



Electoral reform referendum framework misses the mark

Langley, May 30, 2018 – Today Attorney General David Eby released recommendations on how the fall 2018 referendum on electoral reform will be structured and, according to our members, the framework and questions miss the mark. “This referendum will initiate a major change to our electoral system. It needs to be open and transparent,” said Greater Langley Chamber of Commerce President, Jack Nicholson.

The [report](#) recommends that the referendum include two questions. The first, asks British Columbians to choose between the current First Past the Post voting system and a Proportional Representation system. The second asks voters to choose between Dual Member Proportional, Mixed Member Proportional, or Rural-Urban Proportional.

The Greater Langley Chamber of Commerce is calling for deeper consultation with British Columbians on the potential impact of various Proportional Representation systems now that the referendum questions have been released, to ensure voters have a clear understanding of each option. Our network recommends the ballot is a choice between First Past the Post or a clearly defined system of Proportional Representation. “The second question is not clearly defined and can be misleading,” said Nicholson.

BC's Chambers of Commerce voted in a two thirds majority at the BC Chamber of Commerce AGM last weekend (May 24-26) to support a resolution: ["Engaging Business and Community on Electoral Reform"](#).

The Chambers recommend:

1. The BC government appoint a non-partisan panel on the likely outcomes of an alternative system prior to issuing a referendum, similar to the previous Citizens' Assembly.
2. Clearly define the system of proportional representation that is being considered well in advance of any referendum.



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