



Learning Phase Meeting Notes

Weekend 3- Oct 14 & 15 2006

In Attendance Members, Public & Staff

- 98 Assembly members, including the Chair
- 12 Secretariat staff
- 11 small group facilitators
- 41 public observers

Guest Speakers

- Panellists: Larry LeDuc, University of Toronto; David Docherty, Wilfrid Laurier University; Jennifer Smith, Dalhousie University
- The Students' Assembly on Electoral Reform: Peter MacLeod

Advisors & Technical Support

- Evaluator: Lyn McDonnell, Institute on Governance
- Process advisor: Amy Lang, University of Wisconsin-Madison
- Technical support: TV Ontario, Seneca College, Mediaco, and Osgoode Hall Law School; Raw Edge Photography
- Simultaneous translation: International Conference Interpreters
- American Sign Language: Canadian Hearing Society

Objectives for Session

- Learn about electoral systems generally and their key components
- Learn about the plurality and majority families of electoral systems
- Discuss the strengths and weaknesses of Ontario's current system in more detail
- Approve the consultation plan and guide
- Begin the work of working groups and advisory committees

Proceedings

1. The session began with approval of meeting notes from the previous session. An 'open forum' followed where members could raise issues on any topic.
2. The Assembly approved its internal consultation plan, on the understanding that this is a 'living document' that can be revised as we go.
3. The Assembly approved the public consultation guide. Both the guide and accompanying brochure will incorporate changes members have suggested. The Assembly also discussed strategies for promoting the public consultation and distributing the guide, brochure and related materials.
4. A representative from the Students' Assembly on Electoral Reform asked Citizens' Assembly members to help get the word out about the Students' Assembly process.
5. Jonathan Rose made two presentations which were followed by small group discussions. The topics were: *The Language of Electoral Systems*; and *The Plurality and Majority Families of Electoral Systems*.
6. Following a presentation by Jonathan Rose on *Principles and Characteristics of Single Member Plurality*, a panel of three academics made brief presentations and answered questions from Assembly members on *Understanding Ontario's First Past the Post System*.
7. During the evenings, Assembly members participated in working group meetings facilitated by Ailsa Henderson and a question and answer session hosted by Jonathan Rose.

Follow-up Items

Members

8. Members will:
 - Read *From Votes to Seats: Four Families of Electoral Systems* and provide any comments to the learning team
 - Give ideas on communication, distribution and outreach for public consultation to Barry Koen-Butt
 - Let Jennifer Gough know if they cannot attend any consultation meetings that they are scheduled to attend
 - Let Huma Pabani know if they require basic or additional computer training

Secretariat

9. The Secretariat will:

- Make final changes to the consultation guide and brochure prior to public distribution

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