

ERRE report submitting a brief from a community dialogue

**Submitted by Joe Pound
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A small group of citizens had their electoral reform discussion on Oct 3. We only had about 16 persons attend. Mr. Chris Alders, Political Scientist (3 degrees), gave an overview of 5 voting methods (First Past the Post, Alternative Vote, Single Transferable Vote, List Proportional Vote, and Mixed Member Proportional Vote) with some pros & cons on each. There was a brief question & answer session. The audience set up into 3 groups to discuss 6 provided questions. Then each group drew 2 question numbers that they described their opinions on.

Then were briefly commented on by the remainder of the group and Chris.

All in all it went well. There was generally an opinion that the option for a more diverse selection of elected representatives distributed more evenly across the country would be the direction to move forward in.

Summary of question results:

Question 1 – Is it important that everyone’s views be taken into account when parliament makes decisions about national policy or creates new legislation?

Table 1:

Yes 2; No 3.

Paying close attention to what others in riding are saying.

- decisions – be Fair, Diverse, Power Share

Table 2: YES

Table 3:

- Impossible to get everyone’s view but as wide a variety as possible.

- if we had PR we would be able to encompass a much wider range of views.

Question 2 – Do we need to build consensus on economic priorities?

Table 1:

- Power / consensus harder now.

- working cooperatively collaboration.

- different framework, more engaged populace.

- everyone make the best country we can.

Table 2:

- YES

Table 3:

- that would be ideal.

- look at the big picture not just each persons self interests at that time.

- regional self-interest.

Question 3 – Do we need to build consensus on environmental priorities?

Table 1:

- Power / consensus harder now.

- working cooperatively collaboration.

- different framework, more engaged populace.

- everyone make the best country we can.

Table 2:
YES

Table 3:

- Yes, as much as possible to ensure the future for generations to follow.

Question 4 – Do politicians need to more effectively engage with their constituents and the public?

Table 1:

- method of voting = different strategies.
- if you can't represent the diversity of views in your riding then you won't be re-elected.

Table 2:

- yes because there are no safe seats.
- if there were elected MPs of different stripes, you'd have more choice of who to approach.

Table 3:

- yes they need to listen to all points of view.

Question 5 – Would more diverse representation across Canada improve debate in the house and result in better legislation?

Table 1:

- party line or diversity
- diversity = free votes
- listen/brainstorm = 100 ideas = combination that can work.

Table 2:

- "ABSOLUTELY !!" says Heather.
- question period is but a small part of what an MP does.
- committee discussions and in particular the questions formed by experts lead to better legislation.

Table 3:

- Yes !!
 - obviously improves debate & lower any one party's power and result in more communication and compromise.

Question 6 – Would a consultative legislation process increase productivity?

Table 1:

- takes longer but reflects everyone
- productivity – time ?
 - end result?
 - outputs ?

Table 2:

- economy / decision making
- it will take longer – no productivity
- quality goes up

Table 3:

- yes but may be less efficient
- it would enable all views to be taken into account

Attached a copy of the event poster we distributed as well as we could.

“CONVERSATIONS THAT MATTER”



“Electoral Reform Options”

Common Ground Community Café
50 Brentwood Blvd Sherwood Park
Monday, October 3rd 7-9 pm

Launching the first event in our new “Conversations That Matter” series will be speaker Chris Alders who will introduce the topic and facilitate small group dialogue. Feedback from attendees will be gathered and sent to the Liberal governments’ all party committee on electoral reform.

Find more information at: <http://www.fairvote.ca> & <http://canada.ca/democracy>

Make your voice count on this issue!

*This is a café special event, open to participants only.
Space is Limited*

Coffee, tea & goodies available for purchase.

Phone Joe Pound for more information