



The Mixed Member Proportional (MMP) system as recommended by the *Ontario Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform*:

Key Features

- The MMP system designed by the Assembly is a made-in-Ontario solution. It preserves the best of the electoral system we have now—strong local representation—and adds new elements to produce more proportional election results. This means that the share of seats each party wins will be roughly equal to the share of votes it receives.
- Citizens will be represented by 90 members elected in local ridings (70% of the legislature) and 39 members (called “list members”) elected provincially (30% of the legislature). The number of local ridings is reduced slightly but all citizens will gain representation *overall* through the combination of local and list members. Provincially elected list members provide Ontarians with a new pool of representatives to draw on. List members have a unique opportunity to focus on broader issues that may affect a region or the whole province.
- With a total of 129 members, the legislature will be restored to about the size it was from 1987 to 1999, when it was reduced from 130 to 103 seats. The Assembly members felt this was necessary to achieve proportionality, while retaining strong local representation.

The Way it Works

- Voters cast two votes: one for a local candidate (as now) and one for a party. The party vote is the popular vote and determines the total number of seats a party wins.
- Each party nominates a slate of list candidates for the province. Before the election, they must publish their lists and the process they used to create them. This allows voters to judge whether a party developed its list in a fair and open way, and how well its list reflects Ontario's diverse population and regions.
- If a party elects fewer local members than its share of the popular vote, candidates from its list are elected to compensate for the difference.
- A party must have clear support—at least 3% of the popular vote across the province—for a candidate from its list to be elected.

Further details will be in The Citizens' Assembly final report on May 15, 2007

About the Citizens' Assembly

Makeup of the Assembly

The Assembly was made up of 104 Ontarians: 103 randomly selected citizens—one from each of the province's districts—plus our Chair, George Thomson. This section provides some facts and figures about the people on the Assembly.

Gender

52 women and 52 men

Age

18 to 24: 11

25 to 39: 23

40 to 54: 32

55 to 70: 26

70+: 12

(With only slight variations, our Assembly reflects the age demographics for Ontario)

Place of birth

Ontario: 65

Other provinces: 10

Outside Canada: 27

Places of birth: Bangladesh, Brazil, China, Croatia, Egypt, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Hong Kong, Iraq, Korea, Malta, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Serbia, Sri Lanka, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, and the United States.

Language

Members speak 28 languages.

Languages: English, French, Arabic, Aramaic, Bengali, Cantonese, Dutch, Fanti, German, Greek, Hindi, Hungarian, Ibo, Indonesian, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Maltese, Mandarin, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Serbian, Spanish, Tagalog, Tamil, Ukrainian, and Urdu.

Occupation

Members have more than 40 different current and past occupations, including: educators, students, small business owners, editors, public servants, healthcare workers, financial sector workers, IT specialists, artists, customer service representatives, engineers, skilled trades workers, and many others.