



Deliberation Phase Meeting Notes

Weekend 5 – April 14 & 15 2007

In Attendance

Members, Public & Staff

- 103 Assembly members, including the Chair
- 13 Secretariat staff
- 11 small group facilitators
- 71 public observers (including media)

Guest Speakers

- None

Advisors & Technical Support

- Evaluator: Gail Motsi, Institute on Governance
- Facilitation advisor: Beth Allan
- Process advisor: Amy Lang, University of Wisconsin-Madison
- Communications advisor: Brian Lambie
- Technical support: TV Ontario, Seneca College, Mediaco; Osgoode Hall Law School; Raw Edge Photography; Fizz Design; Agnes Vanya
- Simultaneous translation: International Conference Interpreters
- American Sign Language: Canadian Hearing Society

Objectives for Session

- Resolve an outstanding design issue in the Mixed Member Proportional (MMP) model
- Decide whether Ontario should keep its current Single Member Plurality (SMP) electoral system or adopt the MMP model designed by the Assembly
- If MMP is selected, decide whether to recommend it to the people of Ontario
- Discuss the final report and ancillary issues

Proceedings

1. The session began with a presentation by the Chair, an open forum, approval of meeting notes from the previous session, and the random selection of three members to oversee the counting of this weekend's formal votes.
2. Based on additional information provided on the likelihood of overhangs in the MMP model and the impact on proportionality, the Assembly agreed by a show of hands to make the following amendment to its MMP model:
 - Disallow the creation of temporary “overhang seats” in the legislature

3. The Assembly also agreed by a show of hands not to revisit other design decisions in the MMP model.
4. Following a presentation by Jonathan Rose on weighing SMP and MMP, the members discussed this topic in medium groups and a plenary session. In a vote held by secret ballot, the Assembly agreed that Ontario should adopt the MMP model. With one member absent this weekend, 102 members (excluding the Chair) cast ballots. SMP received 16 votes and MMP received 86 votes.
5. Following a presentation by the Final Report Advisory Committee and the Fundamental Related Issues Committee (previously known as the Ancillary Issues Working Group), the members broke into medium groups which took the form of workshops to discuss a confidential draft of the final report. While these private sessions were underway, Secretariat staff held a question and answer session for public observers and a technical briefing for media who were present.
6. The Assembly held a second vote by secret ballot on whether to recommend the Assembly's MMP model to the people of Ontario. The purpose of this vote was to give members the opportunity to endorse the Assembly's decision because of the process that produced it, even if the decision was not their first choice. With one member still absent, 102 members (excluding the Chair) cast ballots. 94 voted "yes" and 8 voted "no".
7. The session concluded with a media conference in which a panel of Assembly members, the Chair and Academic Director responded to questions from the media.

Follow-up Items

Members

8. Members will:
 - Provide any additional comments on the draft final report to the FRAC committee or to Dahlia Klinger by Thursday, April 19th
 - If interested, provide comments on the draft comprehensive background report to Huma Pabani by Monday, April 23rd.
9. The Secretariat will:
 - Prepare a revised draft of the final report to incorporate comments from Assembly members
 - Confidentially share the draft report with experts to ensure accuracy and clarity on the description of the recommended system
 - At the request of the members, schedule time in the Weekend 6 agenda for discussion about how they may wish to play a role in electoral reform as private citizens after the Assembly's mandate has concluded on May 15th and the Secretariat has wound down.
 - Find out more details about the May 15th event for transmittal of the final report to government, for discussion during Weekend 6.

--Prepared by Karen Cohl, Executive Director and Recording Secretary