. Restore the independence of the Commissioner of Canadian Elections so that they are freely able to prosecute electoral violations in a court of law, and are accountable to Parliament and not the government of the day.
- III. Ensure that Elections Canada has the capacity to provide Canadians who want to volunteer in our democratic process with the necessary tools and information to do so;
- IV. Establish an Independent commission to organize the leaders' debates during the federal election. There should be at least four debates. Two English language debates (translated into French) and two French language debates (translated into English). The debates should be broadcast and translated by the CBC live. The whole unedited debate should be made widely available to the public. The leaders of each registered political party with candidates in all federal ridings should always be invited. (For the 2015 election this would have included the leaders of the Conservative Party, Green Party, Liberal Party and New Democratic Party of Canada);
- V. Change the minimum voting age to 16;
- VI. Make the registration of eligible voters automatic upon filing taxes, applying for student loans or passports and other forms of official registration with the federal government. Contact information should be updated automatically, unless the voter explicitly opts out of voter registration;
- VII. Implement the Election of Senators of each province and territory by system of proportional representation;
- VIII. Add Senate seats representing Inuit, Metis, and Aboriginal Canadians. The total number of seats should be equivalent to a Senate region (currently 24);

IX. Implement the election of members of the House of Commons by proportional representation. Either Open-List Mixed Member Proportional Representation or proportional representation by Single Transferable Vote. The Alternative Vote or Plurality (First-Past-The-Post) systems are not acceptable options as they distort accurate representation of voters;

X. Ensure ridings and other voting districts in Canada are of equal population and represented by an equal number of Members, with reasonable variances not being more than a few hundred citizens;

XI. And, make online voting an option for any elector who cannot or does not wish to vote at a polling station during an election or referendum. Pre-registration should be similar to the process for requesting a special ballot.

Thank you for taking the time to consider these ideas.

Respectfully,

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