

Submitted by: Joel Johnson

Electoral Reform Dialogue Responses
September 15, 2006 at Walpole Island First Nation

1) What do you think could be done to help Canadians feel more interested and involved in democracy?

I don't know because I have lost faith in our system. MP's who understand all their constituents concerns. Proportional representation & abolish the Senate.

2) What do you think we could use as indicators of the health of Canada's democracy?

Attendance at rallies, etc. during election times. 80% of eligible voters registered & 90% of them voting. How we treat native people and how much their participation is encouraged.

3) What are some leadership qualities that you want from your federally elected representative?

I want honesty & integrity. Respect for minorities. Willingness to help marginalized population. A willingness to represent the riding – all of riding and not just kowtow to the party whip.

4) What do you feel the relationship should be between an elected MP and citizens in his/her electoral district?

Approachability. Willingness to attend meetings with elected local councillors. A greater priority to the people then to the party, riding over party

5) The guiding principles of Canadian federal elector reform are: i) effectiveness & legitimacy, ii) engagement, iii) accessibility & inclusiveness, iv) integrity and v) local representation.

5a) What principle(s) are most important to you and why?

Effectiveness & legitimacy – comes back to honesty. Local representation. Integrity. Accessibility & inclusiveness. Accessibility & inclusiveness, integrity and local representation, because if those three are done, i & ii come...into like(? transcription)

5b) What principle(s) are least important to you and why?

Engagement – just as long as they do as they said. Engagement because you will get that if there is effectiveness & legitimacy. Effectiveness & legitimacy.

5c) Are there any principle(s) that you feel are missing and why?

Transparency may be the same as honesty – no hidden agendas. Replace engagement with Respect. Accountability unless that is covered by iv.

6a) What do you feel are some strengths of our current federal electoral system?

I'm too disillusioned to think of any right now. Easy to manipulate ridings to cultivate regional favouritism for re-election. You're kidding right?

6b) What are some of the weaknesses?

I think most of them have hidden agendas. Too many old white guys, not enough "other". Party-centric – loyalty to party rather than riding.

7a) Are there electoral systems other than our current federal electoral system that you have heard of? What are they and what have you heard?

I do not know. Single Transferable Vote. It has a ranked ballot. U.S. Federal, party leader is not nominee.

7b) Are there things that you like about these alternatives, if so which things?

NA. Multi MP's per riding. Top up option.

7c) Are there concerns you have about these alternatives, if so what concerns?

Voters will be confused by the variety of choices and design options.

8) If any, what other changes to the methods & procedures we use to vote might you like to see and why?

NA. Possibly, all voters to elect Senators.

9) Other comments, questions or concerns:

Fair Vote Canada has been very helpful in helping me to become informed on PR.