

Quotes:

s.13

When speaking about the Clone Speech:

- The Member for Vancouver – False Creek:

“I’m very pleased to speak in favour of the throne speech. [...] The other issue is about electoral reform. I know that we’ve had referendums in 2005 and 2009, but there will be another one.”

- The Member for Kamloops – South Thompson:

“We are committed to enabling a third referendum with a clear question...”

- The Member for Richmond – Steveston:

“The discussion around electoral reform is a key facet of our democracy, and renewing a healthy debate on our system is important. That’s why we have committed to a third referendum on electoral reform.”

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Validators:

- The Member for Vancouver – False Creek:
 - “The other issue is about electoral reform. I know that we’ve had referendums in 2005 and 2009, but there will be another one.”
- The Member for Kamloops – South Thompson:
 - “we are committed to enabling a third referendum with a clear question...”
- The Member for Richmond – Steveston:
 - “The discussion around electoral reform is a key facet of our democracy, and renewing a healthy debate on our system is important. That’s why we have committed to a third referendum on electoral reform.”
- The Member for Vancouver Langara:
 - “For many, it’s important that we conduct a third referendum on electoral reform to give British Columbians an opportunity to consider once again what is the best electoral system for this province and its people. Again, we listened, and we’ve acted.”

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Milne, Gala AG:EX

From: Reimer, Neil JAG:EX
Sent: Wednesday, April 25, 2018 4:27 PM
To: Milne, Gala AG:EX
Cc: Atcheson, Kevin AG:EX
Subject: Data from public engagement

The questionnaire data is with Ipsos Public Affairs, which was contracted to aggregate the data – what we have received to date is aggregated: charts (in the draft report) and some more detailed tables broken down by region, age, etc. Those we have now.

For literally all the data, we would need to have the data files sent over and depending how granular it is re: certain responses we may need to review for any privacy implications, which would take time. I can't estimate how much time in advance of seeing it. That has not been our priority, given the need to provide analysis and advice to the Attorney on all the recommendations that the report will need to contain.

Larger concern, as discussed, is releasing data from the engagement in advance of the report, and only at the request of a particular group rather than to the general public. The data/questionnaire responses will form part of the report and will underlie the analysis and findings. Releasing data in advance of the report would spark a public discussion and debate about the engagement results without that context.

Neil Reimer
Director, Strategic Initiatives
Justice Services Branch | British Columbia Ministry of Attorney General
1001 Douglas St., Victoria, BC Tel: 250 356-8303

Kamloops = North Thompson.



Shannon Waters @BCTodayOfficial · Mar 1

Release from Attorney General @Dave_Eby's office says public engagement on electoral reform saw record engagement w/ 88k questionnaires completed #BCpoll #HowWeVote

2 1 3



Peter Milobar @PeterMilobar · Mar 1

Would be interesting to know how many were from outside of B.C. trying to direct the process within B.C.

1 1



MH67 @mikehicketts · Mar 1

On those Russians!

1



Peter Milobar @PeterMilobar · Mar 1

Funny. Not Russians though but I have heard of many across the Country who were interested in voicing their opinion. Just curious if Govt knows how many are from other areas

2 1



MH67 @mikehicketts · Mar 3

Would it make a difference to the @bciberals if they were #rural vs #metro opinions?

1



Peter Milobar

@PeterMilobar

Follow

Replying to @mikehicketts @BCTodayOfficial and 2 others

Mike simply asking a question. One would think that the govt of B.C. would want to hear from B.C. residents about what electoral system we should have and not from whoever decides to fill out an online survey from wherever else in the country or world

12:19 AM · 3 Mar 2018

Electoral Reform Public Engagement Wrap-up

Questions & Answers

1. What were the results of this engagement?

- Over the course of three months, the public engagement website received more than 180,000 (180,880) site visits, with over 88,000 (88,547) questionnaires completed.
- In addition to the website, the engagement received hundreds of written submissions from individuals, as well as submissions from more than 30 organizations.
- Visitors spent an average of 14 minutes on the site, learning about the referendum and voting systems used in B.C. and elsewhere in the world, in addition to spending an average of about 16 minutes completing the questionnaire.

2. What are next steps? When will your report be complete and referendum details announced?

- The final piece of the engagement process includes work being done by an Indigenous Liaison, which should be completed in the coming weeks.
- Following that, I will be preparing my report with recommendations for the referendum.
- The report will be posted on the public engagement website later this spring and presented to Cabinet for decision.
- After final direction is received from Cabinet later this spring, regulations containing detailed rules for the referendum will be completed.
- At that time, I will announce the details of the referendum, including the referendum date, campaign rules and ballot question, as they are established in the regulations.
- The referendum must take place by Nov. 30, 2018.

3. How does it compare to other public engagements run by the Province?

- Every public engagement is unique and it's difficult to make a direct comparison between them.
- Examples of past engagements include:
 - The Cannabis public engagement had 127,952 site visits and 48,151 completed questionnaires.
 - The Human Rights Commission public engagement had 13,253 site visits and 511 discussion comments.
 - The Distracted Driving public engagement had 24,051 site visits, 1,932 online comments, 962 email submissions and 69,052 inputs.
 - The Your Kid's Progress public engagement had 28,557 site visits and 5,435 feedback forms.

4. What is the regional breakdown of the response to the questionnaire?

- We heard from British Columbians in all communities across the province.
- Most communities responded roughly in proportion to their populations.
- For example, the Fraser Valley makes up 6.3% of the population and 6.5% of the questionnaire responses, and the Peace River and Northern Rockies makes up 1.5% of both the population and questionnaire responses.

Fraser Fort George 1.9% of popⁿ 1.8% of responses

CONFIDENTIAL ADVICE TO MINISTER – MARCH 1, 2018 (DRAFT)

Under represented

- Some communities such as Greater Vancouver, Squamish-Lillooet and Similkameen were underrepresented in proportion to their populations, and others such as Kootenay Boundary, Sunshine Coast & Mount Waddington, and the Capital region were more heavily represented.

- The regional breakdown of responses is as follows:

More heavily represented

- Mainland/Southwest: 46%
- Vancouver Island/Coast: 27%
- Thompson Okanagan: 11 %
- Kootenay: 5.62%
- Nechako: 1%
- Northeast: 1%
- North Coast: .26%
- Cariboo: 3.27%
- Unidentified: 4.77%

5. What is the total cost of the engagement?

- The engagement's total budget is \$1 million, which includes the mail-out and ad campaign.
- Final costs are still being determined, but we anticipate the engagement coming in slightly under budget.

6. Will you be releasing all of the feedback and information received from the engagement?

- My report will be comprehensive and clearly lay out what we heard from British Columbians.
- That includes responses to the questionnaire as well as commentary from individuals and organizations.

7. Tell us about the RIO: who will run it? What's its mandate and budget?

- These decisions are still to be determined as part of my recommendations to Cabinet.

8. How did you work to ensure rural regions were engaged in this process?

- On January 26, we sent a mailer to all B.C. homes providing details on the engagement underway and instruction to visit the website and complete the questionnaire.
- We also ran an ad campaign to raise public awareness of the engagement.
- Participation levels in the North were largely in proportion to their populations.
- For example, the communities of Fraser-Fort George represent 1.9% of the province and 1.8% of questionnaire responses.

9. How have you engaged with First Nations?

- We have hired an Indigenous liaison, Michelle Corfield, to assist with outreach to First Nations and ensure we hear their preferences and opinions about this important question.
- Input from First Nations will be part of my report to Cabinet.

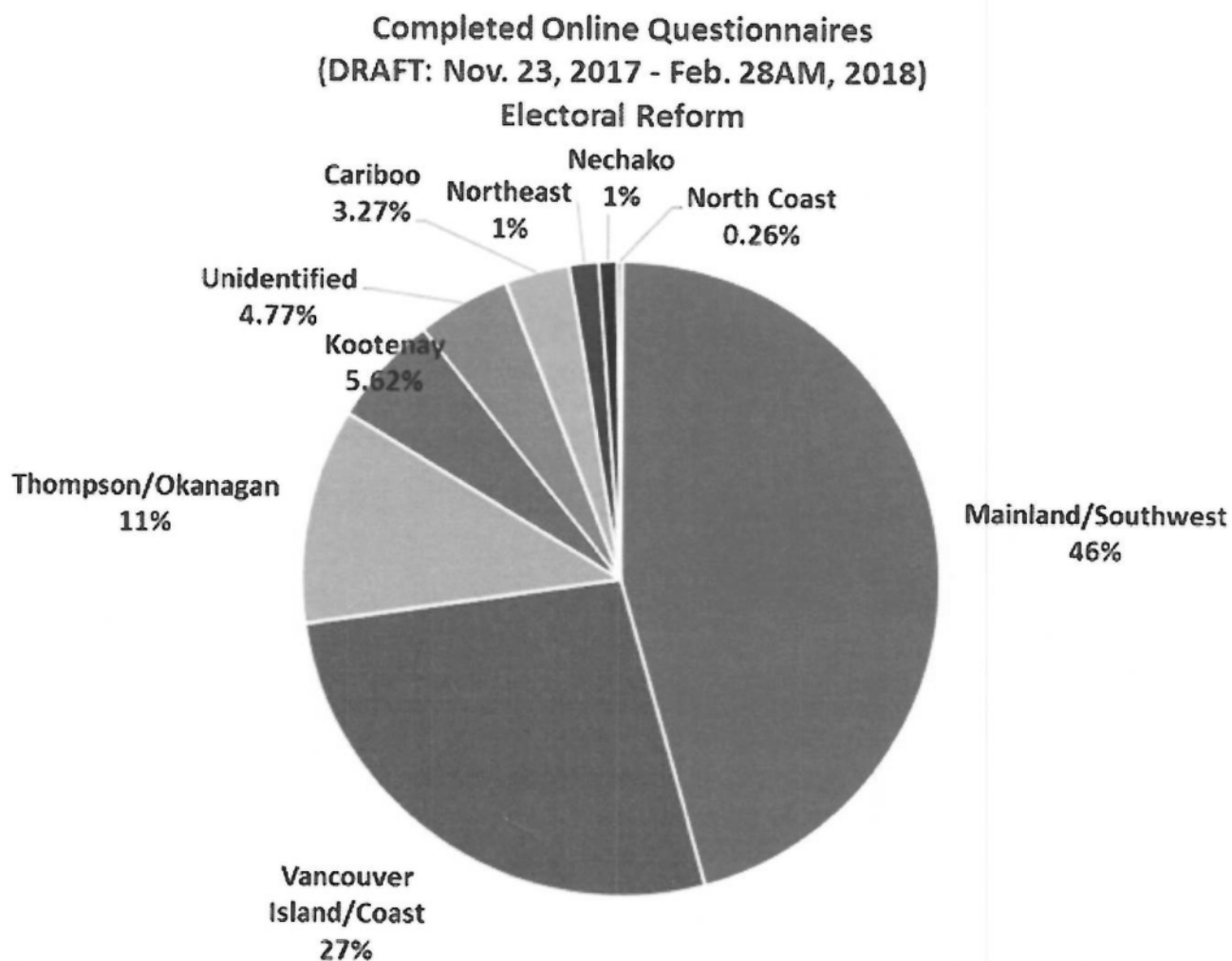
10. How much will the referendum cost?

- Based on past referenda conducted by mail-in ballot, we estimate a total cost of the fall referendum to be around \$9-10 million.
- This is a much less expensive method than holding a stand-alone, in-person vote.

Smith, George AG:EX

From: Nelson, Tiffany GCPE:EX
Sent: Thursday, March 1, 2018 11:04 AM
To: Smith, George AG:EX; Godfrey, Sam AG:EX; Milne, Gala AG:EX; Arora, Jasleen AG:EX
Cc: Robins, Shawn GCPE:EX
Subject: Additional stats in QA
Attachments: QA_How We Vote engagement wrap-up_DRAFT.DOCX

Hi - brief QA with stats dropped in here on costs, regional breakdown, comparison to other engagements.



Electoral Reform Process

Highlights:

- Public engagement on the electoral reform process closed February 28th. The Attorney General will present a report with recommendations.

s.13

Solution:

- Our government believes it is time **for all British Columbians to have a say** in the fundamental question of how we elect our MLAs.
- We will hold a referendum by November 2018 to give people the opportunity to vote on whether to adopt a more proportional system of government.
- We will ensure that British Columbians are presented with a clear question.
- We will ensure every British Columbian has an equal voice.
- We believe that British Columbians deserve to have a say on how we conduct elections in this province.

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BIASED AGAINST PR



NEWS

Electoral Reform Consultation Missing Key Options, Says Advocate

Government says criticism of its survey from both sides in the electoral debate is merely part of the process to find the best solutions.



By Andrew MacLeod
1 Dec 2017 | TheTyee.ca

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Hughes, Candice AG:EX

Subject:

FW: Writer is registering a formal complaint that AG Ministry is providing false and misleading information to voters on How We Vote website today. FW: Complaint regarding educational materials on How We Vote website

From: Milne, Gala AG:EX

Sent: Monday, January 29, 2018 1:29 PM

To: Hughes, Candice AG:EX

Subject: RE: Writer is registering a formal complaint that AG Ministry is providing false and misleading information to voters on How We Vote website today. FW: Complaint regarding educational materials on How We Vote website

Hi Candice,

Yes, please go ahead with a rush AG reply direct for this correspondence.

Thank you,

Gala

From: Hughes, Candice AG:EX

Sent: Monday, January 29, 2018 1:15 PM

To: Milne, Gala AG:EX

Subject: FW: Writer is registering a formal complaint that AG Ministry is providing false and misleading information to voters on How We Vote website today. FW: Complaint regarding educational materials on How We Vote website

Importance: High

From: Minister, AG AG:EX

Sent: Monday, January 29, 2018 12:58 PM

To: Nelson, Tiffany GCPE:EX; Smith, George AG:EX

Subject: Writer is registering a formal complaint that AG Ministry is providing false and misleading information to voters on How We Vote website today. FW: Complaint regarding educational materials on How We Vote website

Importance: High

Hi Tiffany and George,

I can send this over for an AG draft email response to be prepared – however, wanted to ensure that you and George have seen the writer's comments and her "formal complaints"

Candice

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s.22

Honourable Speaker, when the BC Liberals held a referendum on whether First Nations have treaty rights in BC, the CBC described what ensued as follows:

QUOTE: "Native and church leaders called the plebiscite "stupid," "immoral," "amateurish," and "racist." By the May 15 deadline, only about one third of the mail-in ballots were returned. Many ballots were burned. Others were turned into paper airplanes, cut into snowflakes, even toilet paper."

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s.13

King, Kim J M JAG:EX

PRO REP.

543422
s.22

From: Minister, AG AG:EX
Sent: Wednesday, November 29, 2017 6:35 PM
To: Addo, Wolfgang AG:EX
Subject: AG Draft Email 543422 - s.22

From: Office of the Premier, Office PREM:EX
Sent: Monday, November 27, 2017 3:21 PM
To: s.22
Cc: Minister, AG AG:EX
Subject: FW: Online referendum consultation

Dear s.22

Thank you for writing about electoral reform in British Columbia. We appreciate your taking the time to write with your observations and comments on this very important topic.

On your behalf, we have shared a copy of your message with the Honourable David Eby, Attorney General. His staff will ensure that your comments are included in any upcoming, related discussions and his staff will contact you if they have any further questions.

Thank you, again, for writing. It was good to hear from you.

cc: Honourable David Eby

s.22

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s.22

Electoral Reform Process

Highlights:

- The Opposition has claimed a referendum threshold of 50% + 1 is too low and that electoral reform will disadvantage rural regions.

s.13

Solution:

- Our government believes it is time **for all British Columbians to have a say** in the fundamental question of how we elect our MLAs.
- We will hold a referendum by November 2018 to give people the opportunity to vote on whether to adopt a more proportional system of government.
- We will ensure that British Columbians are presented with a clear question.
- We will ensure that every British Columbian has an equal voice.
- We believe that British Columbians deserve to have a say on how we conduct elections in this province.

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 - “For many, it’s important that we conduct a third referendum on electoral reform to give British Columbians an opportunity to consider once again what is the best electoral system for this province and its people. Again, we listened, and we’ve acted.”