

MOTION

No. 71

Establishing a Citizen's Assembly for Proportional Representation

Stephen Howard gives notice that tomorrow he will move, seconded by Peter Bevan-Baker, the following motion:

WHEREAS democracy is a fundamental part of Canadian society;

AND WHEREAS the first-past-the-post electoral system produces seat counts that are often disproportionate to the popular support of political parties;

AND WHEREAS all politicians, and all parties, are widely perceived by the public, and by each other, to have a vested interest in the design of the electoral system;

AND WHEREAS this Government's first speech from the throne stated that Government would "convene a panel made up of citizens and elected members to consider reforms to this Legislature";

AND WHEREAS there is a strong appetite for electoral reform on Prince Edward Island, as evidenced by the 2016 Electoral Reform Plebiscite and the 2019 Referendum;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge Government to convene a Citizens' Assembly to deliberate on a model of proportional representation;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED this Citizens' Assembly be formed of at least 27 willing, randomly-selected citizens who are broadly representative of Island society as reflected in the Census, including age, gender, social class, and regional spread;

AND THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the mandate of the Citizens' Assembly include proposing, in a report to the Legislative Assembly, a specific, detailed design for an electoral system that is tailored to PEI's needs, and which it believes would meet the approval of a majority of the Island public.

Signed: Stephen Howard

Signed: Peter Bevan-Baker

Date: October 21, 2021