



Learning Phase Meeting Notes

Weekend 5 - Nov 11 & 12 2006

In Attendance **Members, Public & Staff**

- 102 Assembly members, including the Chair
- 13 Secretariat staff
- 11 small group facilitators
- 61 public observers

Guest Speakers

- Ken Carty, University of British Columbia
- Bill Cross, Carleton University
- David Farrell, University of Manchester, UK
- Louis Massicotte, Université de Montreal and American University, Washington DC
- Elizabeth McLeay, Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand
- Sarah Birch, University of Essex, UK
- André Blais, Université de Montreal

Advisors & Technical Support

- Evaluator: Lyn McDonnell, Institute on Governance
- 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
- American Sign Language: Canadian Hearing Society

Objectives for Session

- Learn about the values or principles that led to the design of electoral systems or proposals for reform in other parts of the world
- Begin discussing how to weigh the principles

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 heard from world academic experts on electoral reform on the following topics:
 - The importance of principles in electoral reform
 - The Canadian experience with electoral reform
 - Citizens' assemblies: the cases of BC and the Netherlands
 - The New Zealand case
 - Electoral change in established democracies
 - Electoral change in new democracies
3. In small group and plenary sessions, the Assembly engaged in a preliminary weighting of principles and characteristics for electoral systems.
4. Assembly members also participated in working group meetings facilitated by Ailsa Henderson and an evening question and answer session with the visiting experts.

Follow-up Items

Members

5. Members will:
 - Spread the word in their communities about upcoming consultation meetings
 - Agree among themselves who will play the role of host at the consultation meetings they are attending

Secretariat

6. The Secretariat will:
 - Prepare customized consultation folders for Assembly members
 - Prepare a summary of results from the preliminary weighting exercise

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