

The Sault Star (Sault Ste. Marie, ON)		Order/Commande
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Citizens' group has plenty to think about

Two area residents were to have been chosen Sunday to join a provincewide citizens' group that will decide how Ontario MPPs are elected.

We hope the assembly generates plenty of discussion and some good ideas about how we can improve the democratic process.

Here is some food for thought for our new local representatives and for all of us to mull over.

- A move toward proportional representation – which puts the emphasis on total votes cast – could negatively impact Northern Ontario which has fewer people than the GTA.

- Let's give a good hard look at making voting more convenient. Use more advance ballots, in more locations. Make better use of the technology available.

- Consider lowering the voting age by a year, maybe two. What would be the harm? It would send a positive message to young people that tells them we're listening.

- Can we make the way local candidates are chosen more transparent and more fair?

- Are term limits a good thing?

- Any study of electoral reforms will have to look at how parties raise money and the influence of outside groups and individuals on the process.

It's important to remember that the British Parliamentary system we have now has served us well. We don't want to blow it up, but like anything else, it could always use improving or tweaking.

We should all appreciate the opportunity to be heard on the issue.

