

# The Learning Phase and Learning Materials

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The importance of learning  
The imperative of keeping an open mind



# The Three Phases of the Citizens' Assembly

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- Learning (September to November)
- Consultation (November to February)
- Deliberation (February to May)

# The Learning Phase

## broad theme

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- What are the principles in designing electoral systems and how are they related to what we value?

# The Learning Phase

## broad content

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- Parliament and political parties
- Electoral Systems
  - Plurality and majority
- Electoral systems
  - Proportional and Mixed
- What's gone on elsewhere?
  - Hearing from experts abroad
- Simulated elections

# How will we learn?

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- Graduated Learning
  - From broad principles to specific examples  
Large classes (plenary) and small groups
  - Small groups will be facilitated by  
advanced graduates of political science
- Diverse approaches to learning
  - Materials will be presented in a number of  
different ways

# Who will we learn from?

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- Academic Director
- Facilitator
- Guest Speakers
- Invited Guests

# What materials will help us learn?

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- Diverse level and range of materials suited for different styles of learning
- Materials will be provided in your binder
  - Powerpoint slides of presentations

# What materials will help us learn?

## *introductory material*

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- glossary, 'fact sheets', reading list, summer reading
- 'Billy Ballot' animation
- assumes little or no knowledge of electoral systems

# What materials will help us learn?

## *intermediate material*

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- reading list, articles
- IDEA Handbook, *Electoral System Design*
- David Farrell, *Electoral Systems: A Comparative Introduction*
- introduces basic terms
- assumes some knowledge of electoral systems

# What materials will help us learn?

## *Advanced Materials*

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- reading list, articles
- *From Votes to Seats: The Four Families of Electoral Systems*
- André Blais and Louis Massicotte, “Electoral Systems”
- provides excellent in-depth information

# The learning contract

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- My responsibilities to you
- Your obligations to the Assembly

# What can you expect from the Learning Team?

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- A balanced and fair approach
- Flexible teaching style
- Graduated learning approach
- Ongoing support to Assembly
- Opportunities for feedback

# What do we expect from Assembly members?

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- Keep an open mind
- Ask questions
- Challenge ideas
- Participate fully
- Support fellow members
- Prepare for consultation

# Learning as a foundation

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- ... for consultation
- ... for deliberation
- ... for decision-making