Cornerstone Guelph Ontario Electoral Reform Dialogue – Sept 5 - 2016

Present:

Ben Grossmen

Eden Grossmen

Stuart (missed the last name)

Mike (missed the last name)

Ken MacKay

Leni Spooner

Frank Watson

Steve Dyck (note taker)

Democratic principles and values

1. Did you have a dialogue about the principles and values that underpin Canada's democracy? Yes / No

Yes we did talk about the prinicples and values of Canadian's democracy. Key values we agreed on were:
- Every voter should have ==equal representation== – as best as possible.
- Voting system should be ==transparent== – people should be able to vote for who they want and their elected representative should find their direction from citizens they represent
- Parties should receives seats ==proportional== to their popular vote
- There should be ==civility== in parliament
- Legislation should be developed through a process that

engages the widest ==consensus== of thought. ==Collaboration== is slower but is capable of long term planning and decisions made are durable.

- A referendum would have the rights of the minority made by vote of majority.

a. If yes, what were the highlights of the dialogue?   b. What principle(s) did participants identify as ==most important==? c. What principle(s) did participants identify as least important?

Principle of direct decision making through referendum was not identified as important as complex issues can not be reduced to yes no questions.

Canadian federal electoral reforms

1. Did you have a dialogue about different potential Canadian federal electoral reforms?

Yes / No

a. If yes, what were the highlights of the dialogue?

There are a number of Proportional systems. Any of them would be better than FPTP. We expect the experts and MPs to work together to strengthen Canada's voting system.

Additional feedback

1. Did the dialogue yield additional thoughts you would like to share? Yes / No a. If yes, what were those additional thoughts?

There has been enough discussion and study. It is clear our current system is not very democratic. 39% of the vote = 100% of the power. Often the "winner" has less than 50% of the vote (and no power) so FPTP does a poor job of providing local representation.