



Final Report
of the
Special Committee on
the Yukon Citizens' Assembly
on Electoral Reform

35th Yukon Legislative Assembly

October 31, 2023

**Special Committee on the Yukon Citizens' Assembly on
Electoral Reform**

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Kate White, MLA

Takhini-Kopper King
Chair

Currie Dixon, MLA

Copperbelt North

Hon. John Streicker, MLA

Mount Lorne-Southern Lakes

Allison Lloyd
Clerk to the Committee



Yukon Legislative Assembly

Special Committee on the Yukon Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform

35th Yukon Legislative Assembly

October 31, 2023

Hon. Jeremy Harper, MLA
Speaker
Yukon Legislative Assembly

Dear Speaker:

The Special Committee on the Yukon Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform, appointed by Order of the Legislative Assembly on April 25, 2023, has the honour to present its final report to the Legislative Assembly, and commends it to the House.

Sincerely,

Kate White
Chair

Acknowledgements

The Special Committee on the Yukon Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform would like to thank the staff of the Legislative Assembly Office for the administrative and procedural support they provided to the committee.

Contents

The Special Committee on the Yukon Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform.....	1
Committee consideration of terms of reference for the citizens' assembly on electoral reform	1
Terms of Reference.....	2
Yukon Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform.....	2
<i>Mandate</i>	2
<i>Criteria for selecting recommended voting system</i>	2
<i>Consultation</i>	2
<i>Establishment and Reporting to the Legislative Assembly</i>	2
<i>Membership</i>	3
<i>Alternate members</i>	3
<i>Facilitation and chairing</i>	3
<i>Honorarium and reimbursement</i>	4
Conclusion.....	4
Appendix:	
<i>Motion No. 711 Establishing a Special Committee on the Yukon Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform</i>	

The Special Committee on the Yukon Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform

On April 25, 2023, the Yukon Legislative Assembly adopted Motion No. 711, thereby establishing the Special Committee on the Yukon Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform. The Order of the Legislative Assembly is appended to this report.

Motion No. 711 begins "THAT this House supports the creation of a Yukon citizens' assembly on electoral reform by establishing a Special Committee on the Yukon Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform".

The committee's purpose, as set out in the motion, is to report to the Legislative Assembly its recommendations on terms of reference for the electoral reform citizens' assembly.

This report of the Special Committee on the Yukon Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform to the Legislative Assembly contains the committee's recommendations and is consistent with the mandate given to the committee by the Legislative Assembly.

Committee consideration of terms of reference for the citizens' assembly on electoral reform

The committee held five meetings to discuss the citizens' assembly's terms of reference and finalize this report. The Hon. Richard Mostyn served as a substitute committee member for the Hon. John Streicker at the committee's final meeting on October 31, 2023.

In its deliberations, the committee referred to information collected and reported by a previous special committee, the Special Committee on Electoral Reform, and examples of citizens' assemblies on electoral reform held in other parts of Canada.

Members of the committee were unable to reach consensus on potential terms of reference for the citizens' assembly on electoral reform. The proposed terms of reference contained in this report reflect a decision made by a majority of the members of the committee.

Terms of Reference

Yukon Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform

The Yukon Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform (YCA) shall be a representative body of Yukoners established to recommend a model for electing Members of the Yukon Legislative Assembly.

Mandate

The YCA shall examine electoral systems and issue a report recommending whether the current model used for electing Members of the Yukon Legislative Assembly should be retained or another model should be adopted.

Criteria for selecting recommended voting system

Decisions of the YCA shall be made by a majority of members present, although consensus is encouraged as a goal.

The YCA's decision on voting systems must reflect the importance of balance for rural and urban representation. The YCA's recommended model must be consistent with both the Constitution of Canada and the Canadian parliamentary system.

If the YCA recommends adopting a model that is different from the current model, it must recommend only one such model and provide a detailed description and explanation of the proposed new electoral system in its final report.

Consultation

In carrying out this examination, the YCA may consult with Yukoners and provide Yukoners with the opportunity to make submissions to the YCA in writing and orally at public meetings.

The YCA may consult with Yukoners by holding public hearings. The YCA may also choose to hear from experts in the field and build upon the work conducted by the Yukon Legislative Assembly's Special Committee on Electoral Reform.

Establishment and Reporting to the Legislative Assembly

The YCA should be established by a specific action of the Yukon Legislative Assembly.

The YCA shall present its final report to the Speaker of the Yukon Legislative Assembly by October 31, 2024. The YCA may issue interim reports.

The YCA shall report during or before the 2024 Fall Sitting of the Yukon Legislative Assembly to permit sufficient time for the Legislature to pass legislation enabling territorial referendums in the Yukon, if there is a recommendation for an alternate electoral system.

Membership

The membership of the YCA will consist of up to two individuals from each of the 19 electoral districts in the Yukon, selected randomly from the 1,793 respondents who declared their willingness to participate on the YCA in the census of all Yukon residents aged 16 years and over conducted by the Yukon Bureau of Statistics from January 12 to March 5, 2023. There should be an effort to ensure that Yukon's diversity is reflected in the membership of the YCA. The Yukon Bureau of Statistics should be enlisted to assist in the selection process.

For purposes of this selection process, the following persons are not eligible:

- (a) a person who is not a Canadian citizen;
- (b) a person not resident in the Yukon;
- (c) a person under the age of 16;
- (d) a judge, justice or court referee;
- (e) a member or officer of the Parliament of Canada or of the Privy Council of Canada;
- (f) a member or officer of the Legislature or of the Executive Council;
- (g) a candidate in the last two federal or territorial elections;
- (h) an official representative or agent of a person identified in paragraph (g);
- (i) an immediate family member of a sitting Member of the Legislative Assembly; and
- (j) a current officer or official representative of a registered territorial political party.

Two spokespersons will be selected by the YCA from its members to speak on behalf of the YCA.

Alternate members

One alternate member per electoral district will be identified in case of attrition from the YCA.

Facilitation and chairing

A Chair shall be appointed to facilitate the establishment of the YCA.

The Chair has administrative responsibility for the YCA and is not a voting member.

Honorarium and reimbursement

The YCA members' travel and accommodation expenses for meetings of the YCA should be reimbursed and members should receive an honorarium of \$200 per meeting day (as per Category D honorarium for boards and committees with high impact on government or public of decisions or recommendations made).

Conclusion

While the committee could not reach consensus, the majority of the Special Committee on the Yukon Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform recommends to the Legislative Assembly that the terms of reference for the Yukon Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform contained in this report be adopted and that the Yukon Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform be established.

Appendix

Motion No. 711 Establishing a Special Committee on the Yukon Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform

Moved by Hon. John Streicker, Government House Leader
Notice given Wednesday, April 19, 2023
Considered Tuesday, April 25, 2023
Carried Tuesday, April 25, 2023

THAT this House supports the creation of a Yukon citizens' assembly on electoral reform by establishing a Special Committee on the Yukon Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform;

THAT the Third Party appoint the first member to the committee;

THAT the membership of the committee also be comprised of one member from the Official Opposition caucus selected by the Leader of the Official Opposition and one member from the Government caucus selected by the Premier;

THAT the Premier, the Leader of the Official Opposition, and the Leader of the Third Party inform the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly of the names of the selected members from their respective caucuses in writing no later than seven calendar days after the adoption of this motion by the Assembly;

THAT the committee convene no later than 30 calendar days after the adoption of this motion by the Assembly;

THAT the chair of the committee have a deliberative vote on all matters before the committee;

THAT the committee have the power to call for persons, papers, and records and to sit during intersessional periods;

THAT the committee report to the Legislative Assembly its recommendations on terms of reference for the electoral reform citizens' assembly no later than October 31, 2023;

THAT, if the House is not sitting at such time as the committee is prepared to present its report, the chair of the committee shall transmit the committee's report to the Speaker, who shall transmit the report to all Members of the Legislative Assembly and then not more than one day later release the report to the public; and

THAT the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly shall be responsible for providing the necessary support services to the committee.