

# Electoral reform ideas sought

By **DON PEAT**  
Examiner Staff Writer

Ann Thomas wants to hear from people about what changes they want made to Ontario's electoral system.

Thomas, Peterborough's delegate with the Ontario Citizens Assembly on Electoral Reform, wants everyone to know they have the right to give her input about what they want changed, kept and taken out.

Thomas has an e-mail address and a phone number provided by the Ontario government where people can get in touch with her to provide input.

"When I was first chosen to represent Peterborough, I was overwhelmed. I didn't know what to expect and I felt intimidated," Thomas said,

"After this weekend, I'm reassured I will be taught about electoral systems, I'm interested and committed to the process."

At the assembly's first meeting last weekend in Toronto, Thomas said, delegates were given the first of several sessions explaining different electoral systems and spent some time setting up the rules of procedure and dialogue.

Six weekends have been scheduled for the assembly to meet this fall and all are dedicated to educating delegates about the electoral system.

## Take part

To get in touch with Ann Thomas, Peterborough's delegate to the Ontario Citizens Assembly on Electoral Reform:

**E-mail:** AThomas@ontariocitizensassembly.ca

**Or:** Call Huma Pabani, who will forward input to Thomas, at 1-416-325-0780 or 1-866-317-3208. TTY: 416-325-6440.

**E-mail:** Huma.Pabani@ontario.ca

Thomas is one of the 103 delegates randomly selected by Elections Ontario to sit on the assembly and represent each riding in the province. Chairman George Thomson is the 104th delegate.

The assembly's task is to recommend changes, if any, to the provincial electoral system.

The assembly's mandate asks members to consider eight principles when discussing electoral systems:

- Legitimacy
- Fairness of representation
- Voter choice
- Effective parties
- Stable and effective government

- Effective parliament
- Stronger voter participation
- Accountability

Thomas said she will be contacting Fleming College and Trent University to request time to speak with students.

"Young people feel their vote is not as important and it really is," Thomas said.

To collect further input from the public, Thomas said she is setting up a general meeting in December.

The assembly is set to submit recommendations to the government by May 15.

The next session meets Sept. 30 in Toronto.

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