



Deliberation Phase Meeting Notes

Weekend 1 – Feb 17 & 18 2007

In Attendance **Members, Public & Staff**

- 103 Assembly members, including the Chair
- 13 Secretariat staff
- 10 small group facilitators
- 55 public observers

Guest Speakers

- Dr. Ivan Fellegi, Chief Statistician of Canada, Statistics Canada
- Student Assembly members: Barbara (Essex), Félix (Sudbury), Kathleen (Ottawa Centre), Jonathan (Burlington), Natalie (Mississauga Centre)

Advisors & Technical Support

- Evaluator: Lyn McDonnell, Institute on Governance
- Facilitation advisor: Beth Allan
- Process advisor: Amy Lang, University of Wisconsin-Madison
- Technical support: TV Ontario, Seneca College, Mediaco; Osgoode Hall Law School; Raw Edge Photography
- Simultaneous translation: International Conference Interpreters

Objectives for Session

- Approve the deliberation plan
- Learn about population and socio-economic trends in Ontario
- Discuss what the Assembly heard in consultation and hear from the Students' Assembly
- Identify priority objectives for electoral system design
- Select an alternative system to design in Weekend Two

Proceedings

1. The session began with a presentation by the Chair and open forum on the proposed approach to deliberation. The Assembly approved meeting notes from the

final Learning Phase session. The Assembly also approved the deliberation plan which can be revised as the process progresses.

2. Dr. Ivan Fellegi from Statistics Canada made a presentation on “The Changing Face of Ontario” to highlight population and socio-economic trends.
3. In a report on “What We Heard: Consultation Feedback”:
 - Susan Pigott, Michael Mackenzie, and Barry Koen-Butt of the Secretariat gave highlights on the consultation process and media coverage
 - Assembly members Mayte Darraidou, David Viitala, Pat Miller, and Marie McLaren gave perspectives on the public meetings, special outreach meetings, and written submissions.
4. Representatives from the Students’ Assembly on Electoral Reform presented their submission on electoral reform.
5. After a presentation by Jonathan Rose on the task ahead, Assembly members met in medium-sized groups and in plenary session to discuss objectives for electoral system design. The Assembly agreed that the following objectives will serve as guideposts when selecting systems to design, designing systems, and comparing alternatives to the current system:
 - Each geographic area of the province should have at least one representative.
 - The number of seats a party wins should more closely reflect its vote share.
 - Voters should be able to indicate both their preferred party and candidate.
6. After a second presentation by Jonathan Rose, Assembly members met in medium-sized groups and in plenary session to discuss which system to design in Weekend 2. Based on this discussion and a ranking of systems by each member, the Assembly decided to design a mixed member proportional (MMP) system.
7. Jonathan Rose made a final presentation on the decision points for designing an MMP system. At the end of Weekend 2, the Assembly will decide whether to design a second alternative system.
8. The Chair asked for volunteers to serve on a group to develop options on ancillary issues which the Assembly could consider including in the final report.

Follow-up Items

Members

9. Members will:

- Review materials and continue informal discussions in preparation for Weekend 2
- Let Barry Koen-Butt know if they would like to be in a group of Assembly members to whom the Secretariat can refer media
- Let the Chair know if they would like to make a formal presentation to the full Assembly at some point during the Deliberation Phase

Secretariat

10. The Secretariat will:

- Send advance materials to help members prepare for Weekend 2
- Give Assembly members a DVD of selected presentations from the public consultation meetings
- Provide a print-out of the deliberation section of the members' on-line forum to members who request hard copies of on-line materials

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