



Yukon Legislative Assembly

Issue 18

35th Legislature

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON ELECTORAL REFORM

Public Proceedings: Evidence

Wednesday, July 27, 2022 — 6:00 p.m.

Chair: Kate White

**SPECIAL COMMITTEE
ON ELECTORAL REFORM**

Members:

Kate White, Chair
Brad Cathers, Vice-Chair
Hon. John Streicker

Clerk:

Allison Lloyd, Clerk of Committees

EVIDENCE**Watson Lake, Yukon****Wednesday, July 27, 2022 — 6:00 p.m.**

Chair (Ms. White): I will now call to order this hearing of the Yukon Legislative Assembly's Special Committee on Electoral Reform. I would like to begin by respectfully acknowledging that we are meeting on the traditional territory of the Liard First Nation.

Allow me to introduce the members of the Committee. My name is Kate White, Chair of the Committee and Member of the Legislative Assembly for Takhini-Kopper King. Brad Cathers is the Vice-Chair of the Committee and the Member for Lake Laberge. He is joining us today by videoconference as a precaution due to potential COVID-19 symptoms. Finally, the Hon. John Streicker is the Member for Mount Lorne-Southern Lakes.

This Committee was established by the Yukon Legislative Assembly on May 26, 2021. The Committee's purpose is to examine electoral reform and report to the Assembly its findings and recommendations. In our study of potential changes to the voting system, the Committee first sought to identify what options may be available. The Committee hired Dr. Keith Archer to prepare a report on electoral systems. Dr. Archer's full 76-page report and an executive summary are available on the Committee's webpage: yukonassembly.ca/SCER.

The information from Dr. Archer's report has been summarized on the website HowYukonVotes.ca. Summaries of some of the potential voting systems are included in a brochure that was sent to all Yukoners. Copies of the pamphlet are also available here today.

To deepen its understanding of the topic, the Committee heard from subject matter experts, including Dr. Archer and academics from across Canada and the world, through 14 videoconference hearings held between January and April this year. Transcripts and recordings of the hearings are available on the Committee's webpage.

It is important to the Committee to know what Yukoners think about electoral reform. From February 15 to April 10, 2022, the Yukon Bureau of Statistics administered a public survey for the Committee. The Committee would like to thank the 6,129 Yukoners who completed that survey, or 17.1 percent of Yukoners 16 and older. A report on the results of the survey is available on the Committee's webpage.

We have not yet decided on our recommendations to the Legislative Assembly. The Committee is collecting opinions and ideas from Yukoners on electoral reform. The time allotted for this hearing will be devoted to hearing from Yukoners; we will not be answering questions or presenting information on electoral reform today.

If you would like to present your opinion to the Committee, please ensure that you have registered at the registration table. Please note that this hearing is being recorded and transcribed; everything you say will be on the public record and posted on the Committee's website. If you are participating by Zoom, you can send a chat message to the Clerk to be added to the list of

presenters. If you need technical help with Zoom, please call 867-334-2448. Again, if you need technical help with Zoom, please call 867-334-2448.

Individual presentations to the Committee will be limited to five minutes. If there is time remaining at the end of the presentations, presenters may be invited to speak for longer. I would like to welcome everyone in the audience and thank you for respecting the rules of this hearing. Visitors are not allowed to disrupt or interfere in the proceedings. Please mute any electronic devices and refrain from making noise, including comments, during the presentations.

At this point, we will now recess prior to our first presentations.

Recess

Chair: Before I adjourn this hearing, I would like to say a few words on behalf of the Committee.

Unfortunately, we weren't joined by any Watson Lake residents tonight. There is still an opportunity to submit your thoughts to the Committee through a written submission or to remotely join our future hearings. The Committee will be hearing from Yukoners at more community hearings in September in Carmacks, Mayo, Dawson City, and Whitehorse.

Information on those public hearings, as well as transcripts and recordings, will be available on the Committee's webpage at yukonassembly.ca/SCER. The public can learn more about potential voting systems at HowYukonVotes.ca.

This hearing is now adjourned.

The Committee adjourned at 7:54 p.m.