September 23, 2016
<div align="center">Centre Wellington Dialogue on Electoral Reform*</div>

(*This submission reflects views expressed by registered voters in the community of Centre Wellington and surrounding area)

<div align="center">**RECOMMENDATIONS**</div>

1. Listen to Canadians with an open mind, unimpeded by preconceived conclusions. Give their input serious consideration.
2. Don't reach for the ultimate solution. Proceed with electoral reform incrementally, test out approaches over a few election cycles and adjust the process based on experience.
3. Commit resources to a strong public education program to accompany the experimentation.
4. Changes to complex systems and institutions do not lend themselves to simple yes/no referendums.
5. No recommendation as to which form of voting should be implemented.
6. Key features of any voting process should be:
   -maintains strong local representation
   -provides a reasonable match between seat allocation and percentage of popular vote
   - simplicity
   -fosters a Parliament that is both diverse and collaborative

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Source of Recommendations: Meeting of approximately 40 registered voters from Centre Wellington and area sponsored by the Wellington Halton Hills Federal Liberal Association. Two meetings held: May 10, 2016 and September 6, 2016

Purpose of the meeting:
   (1) Increase awareness of various options for electing Members of Parliament.
   (2) Enable participants to identify the principles they would like to see reflected in our electoral system.
   (3) Explore and reach conclusions on the advantages and disadvantages of various option.

Task 1: Identification of electoral system principles.

 As part of the design, participants were asked to identify the principles or characteristics they would like to see reflected in their preferred voting system. After the discussion and consolidation of the principles, these were then compared with the principles expressed by the

Liberal Party regarding the electoral system. The table below compares the outcomes of the group discussion and the Liberal Party's list of principles (which were presented only after the discussion).

Outcomes of Group Discussion	Liberal Party Principles of Electoral Reform
• Maintain the relationship between the MP and his/her constituents – local representation • Seat allocation better reflects the vote (percentage) obtained by each party • Make voting easier, e.g. -on-campus voting -mobile voting booths -ease of registration -on-line voting -support for remote communities • Simplicity • Fair – there are regional voices; increased diversity; gender parity • Youth engagement, indigenous peoples have a voice in the process; increased diversity • Reflect our values of democracy and co-operation; encourage greater collaboration in Parliament • Greater voter participation and engagement • Candidate with the broadest support wins the vote count • Maintain ability to vote for a local candidate – not just for a party • Base decision on evidence from what has worked elsewhere – systematic research, not anecdotes • Change incrementally, learn from experience, and refine the voting process accordingly • Threshold of votes to obtain a seat –	• Maintain local connection between MP and constituents • Voter intentions are fairly translated into election results • Voting needs to be more user friendly and accessible • Voting system must be secure and verifiable • Don't make electoral system too complex • Increased diversity in the House and in politics in general • Inspire Canadians to find common ground and gain consensus • Confidence in citizens' ability to influence politics and to have their votes count in a meaningful way

avoid excessive splintering • Compulsory voting	

Task 2: Explore various electoral systems, including First Past the Post.

Following a presentation of alternatives to the current system, the participants explored a number of questions and concerns that need to be addressed in the course of selecting and introducing changes to our voting system. Some of these were discussed in some depth, while others remain to be answered.

Questions / Concerns / Observations	Comments
What do the options look like? What are the advantages of a ranked ballot and can this be done for 2019?	While excellent, the presentation was only a first step in developing understanding of the various options, their combinations and their advantages and limitations. There was a strong consensus that more information is needed on all of the options.
How do we maintain local representation?	Local representation – knowing your MP and having easy access to him/her was seen by most as an essential requirement.
Will splinter parties hold balance of power? How do the various options prevent dictatorship?	It was observed that countries like Italy and Israel, which do have a proliferation of small parties, are not necessarily the norm for proportional representation. We need to look more comprehensively at the array of countries that have used proportional representation.
What has been used elsewhere? Effectively? If the system fits Canada, how can we predict the impact of the change?	While there was a desire to base our decision on evidence – which means looking at others' experience - there was a recognition that external examples can only take us so far. We need to recognize that each situation is different and that any voting system needs to accommodate the Canadian reality – e.g. big geography; relatively small population, concentrated along the U.S. border, wide disparity in size of ridings, etc.
Need to understand the implications of any option. Will need to reform party, House, Senate	A recognition of the inter-relationships between the voting process and other aspects of government. May require corresponding

| systems to fit with the new voting system. | changes in these components of governance. |

The meeting proved useful in articulating the principles or characteristics that the participants wished to see in our voting system – and a fair degree of consensus existed on these principles. The meeting also served to begin the educational process on electoral reform.

The meeting attracted voters who are sufficiently concerned about the current first-past-the-post voting system to wish to explore alternatives that would be perceived as fairer, more representative, more inclusive and more engaging of the voting public. No consensus was achieved regarding which alternative approach would be most desirable.   This was due, in part, to the conviction of the participants that much more information was needed in order to make an informed decision.