**Fair Représentation
Vote équitable
Canada au Canada**

Submission to the
Yukon Citizens' Assembly
on Electoral Reform

June 7, 2024

Introduction

We appreciate the Citizens' Assembly's time and consideration on the important issue of electoral reform.

As Canada's largest organisation dedicated to the cause of electoral reform, we would like to address three primary issues:

- *Process.* Areas for improvement or special attention that may affect the outcome of the Citizens' Assembly's work.
- *Principles.* Relating the principles of democracy to voting reform.
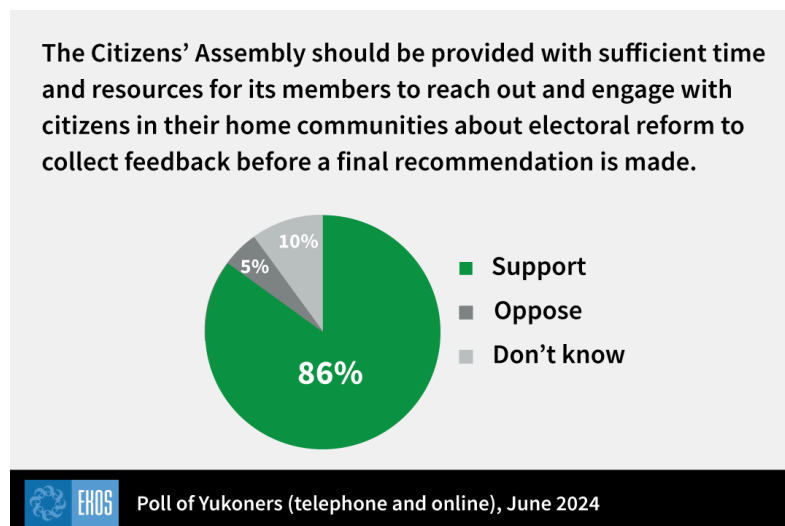- *Systems.* Some illustrative example reforms to provide inspiration in the Citizens' Assembly's work.

Process Recommendations

In our experience, the public cares as much if not more about the process behind democratic reform as they do about the reform itself.

To that end, we make the following three recommendations:

That the Citizens' Assembly request that the government provide you with the opportunity to collect feedback in your home communities about draft recommendations prior to their finalisation.

We firmly believe that greater community engagement will both improve the quality of recommendations and give the public a greater sense of ownership over the Citizens' Assembly's recommendation. In an EKOS poll conducted May 24 - June 5, 86% of Yukoners supported this additional phase compared to 5% opposed.

The Citizens' Assembly should be provided with sufficient time and resources for its members to reach out and engage with citizens in their home communities about electoral reform to collect feedback before a final recommendation is made.

- Support
- Oppose
- Don't know

86%
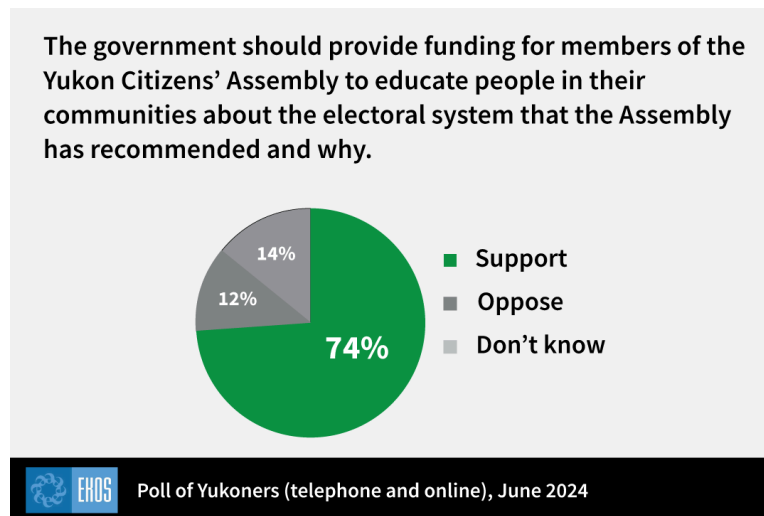10%
5%

Poll of Yukoners (telephone and online), June 2024

That the Citizens' Assembly request that the government empower and provide resources and a mandate to your members to explain your recommendation to the public.

As in BC and unlike in Ontario, we suggest that a hard copy of the Yukon Citizens' Assembly's final report be sent to all households. We further suggest that that recommendation be given proper context by focusing first on the composition of the assembly as a body of ordinary citizens, next on the motives behind the recommendation, before finally moving to the details of the recommended changes themselves.
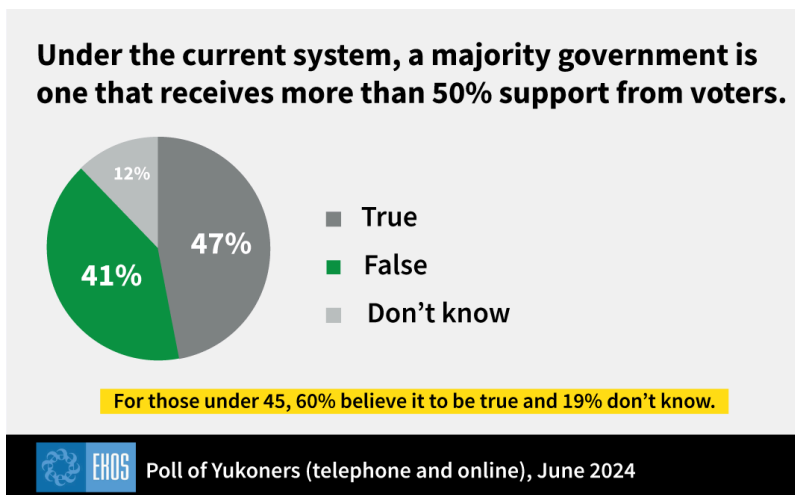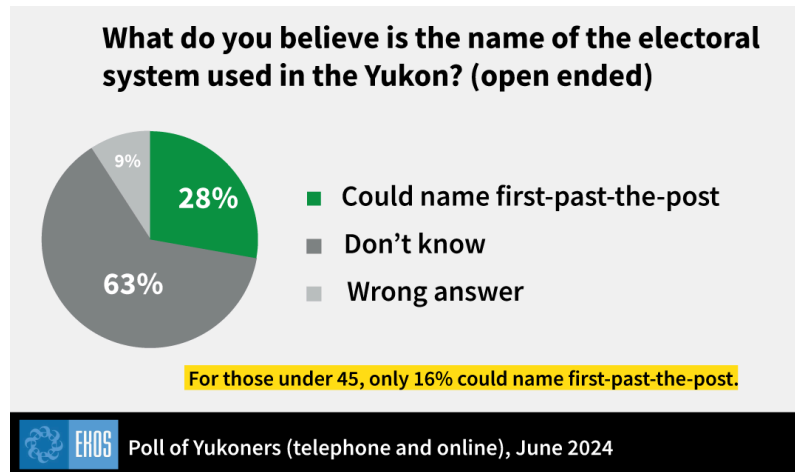
Following the conclusion of their work, the members of BC Citizens' Assembly formed an alumni group where they provided education resources and speakers to interested parties. This work was not supported by resources from the BC government, which we feel was an error. We recommend that the Citizens' Assembly include a fully funded Phase Two, where Assembly members who are able to participate in public engagement are provided with resources for outreach in communities to talk about their recommendations prior to any referendum.

74% of Yukoners polled supported this approach compared to just 12% opposed.

The government should provide funding for members of the Yukon Citizens' Assembly to educate people in their communities about the electoral system that the Assembly has recommended and why.

- Support 74%
- Oppose 12%
- Don't know 14%

EKOS Poll of Yukoners (telephone and online), June 2024

That the Citizens' Assembly request that the government fund education and meaningful community engagement rather than for/against campaigns.

The level of public knowledge surrounding issues of electoral reform is low. Based on the polling results from EKOS, most Yukoners either incorrectly believe (47%) or are unsure (12%) that a majority of the vote is necessary to produce a majority government under the current system. Most Yukoners also either incorrectly believe (32%) or are unsure (22%) that the current system is a form of proportional representation. Only a mere 28% can correctly name first-past-the-post as the current voting system.

What do you believe is the name of the electoral system used in the Yukon? (open ended)

- ■ Could name first-past-the-post — 28%
- ■ Don't know — 63%
- ■ Wrong answer — 9%

For those under 45, only 16% could name first-past-the-post.

Poll of Yukoners (telephone and online), June 2024

Under the current system, a majority government is one that receives more than 50% support from voters.

- ■ True — 47%
- ■ False — 41%
- ■ Don't know — 12%

For those under 45, 60% believe it to be true and 19% don't know.

Poll of Yukoners (telephone and online), June 2024

This issue is not unique to the Yukon, and polls have found similarly low levels of awareness of electoral systems at a national level. This does underline the need for a strong, factual, and unbiased education campaign to inform the public prior to any referendum.

Because yes and no campaigns are not typically bound to be truthful, funding these interested third party organisations presents a risk of further misinforming the public.

We recommend that this public education work be undertaken by both the Citizens' Assembly itself, as described above, and by Elections Yukon. When polled, 83% of the public supported such a role for Elections Yukon, compared to 9% opposed.

That the Citizens' Assembly request that the referendum question be worded similarly to the 2005 referendum question in British Columbia, which was:

Should British Columbia change to the BC-STV electoral system as recommended by the Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform? (Yes/No)

We feel that this wording reduced the bias associated with pitting an unknown acronym against an identified status quo. Directly stating the status quo in the referendum question is intended to improve voter knowledge, but does not provide a similar level of detail and knowledge for the alternative proposed. Worse, much of that voter knowledge of the status quo may in fact be incorrect.

Status quo bias could be further reduced by replacing the word "changed" with more neutral language such as "adopt."

By referring to the alternative and the recommendation for it, voters are encouraged to inform themselves by reading the detailed report this Citizens' Assembly will produce. We note that incumbent MLAs do not have their incumbency identified on the ballot for fear of bias, and would apply the same logic to this situation.

Additionally, we note that Statistics Yukon's attempt to describe potential electoral systems included substantial factual errors in the descriptions, and caution against relying on accurate descriptions of voting systems being included in the referendum question itself.

Principles of Electoral Systems

We understand that, like British Columbia's Citizens' Assembly, the Yukon Citizens' Assembly is free to choose the guiding principles that will be used to evaluate both alternative electoral systems and the status quo. We would highlight their three primary principles as deserving strong consideration by the Yukon Citizens' Assembly: fair election results, effective local representation, and greater voter choice. We suggest the possible inclusion of a fourth principle: effective government.

Fair election results that reflect voter intention

The BC Citizens' Assembly, like Fair Vote Canada, believed strongly in equality between voters of all partisan persuasions. Supporters of minority viewpoints in a given area are deserving of representation in proportion to their numbers. More popular viewpoints deserve more representation, but not in excess of their share of the vote.

According to the Yukon Electoral Reform Survey Report, "71.6% agreed or strongly agreed that Yukon's electoral system should ensure that the number of seats held by a party in the Legislative Assembly reflects the proportion of votes it received across the territory, and 10.1% disagreed or strongly disagreed with this outcome." Only proportional representation systems reflect this value.

Effective local representation

Voters want MLAs who represent specific geographic areas so that they may champion local issues. Effective local representation is the intent of first-past-the-post; however, that intent is undermined by the reality that most (52.3% in 2021) Yukon voters are not represented by someone they voted for. Worse, as put by the BC Citizens' Assembly, "party discipline quickly turns members of the Legislative Assembly into party advocates rather than local advocates."

Proportional representation can enhance local representation in two ways:

1. Proportional representation substantially decreases the share of voters that fail to elect a representative. In elections for a single-member riding, whether by first-past-the-post or using a ranked ballot, up to 50% of voters can vote for the same candidate or party without seeing that candidate elected (as was the case in Vuntut Gwitchin in 2021). This is referred to as the *threshold of exclusion.* Under proportional representation, in a two-member riding that figure drops to 33%. In a three-member riding, this threshold drops again to 25%, with continuing but diminishing improvements as the number of representatives in a given riding increases. These improvements in the share of voters represented by someone of their choice are reflected in the real-world examples of countries using proportional representation, where typically 80-95% of votes contribute to electing a representative.

2. Proportional representation when properly implemented can reduce party control, by:
    a. Reducing the power of parties to hand-pick candidates for safe seats. In an open-list or ranked implementation of proportional representation, parties must present multiple candidates for the seats available. Voters can reject a party's hand-picked insider by simply choosing someone else from within their preferred party's list.
    b. Giving dissenting MLAs a realistic hope of re-election as members of a new party or as an independent. If independent candidates are treated as simply a party of one, then those independents can more easily win re-election by appealing to a smaller but still significant share of the vote. For example, as mentioned above, in a three-seat riding an independent could guarantee their re-election with 25% of the vote, compared to 50% under single-winner methods such as first-past-the-post. Real-world examples of this would include independent MSP Margo MacDonald in Scotland, or the large contingent of independent Irish MPs (22 out of 160), or the success of the Free Voters movement in Bavaria.

According to the Yukon Electoral Reform Survey Report, "78.4% agreed or strongly agreed that Yukon's electoral system should ensure that voters elect local candidates to represent them in the Legislative Assembly, while 4.8% disagreed or strongly

disagreed." We recommend reflecting this value by proposing a form of proportional representation that elects candidates from local ridings using open lists or a ranked ballot. This could include a mixed-member proportional system using open lists.

This electoral system should be designed to ensure accessibility to independent candidates.

Greater voter choice

In the most recent election, voters had the choice among one candidate from each party and no more than one independent per riding. If a voter does not like the candidate offered by their preferred party, they are left to choose between holding their nose and voting for a candidate they dislike, holding their nose and voting for a party they dislike, or not voting at all.

We suggest improving choice by recommending systems that elect multiple candidates per riding or region, thereby encouraging parties to run multiple candidates. We further suggest that voters should be able to choose from among those multiple candidates directly, rather than rely on a party-ordered list.

With parties putting forward multiple candidates in each contest, this provides an incentive for parties to recruit a diverse set of qualified candidates for their slate in order to maximise their appeal. Studies show that this mechanism has improved the diversity of legislatures in terms of gender, ethnicity, and geography.

Effective government

Studies have shown that countries using proportional representation outperform their peers on a host of issues, including (but not limited to):

- Less concentration of power, and therefore less risk that any single party can unilaterally change the rules to suit themselves
- More stability: Parliaments elected by PR are more likely to last a full term; policy swings when governments change are less extreme
- Higher citizen satisfaction with the performance of their country's democratic institutions (even when the party they voted for was not in power)
- Lower levels of partisan polarisation among the electorate
- More fiscal responsibility, including less debt, and more likelihood of fiscal surpluses (the latter applying to moderately proportional systems)

- Higher economic growth
- Lower corporate tax rates
- Lower tariffs
- Lower income inequality
- More diversity in the legislature, including more women (8 percentage points higher) and youth (PR countries elect twice as many MPs under 30)
- Higher quality of policy making
- High level of civil liberties and privacy
- Better environmental protection, including higher scores on the Yale Environmental Protection Index (EPI), more effective environmental policies, and more use of renewable energy
- Higher scores on the United Nations Index of Human Development, which incorporates health, education, and standard of living indicators.
- Better population health, including higher life expectancy
- Higher quality and independence of the public service
- Higher level of adherence to the rule of law
- Lower level of corruption and state capture by elite interests
- Higher voter turnout (7.5 percentage points, and 12% among youth)

For a summary of research on improved outcomes under proportional representation, please refer to https://www.fairvote.ca/a-look-at-the-evidence/

Possible Models

We believe any system that meets the above criteria is worth supporting. In that context, we offer four example systems to consider; however, this list is by no means meant to be exhaustive.

We have included for your review rough simulations of how different systems would have translated votes from the 2021 territorial election to results. We note that while the NDP is the primary beneficiary in these simulations, in 2011 proportional representation would have most benefited the Liberals, and in 2002 the primary beneficiary was the Yukon Party.

These simulations are very approximate and include rough riding/district/region boundaries that would need further refinement, likely by the Boundaries Commission. This includes some boundary choices that straddle the rural/urban divide that were made for expediency.

No allowances were made for changes in voting behaviour due to the change in voting system, though we suggest based on the experiences of past reforms in British Columbia, Alberta, and Manitoba that these changes may be smaller than some might expect.

In the case of the tie in Vuntut Gwitchin, we showed this seat as split between the Liberals and NDP because the results were a tie and the seat could have gone either way, affecting the proportionality of the overall outcome. For the MMP and DMP simulations, an extra local seat for either party is compensated by the loss of a balancing seat for that party.

The spreadsheets used to calculate these results are available here. Please feel free to make your own copy and make any changes you would like to explore. We are happy to explain these simulations in greater detail as well.

Open-List Proportional Representation (Local Choice Voting)

This video shows how OLPR could work in the Yukon (modelling based on the 2021 election):

Open List Proportional Representation combines proportional representation of parties with direct voter influence over which candidates within those parties are elected, ensuring both fair party representation and voter choice.

Features:

1. **Party slates**: Political parties present multiple candidates to voters before the election.
2. **Voter choice**: Voters cast their vote for a specific candidate within a party slate, not just for the party itself. This means voters have a say in which individuals from the slate should be elected.
3. **Proportional allocation**: The number of seats each party wins is determined by the total number of votes the party's candidates receive. This ensures that the proportion of seats a party gets matches its share of the overall vote.

4. **Candidate selection**: The candidates from each party slate who receive the most individual votes are elected to fill the seats won by their party. This allows popular candidates within the party to be prioritised.

Advantages:

- Local accountability. All MLAs are directly accountable to their local community.
- Voter choice. Choose between not only parties but also candidates of the same party.
- Familiar voting experience. Mark an X next to your preferred candidate.
- Ballot format is familiar to voters.
- Easy, simple to describe.

Use:

- Most common electoral system internationally, including all Nordic countries.

Additional Video:

Electoral Reform Option Two - List Proportional Representation

Sample Ballot:

Sample Results:

Open List PR, 2021

Party	% Vote	% Seats	# Seats
Yukon Party	39.3%	42.1%	8
Liberal	32.4%	28.9%	5.5
NDP	28.2%	28.9%	5.5

Open List Proportional

Vuntut Gwitchin*

North

Southwest

Southeast

Whitehorse West

Whitehorse East

* tie vote
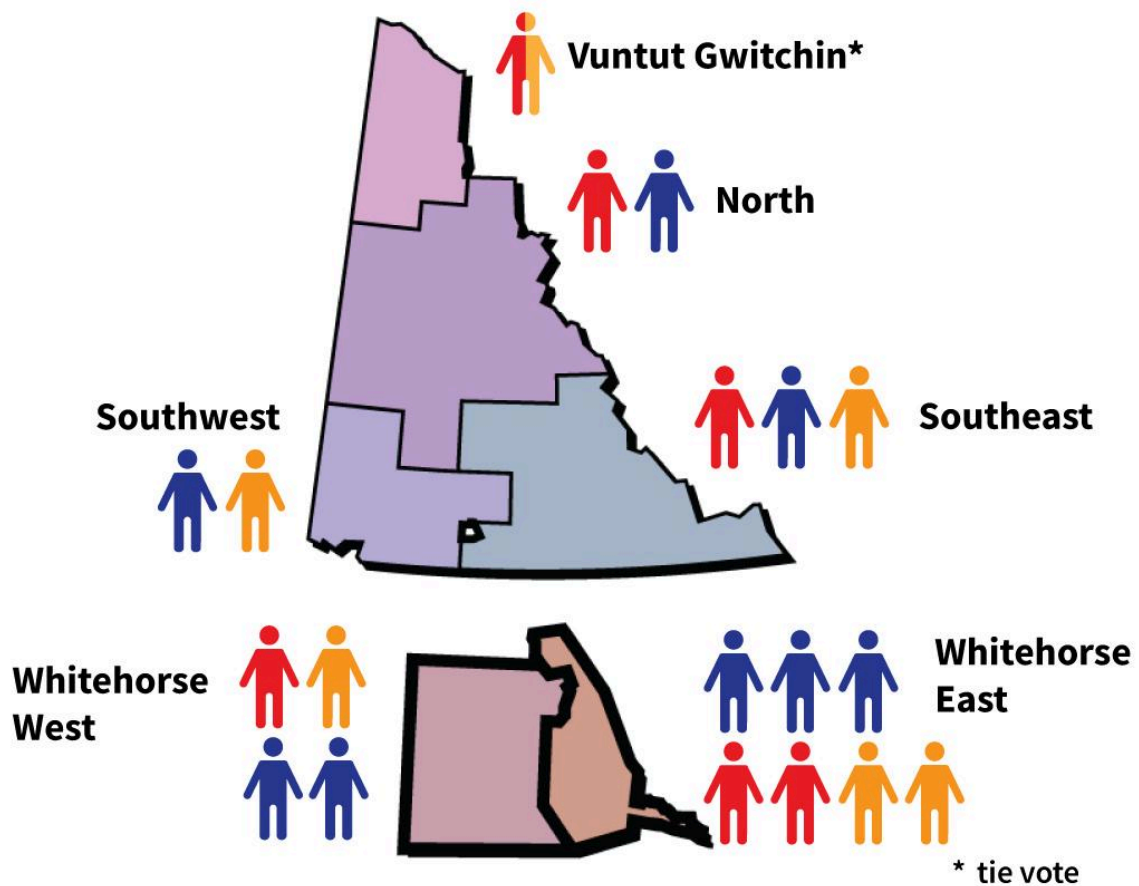
Single Transferable Vote

This video shows how STV could work in the Yukon (modelling based on the 2021 election):

Single Transferable Vote combines proportional results with direct voter influence over which candidates are elected, ensuring both fair party representation and voter choice.

Voters can rank candidates within and between parties. The most popular candidates are elected.

Features:

1. **Party Slates**: Political parties typically present multiple candidates to voters before the election.
2. **Voter Choice**: Voters rank candidates in order of preference.
3. **Proportional Allocation**: If a candidate meets the required threshold (a quota), they are declared elected.
4. **Vote Transfers:** Excess votes above the quota are transferred to voters' next highest choice. The worst performing candidate is eliminated, and their votes are transferred to voters' next highest choice. This process repeats until all seats are filled.

Advantages:

- Local Accountability. All MLAs are directly accountable to their local community.
- Voter Choice. Choose between not only parties but also candidates of the same party. Mix and match candidates from different parties if desired.
- Simple to use. Rank as few or as many as you like.
- Accessible to independents. STV has among the strongest track records for electing independents of any voting system.

Use:

- Ireland, lower houses in Australian Capital Territory and Tasmania, upper houses in New South Wales, South Australia, Western Australia and Victoria, all

municipal elections in Scotland, some municipal elections in New Zealand and the US. Previously used at times for municipal elections in western Canada and for provincial elections in Edmonton, Calgary and Winnipeg.

Additional Videos:

How does Single Transferable Vote work in Portland, Oregon?

How do we elect MLAs? (Northern Ireland)

Politics in the Animal Kingdom: Single Transferable Vote

Sample Ballot:

Sample Results:

STV, 2021

Party	% Vote	% Seats	# Seats
Yukon Party	39.3%	42.1%	8
Liberal	32.4%	28.9%	5.5
NDP	28.2%	28.9%	5.5

Single Transferable Vote
(Proportional ranked choice voting)

Vuntut Gwitchin*

North

Southwest

Southeast

Whitehorse West

Whitehorse East

* tie vote
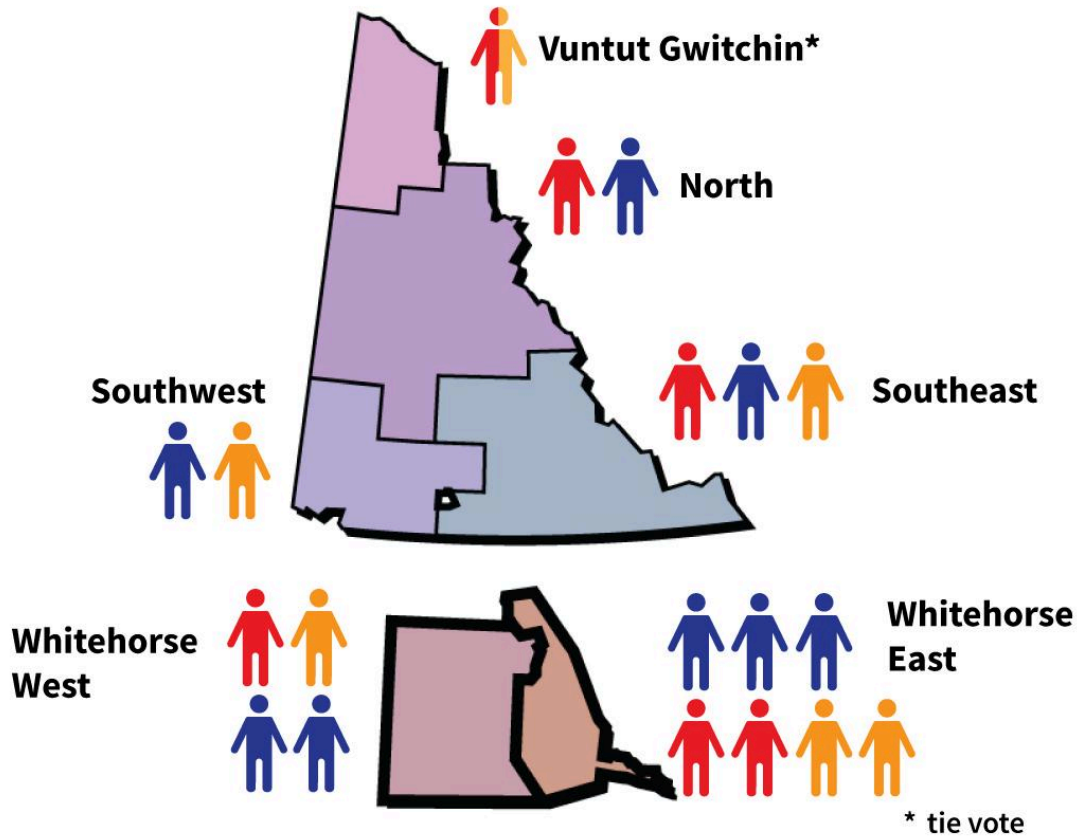
Mixed-Member Proportional Representation

This video shows how MMP could work in the Yukon (modelling based on the 2021 election):

Mixed Member Proportional Representation

This video accompanies Fair Vote Canada's submission to the Yukon Citizens' Assembly

YUKON CITIZENS' ASSEMBLY
The voice of a vibrant and diverse community

Mixed Member Proportional (MMP) voting is an electoral system that combines two methods of electing representatives to provide a more balanced and proportional representation in the legislature.

Features:

1. **Two Votes Per Voter**: Each voter has two votes. The first vote is for a candidate to represent their local district (much like in traditional systems). The second vote is for a candidate from a party slate.
2. **District Representatives**: The first vote elects representatives in single-member districts. The candidate with the most votes in each district wins a seat in the legislature.
3. **Party Seats**: The second vote determines the overall proportion of seats each party should have in the legislature. These seats are filled from party slates, with the seats filled by the candidates with the most personal votes from that slate.
4. **Balancing Seats**: After the district seats are allocated, additional seats are given to parties to ensure the overall proportion of seats in the legislature matches the proportion of party votes. This corrects any disproportionality from the district elections.

The aim of MMP is to combine the direct accountability of district representatives with the fairness of proportional representation, ensuring that the number of seats each party has closely matches its share of the vote.

Advantages:

- Ballot format allows voters to distinguish between party and candidate support.
- Mitigates increases in riding sizes while maintaining proportionality.
- Voter Choice. For regional seats, choose between not only parties but also candidates of the same party.
- Allows Vuntut Gwitchin to maintain dedicated representation without risk of distortion to territory-wide partisan results.
- Gives popular independent candidates a reasonable chance of being elected.

Use:

- New Zealand, Germany, Scotland

Additional Videos:

[Mixed-Member Proportional Representation Explained](#)
[MMP (Mixed Member Proportional)](#)
[FVC Mixed Member Proportional](#)

Sample Ballot:

MMP Ballot

Riding vote

Please mark one X beside one candidate for your local MLA.

( ) Candidate Party A   ( ) Candidate Party B   (X) Candidate Party C   ( ) Candidate Party D   ( ) Candidate Independent

Party vote

Please mark one X beside one candidate for a regional MLA.
A vote for a candidate counts as a vote for that candidate's party.

PARTY A	PARTY B	PARTY C	PARTY D
( ) Candidate	( ) Candidate	( ) Candidate	( ) Candidate
( ) Candidate	( ) Candidate	( ) Candidate	( ) Candidate
( ) Candidate	( ) Candidate	( ) Candidate	( ) Candidate
( ) Candidate	( ) Candidate	( ) Candidate	( ) Candidate
( ) Candidate	(X) Candidate	( ) Candidate	( ) Candidate
( ) Candidate	( ) Candidate	( ) Candidate	( ) Candidate

Sample Results:

MMP, 2021

Party	% Vote	% Seats	# Seats
Yukon Party	39.3%	42.1%	8
Liberal	32.4%	31.6%	6
NDP	28.2%	26.3%	5

Mixed Member Proportional

Vuntut Gwitchin

+ Regional Top Up MLAs

Mayo-Tatchun
Klondike

Kluane
Mount Lorne-
Southern Lakes

Pelly-Nisutlin
Watson Lake
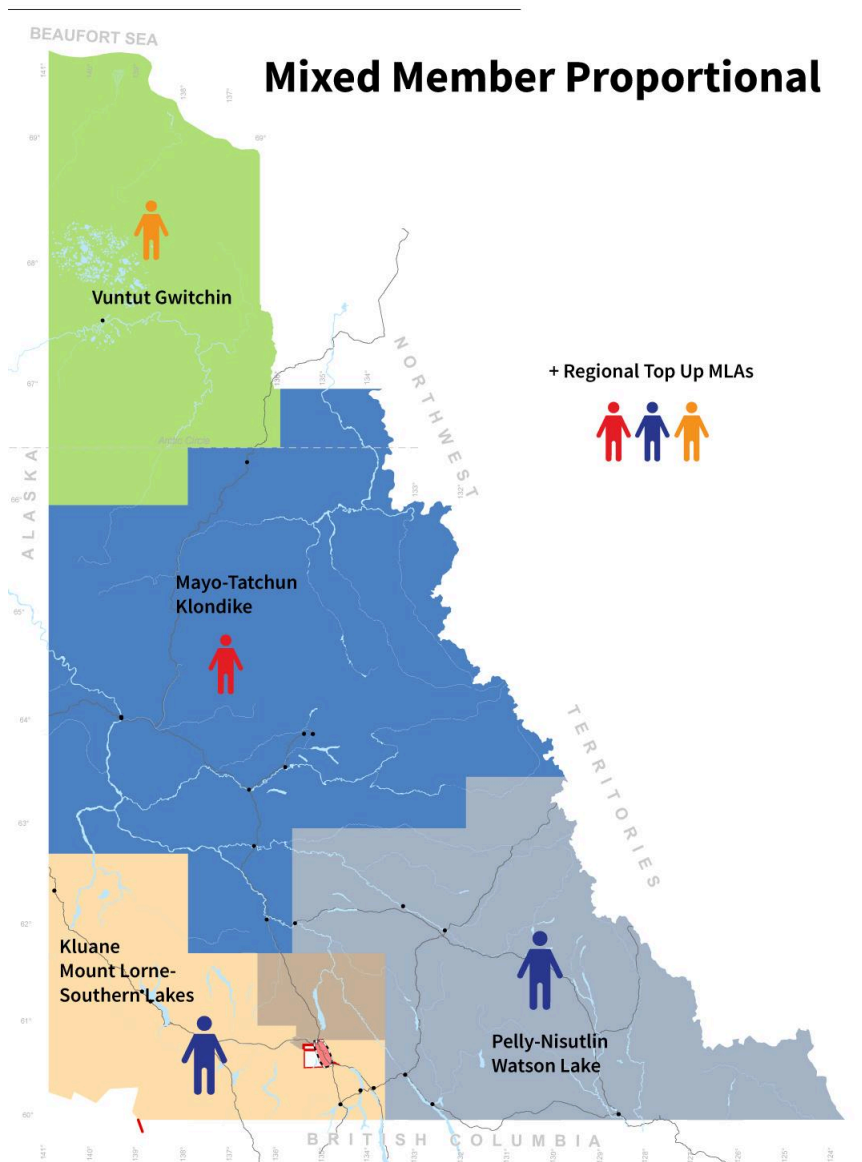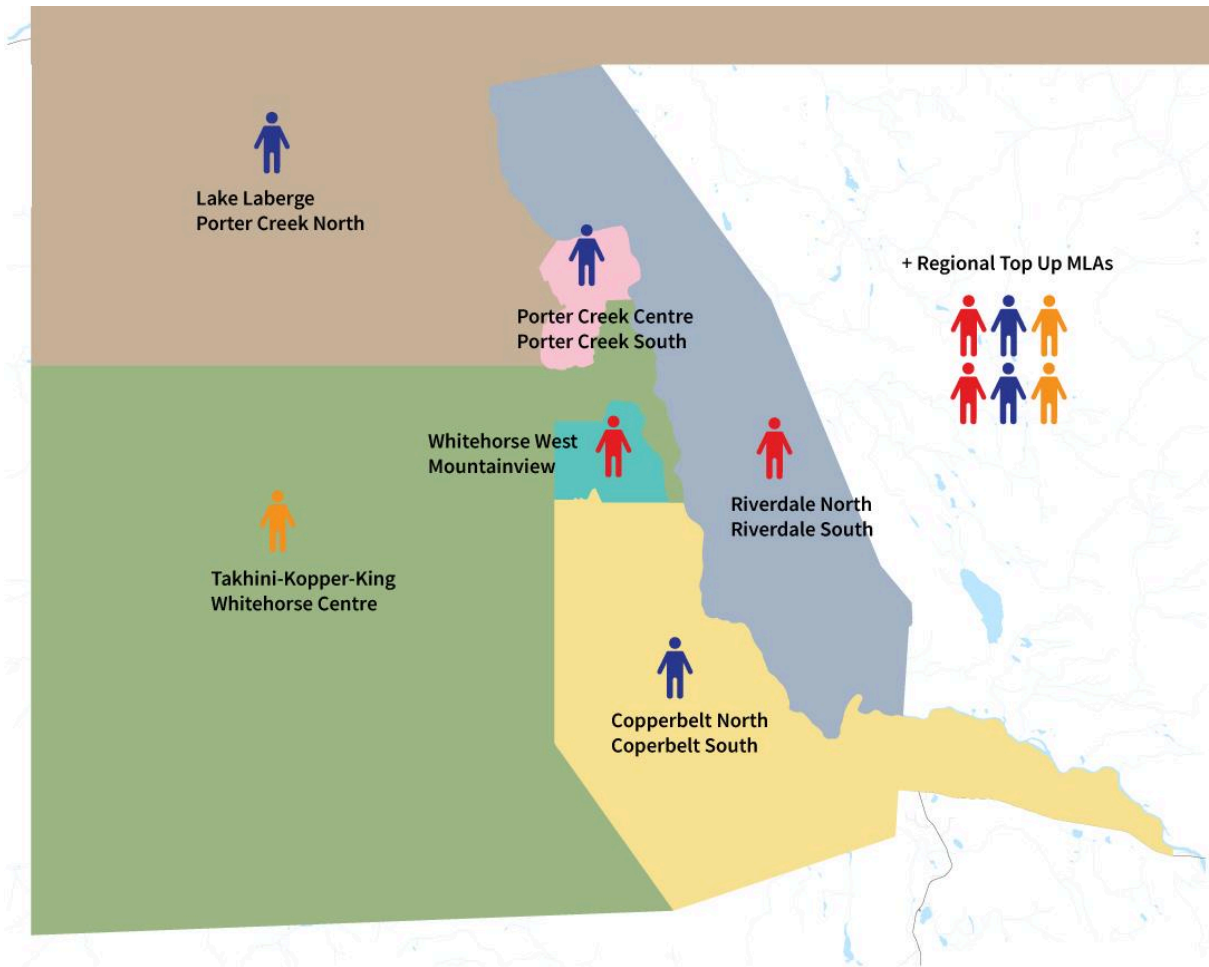
Dual Member Proportional

This video shows how DMP could work in the Yukon (modelling based on the 2021 election):

Dual Member Proportional voting is an electoral system designed to achieve proportional representation while retaining local district representation.

Features:

1. **Two representatives per district**: Except for Vuntut Gwitchin, each electoral district elects two representatives.
2. **One vote per voter**: Voters cast a single combined vote for a pair of candidates from the same party or as independents. This vote counts both for the specific candidates and for the party.
3. **First seat - direct election**: The first seat in each district is won by the candidate with the most votes, similar to a traditional first-past-the-post system. Independents are elected if they place first or second.
4. **Balancing seats**: After the district seats are allocated, additional seats are given to parties to ensure the overall proportion of seats in the legislature matches the proportion of party votes. This corrects any disproportionality from the district elections. These seats are allocated based on the candidates' relative strength in each district.

Dual Member Proportional uses a simple ballot, provides high proportionality, 100% local representation, and better rural inclusion. Additional information can be found at https://dmpforcanada.com

Advantages:

- Minimal change to the voting experience.
- Mitigates increases in riding sizes while maintaining high proportionality.
- Allows Vuntut Gwitchin to maintain dedicated representation without risk of distortion to territory-wide partisan results.

Use:

- Dual member proportional representation was designed for a Canadian context, but similar systems are in use in select German states.

Additional Video:

Electoral Reform: Dual Member Proportional Explained

Sample Ballot:

Sample Results:

DMP, 2021

Party	% Vote	% Seats	# Seats
Yukon Party	39.3%	42.1%	8
Liberal	32.4%	31.6%	6
NDP	28.2%	26.3%	5

Dual Member Proportional

Beaufort Sea

Vuntut Gwitchin

Mayo-Tatchun
Klondike

Kluane
Mount Lorne-
Southern Lakes

Pelly-Nisutlin
Watson Lake
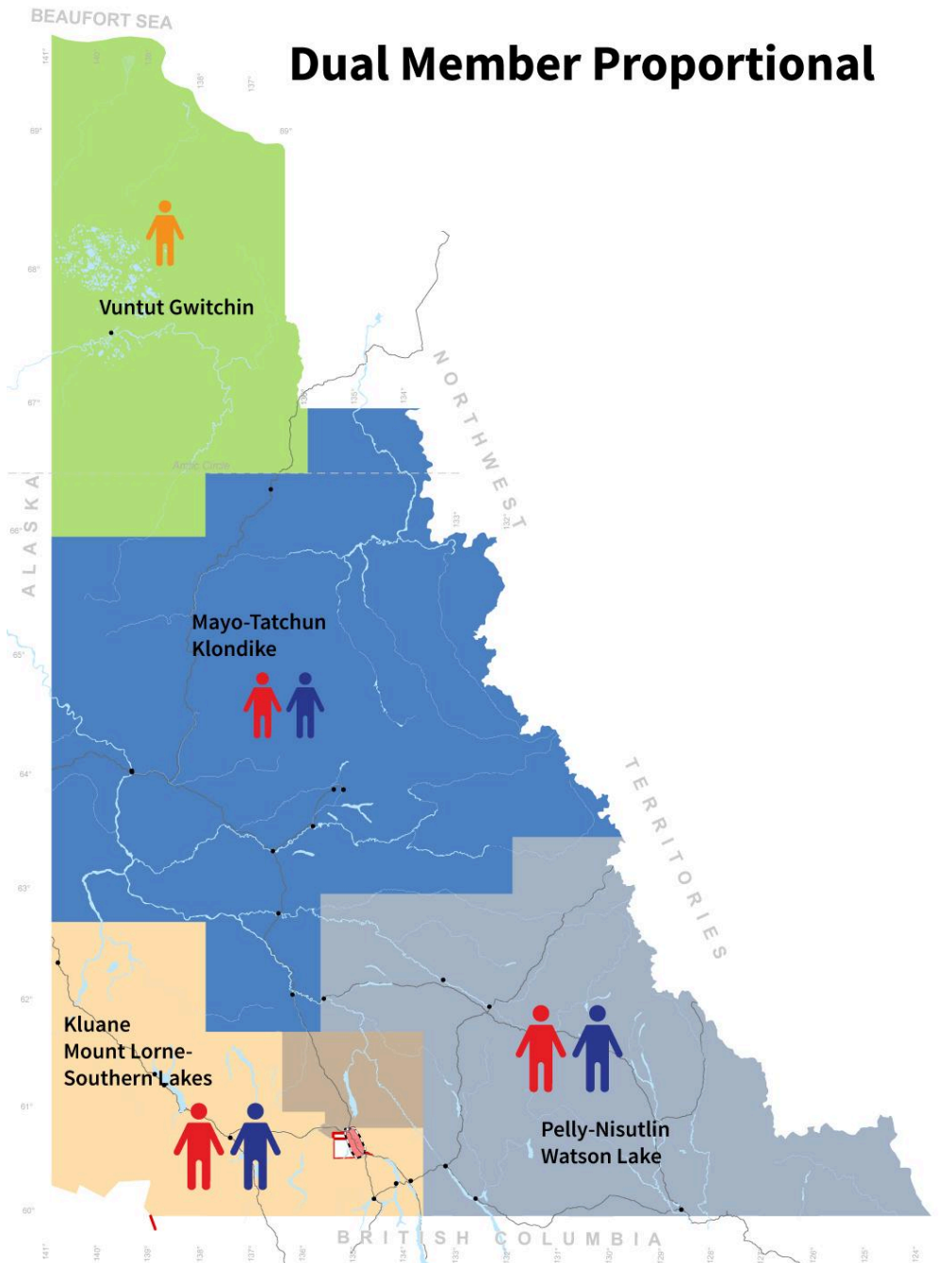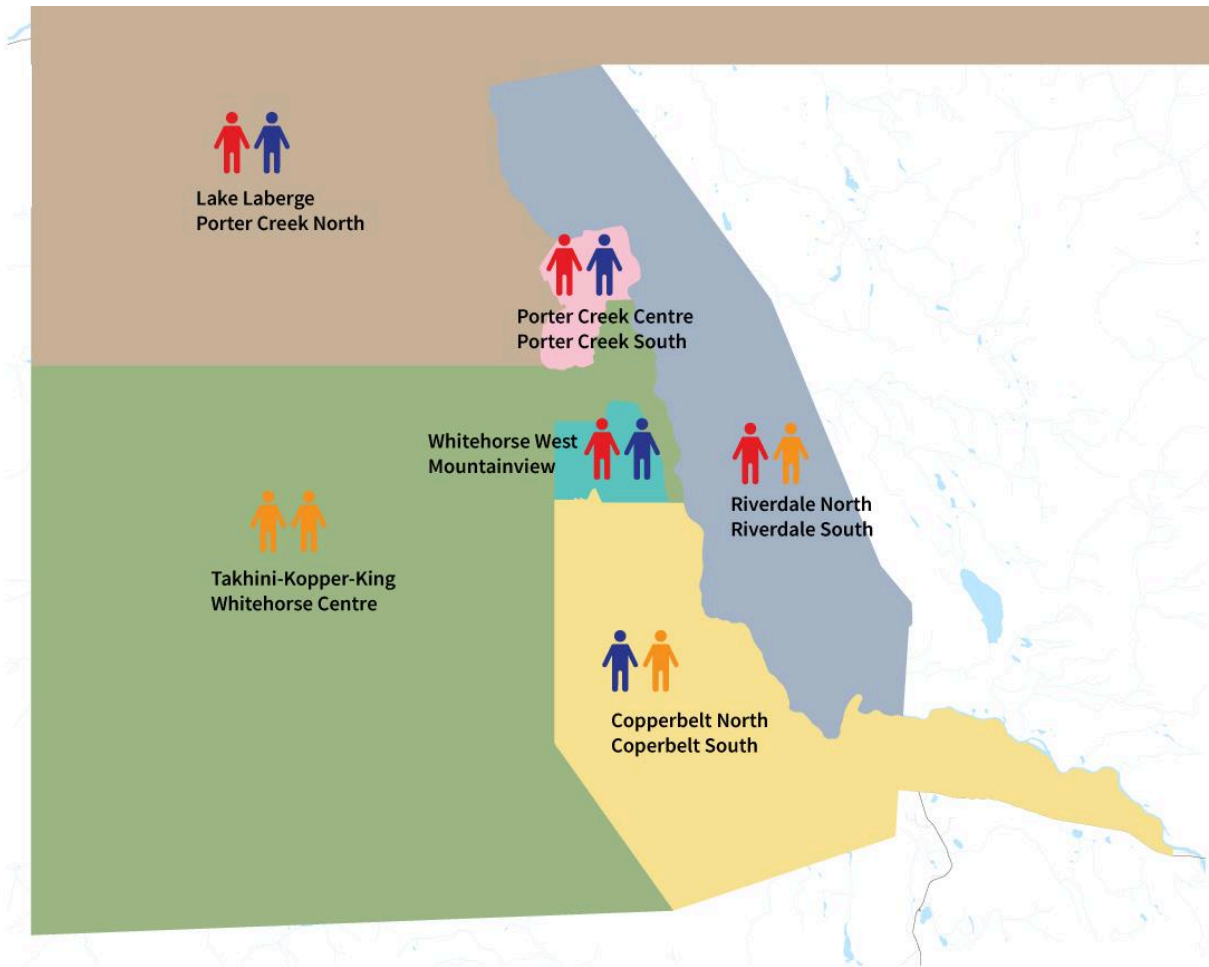
Models Not Recommended

Instant Run-Off Voting / Alternative Vote / Single-Winner Ranked Ballots

We will not delve deep into the mechanics, but simply say we oppose such a reform for the fundamental reason that it can often lead to even less proportional results than first-past-the-post.

As shown in our simulation spreadsheet, if we assume a roughly 2:1 preference flow between the NDP and Liberals, then the Liberals could have potentially formed a majority government in 2021 under such a system had they won the draw for the seat of Vuntut Gwitchin. We do not feel it is appropriate for a party with less than a third of voter support to be empowered to govern alone.

We encourage the Citizens' Assembly or other interested parties to enter their own assumptions for preference flows to see for themselves how single-winner ranked ballots would behave under a variety of circumstances.

Alternative Vote, 2021

Party	% Vote	% Seats	# Seats
Yukon Party	39.3%	36.8%	7
Liberal	32.4%	50.0%	9.5
NDP	28.2%	13.2%	2.5

Conclusion

The success of the Citizens' Assembly is largely dependent on the level of public awareness and trust in the process and how well the people of the Yukon understand the reasons for its recommendations. It is clear from both EKOS and Statistics Yukon's polling that there is strong support for greater resources for the Citizens' Assembly, and for the application of principles that provide fair results, effective local representation, greater voter choice, and effective government.

We urge you to recommend government action that will maximize the chances that Yukoners will be aware of the Citizens' Assembly, feel connected to its work, and understand how your recommendations reflect the values of Yukoners.

Fair Vote Canada has expertise in system design options, models used around the world, and the history of past assemblies & commissions. Please do not hesitate to reach out for clarifications on polling results, Yukon-specific simulations of any model/design or other resources.

We can be reached at office@fairvote.ca.

We thank you for your consideration in taking the time to read our report.

Public Views on the Yukon Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform

REPORT

Submitted to:

Fair Vote Canada

EKOS RESEARCH ASSOCIATES INC.
June 2024

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Appendix: Questionnaire

Key Findings

Survey results reveal some confusion about how the Yukon's current electoral system works. A plurality of Yukon residents mistakenly believes that a majority government requires the support of more than half of voters, and a substantial minority believe that the composition of the Yukon Legislature roughly matches the popular vote. Just one-quarter can correctly name the electoral system currently used in the Yukon.

Results also reveal that a majority of Yukon residents say they have heard of the Yukon Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform, however, awareness is considerably lower among young people and high school graduates.

Results further reveal strong support for giving the Assembly the resources necessary to fulfill its mandate. Fully 86 per cent support giving the Assembly adequate time and resources to engage with citizens and collect feedback before issuing its final recommendations. Likewise, most Yukon residents support allocating public funds to public awareness campaigns to inform citizens about the electoral system recommended by the Assembly, and providing information to citizens about options.

Support for funding opponent and proponent organizations is more mixed; however, a large proportion of respondents did not provide a response this question, suggesting some uncertainty about this issue.

1. Methodology

This survey was conducted by telephone with live interviewers using both random digit dialing (RDD) and EKOS' probability-based panel, Prob*it*. Prob*it* offers complete coverage of the Canadian population (i.e., Internet, phone, cell phone), random recruitment (in other words, participants are recruited randomly, they do not opt themselves into our panel), and equal probability sampling. All respondents to our panel are recruited by telephone using random digit dialling and are confirmed by live interviews. Survey results from our panel are generalizeable to the broader Canadian population and allow for margins of error to be associated with results.

The field dates for this survey were May 24 to June 5, 2024. In total, a random sample of 350 residents of the Yukon aged 18 and over responded to the survey. The margin of error associated with the total sample is +/- 5.2 percentage points, 19 times out of 20.

Please note that the margin of error increases when the results are sub-divided (i.e., for sub-groups such as region, gender, and age). All the data have been statistically weighted by age, gender, region, and education to ensure the sample's composition reflects that of the actual population of the Yukon according to Census data.

2. Detailed results

2.1 UNDERSTANDING OF YUKON ELECTORAL SYSTEM

Survey results reveal some confusion about how the Yukon's current electoral system works. Almost half of Yukon residents (47 per cent) erroneously believe that in order to achieve a majority victory, a government must have received more than 50 per cent support from voters. Just four in ten (41 per cent) correctly rate this statement as false.

Yukon residents are somewhat more likely to provide a correct response when the question is framed in the context of how the composition of the Yukon Legislature reflects the popular vote. Just one in three (32 per cent) believe the percentage of seats each party receives roughly matches the percentage of Yukoners who voted for that party, while just under half (46 per cent) correctly rate this statement as false. One in five (22 per cent) did not provide a response to this question, suggesting some uncertainty on the matter.

> Those under 45 are more likely to believe that a majority of popular support is a prerequisite for a majority government (60 per cent, compared to 47 per cent overall) or that the percentage of seats a party receives is directly proportional to its share of the popular vote (40 per cent versus 32 per cent).

> Men are more likely to reject the erroneous notion that the composition of the Yukon Legislature reflects the popular vote (53 per cent, compared to 39 per cent among women).

> Those who reside in areas of the territory other than Whitehorse are more likely to say seat counts are a function of the percentage of votes each party receives (45 per cent, compared to 26 per cent of Whitehorse residents).

Understanding of Yukon electoral system

Q. *Please indicate whether you believe the following statements are true or false:*

Under the current system, a majority government is one that receives more than 50% support from voters

12	41	47

The percentage of seats each party receives in the Yukon Legislature roughly matches the percentage of Yukoners who voted for that party

22	46	32

☐ Don't know/Prefer not to answer ■ False ■ True

BASE: Yukon residents; May 24-June 5, 2024, n=350, MOE +/- 5.2%, 19 times out of 20

2.2 UNPROMPTED RECALL OF TYPE OF ELECTORAL SYSTEM

Respondents were asked, unprompted, what they believe is the name of the electoral system used in the Yukon. Six in ten (63 per cent) did not offer a response, suggesting a great deal of uncertainty on the matter. Fewer than three in ten (28 per cent) correctly categorized the Yukon's electoral system as first past the post. Common wrong answers include the names of various political parties (two per cent), some general mention of democracy (two per cent), a Parliamentary or Westminster system (two per cent), and Elections Yukon (one per cent).

> › Those aged 55 to 64 and men are more likely to recognize the Yukon's electoral system as first past the post (49 per cent and 35 per cent, respectively, compared to 28 per cent overall), while those with a high school education are the least likely to do so (nine per cent).

Unprompted recall of electoral system

Q. *What do you believe is the name of the electoral system that is used in the Yukon? [OPEN]*
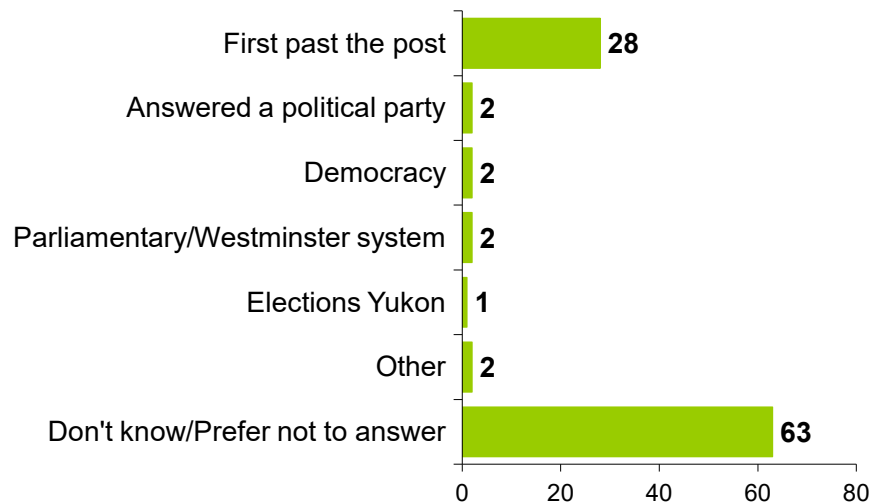
Response	Per cent
First past the post	28
Answered a political party	2
Democracy	2
Parliamentary/Westminster system	2
Elections Yukon	1
Other	2
Don't know/Prefer not to answer	63

BASE: *Yukon residents; May 24-June 5, 2024, n=350, MOE +/- 5.2%, 19 times out of 20*

2.3 FAMILIARITY WITH YUKON CITIZENS' ASSEMBLY

Results reveal that a narrow majority of Yukon residents say they are familiar with the Yukon Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform. Just over half (55 per cent) say they have heard of the Assembly, compared to four in ten (40 per cent) who say they have not. Of those who have heard of the Assembly, more than half (57 per cent) heard of it through the news. Other common sources of awareness include word of mouth (19 per cent) and the Internet (10 per cent).

> Those under 45 and those with a high school education are less likely to say they have heard of the Assembly (42 per cent and 36 per cent, respectively, compared to 55 per cent overall).

Familiarity with Yukon Citizens' Assembly

Q. The Yukon government has commissioned a non-partisan Yukon Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform. Have you heard about the Yukon Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform?

	Not sure	No	Yes
National	5	40	55
Under 45	6	52	42
45 to 54	3	33	64
55 to 64	4	28	68
65 and over	5	31	64
High school	7	57	36
College	3	36	61
University	6	23	71

□ Not sure ■ No ■ Yes
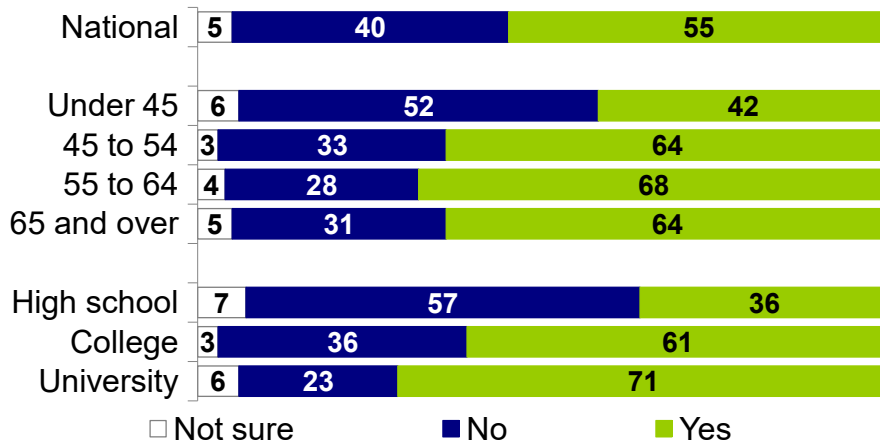
BASE: *Yukon residents; May 24-June 5, 2024, n=350, MOE +/- 5.2%, 19 times out of 20*

Sources of news on YCA

Q. *Where did you hear about it? [OPEN]*
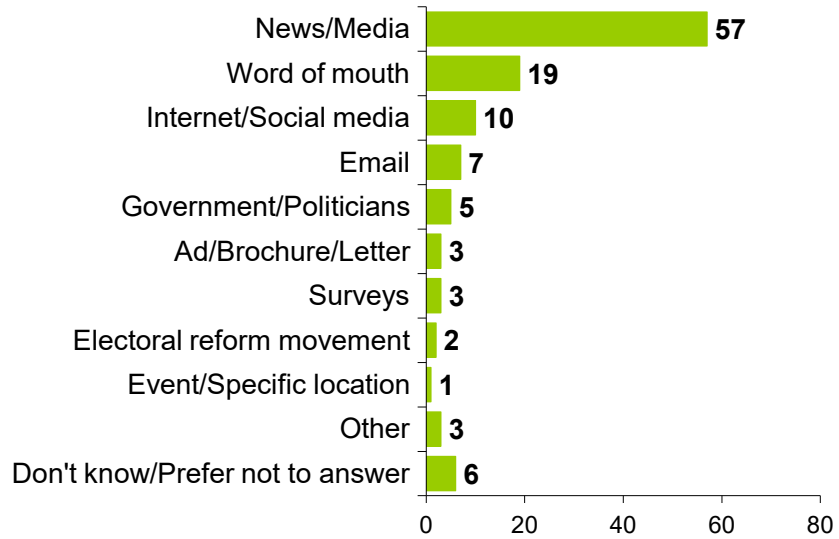
Source	Value
News/Media	57
Word of mouth	19
Internet/Social media	10
Email	7
Government/Politicians	5
Ad/Brochure/Letter	3
Surveys	3
Electoral reform movement	2
Event/Specific location	1
Other	3
Don't know/Prefer not to answer	6

BASE: *Has heard of assembly; May 24-June 5, 2024, n=230, MOE +/- 6.5%, 19 times out of 20*

2.4   SPECIFIC NEWS RECALLED

Those who recall hearing about the Yukon Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform were asked, unprompted, to elaborate on what they had heard. Three in ten of these respondents (30 per cent) indicated hearing that the Assembly is studying the issue of electoral reform. One in six (16 per cent) said they heard about the Assembly's formation, and one in eight (13 per cent) recall hearing about a joining process or survey.

Specific news recalled

Q. *And what did you hear? [OPEN]*
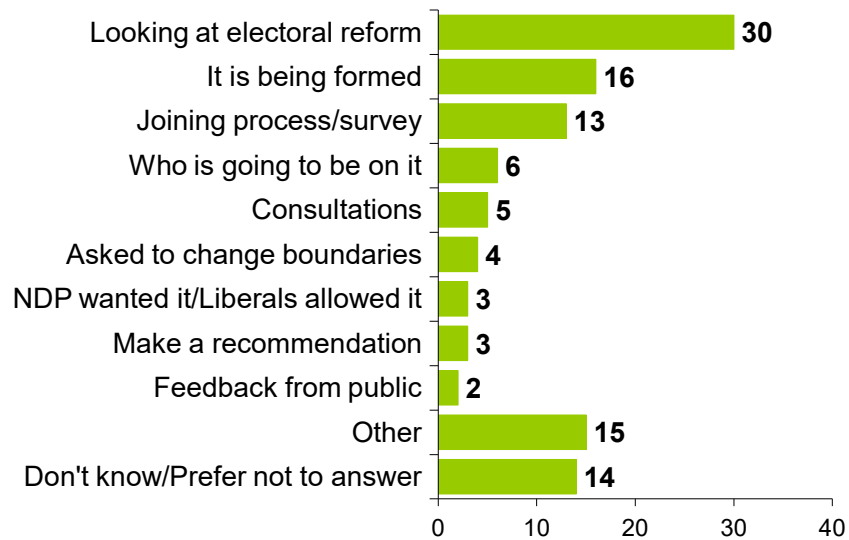
Category	Value
Looking at electoral reform	30
It is being formed	16
Joining process/survey	13
Who is going to be on it	6
Consultations	5
Asked to change boundaries	4
NDP wanted it/Liberals allowed it	3
Make a recommendation	3
Feedback from public	2
Other	15
Don't know/Prefer not to answer	14

BASE: *Has heard of assembly; May 24-June 5, 2024, n=230, MOE +/- 6.5%, 19 times out of 20*

2.5   SUPPORT FOR GIVING ASSEMBLY ADEQUATE TIME

Results reveal strong support for giving the Yukon Citizens' Assembly the time and resources it needs to reach out and engage with citizens about electoral reform before making a final recommendation. Fully 86 per cent support giving the Assembly sufficient time and resources (including 55 per cent who *strongly* support allocating enough time and resources), compared to just four per cent who disagree.

Support for giving assembly adequate time

Q. *By Oct. 31, the [Yukon Citizens' Assembly] will make a recommendation about electoral reform. To what extent do you support or oppose the following statement:*

The Citizens' Assembly should be provided with sufficient time and resources for its members to reach out and engage with citizens in their home communities about electoral reform to collect feedback before a final recommendation is made

Response	Value
Strongly support	55
Somewhat support	31
Somewhat oppose	3
Strongly oppose	1
Don't know/Prefer not to answer	10
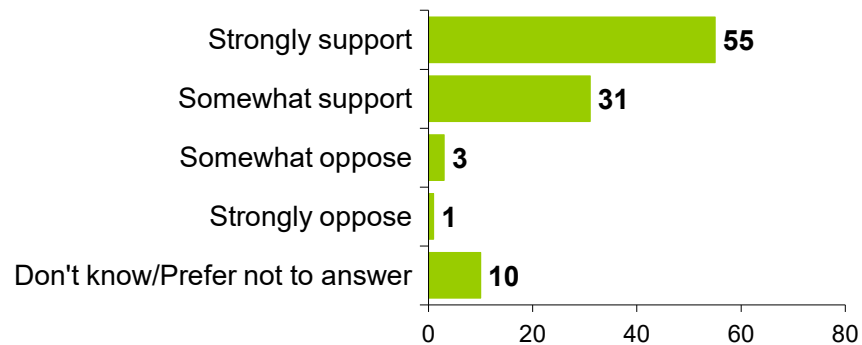
BASE: *Yukon residents; May 24-June 5, 2024, n=350, MOE +/- 5.2%, 19 times out of 20*

2.6   SUPPORT FOR FUNDING PUBLIC AWARENESS

Results also reveal broad support for funding public awareness campaigns should the Yukon Citizens' Assembly recommend switching electoral systems and holding a referendum. Fully eight in ten Yukon residents (83 per cent) say the government should fund Elections Yukon to provide information to citizens about the options (compared to just nine per cent who are opposed), while three-quarters (74 per cent) believe the government should provide funding to members of the Assembly to educate people in their communities about the electoral system that the Assembly has recommended (versus 12 per cent who oppose this idea).

› Supporters of the Yukon Liberal Party and the Yukon Party are somewhat more supportive of funding the Yukon Citizens' Assembly to educate people about their recommendations (88 per cent and 82 per cent, respectively, compared to 74 per cent overall).

Support is more mixed when it comes to funding opponent and proponent organizations. Just under half (46 per cent) would support funding these types of organizations, while a sizeable minority (28 per cent) are opposed. One-quarter (26 per cent) did not provide a response to this question, suggesting some uncertainty regarding the issue.

› Supporters of the Yukon Liberal Party and men are comparatively more supportive of using public funds to support these organizations (62 per cent and 52 per cent, respectively, compared to 46 per cent overall). Those under 45 are least likely to say they support this funding (38 per cent).

Support for funding public awareness

Q. *If the Citizens' Assembly recommends changing to a different electoral system and the government holds a referendum on it, to what extent would you support or oppose the following statements?*

The government should fund Elections Yukon to provide information to citizens about the options

8	9	83

The government should provide funding for the members of the Yukon Citizens' Assembly to educate people in their communities about the electoral system that the Assembly has recommended and why

14	12	74

The government should provide funding to opponent and proponent organizations

26	28	46

☐ Neutral/Don't know ■ Oppose (3-4) ■ Support (1-2)

APPENDIX
QUESTIONNAIRE

WINTRO

Hello, my name is ... and I'm calling from EKOS Research Associates. We would like to invite you to participate in a short survey that we are doing with residents of the Yukon. Would you be able to help us out?

Survey takes 7 to 8 minutes

PINTRO

PANEL INTRO

Contact   info
 Name: _____
Gender: _____
Age   Group: _____

 Hello, may I speak with _____?

 Hello, my name is ... and I'm calling from EKOS Research Associates. As a member of the Probit panel, we would like to invite you to participate in a survey that we are doing with residents of the Yukon. Would you be able to help us out?

Survey takes 7 to 8 minutes

QCELL

CELL ONLY

Do you live in the Yukon?

Yes.. 1
No 2   ->THNK2

PRIV

This call may be recorded for quality control or training purposes.

PREQ1

 Please indicate whether you believe the following statements are true or false:

Q1A

Under the current system, a majority government is one that receives more than 50% support from voters.

True 1
False 2
Don't know / Prefer not to answer 9   S

Q1B

The percentage of seats each party receives in the Yukon Legislature roughly matches the percentage of Yukoners who voted for that party.

True 1
False 2
Don't know / Prefer not to answer 9   S

Q2

What do you believe is the name of the electoral system that is used in the Yukon?

77 77
Don't know / Prefer not to answer 99

Q3

The Yukon government has commissioned a non-partisan Yukon Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform. **Have you heard about the Yukon Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform?**

Yes 1
No 2
Not sure 9

Q4A
YES

If... Q3 = 1

Where did you hear about it?

77 77
Don't know / Prefer not to answer 99

Q4B
YES

If... Q3 = 1

And what did you hear?

77 77
Don't know / Prefer not to answer 99

Q5

The Yukon Citizens' Assembly is independent of the government and political parties. It is made up of everyday citizens. The Citizens' Assembly includes two people from each riding in the Yukon and is representative by age, gender and Indigenous ancestry.

By Oct. 31, the Assembly will make a recommendation about electoral reform.

To what extent do you support or oppose the following statement:

The Citizens' Assembly should be provided with sufficient time and resources for its members to reach out and engage with citizens in their home communities about electoral reform to collect feedback before a final recommendation is made.

Strongly support 1
Somewhat support 2
Somewhat oppose 3
Strongly oppose 4
Neutral/ Don't know 99   S

PREQ6

If the Citizens' Assembly recommends changing to a different electoral system and the government holds a referendum on it, to what extent would you support or oppose the following statements?

Q6A

The government should provide funding for the members of the Yukon Citizens' Assembly to educate people in their communities about the electoral system that the Assembly has recommended and why.

Strongly support 1
Somewhat support 2
Somewhat oppose 3
Strongly oppose 4
Neutral/ Don't know 99   S

Q6B

The government should fund Elections Yukon to provide information to citizens about the options.

Strongly support 1
Somewhat support 2
Somewhat oppose 3
Strongly oppose 4
Neutral/ Don't know 99   S

Q6C

The government should provide funding to opponent and proponent organizations.

Strongly support 1
Somewhat support 2
Somewhat oppose 3
Strongly oppose 4
Neutral/ Don't know 99   S

QPOL

If a territorial election were held tomorrow, which party would you vote for?

Yukon Party led by Currie Dixon.. 1
Yukon Liberal Party led by Ranj Pillai (pronounced RANJ pil-LAY)....................... 2
Yukon New Democratic Party led by Kate White...................................... 3
Another party not listed here 77   B
Don't know/Undecided 97   B
Not eligible to vote 98   B
No response 99   B

QPOLB

| If... QPOL = 97 |

Even if you do not have a firm idea, are you leaning towards a party?

Yes.. 1
No 2
Don't know/No response... 9   B

QPOLC

| If... QPOLB = 1 |

As it stands, towards which party are you leaning?

Yukon Party led by Currie Dixon.. 1
Yukon Liberal Party led by Ranj Pillai (pronounced RANJ pil-LAY)....................... 2
Yukon New Democratic Party led by Kate White...................................... 3
Another party not listed here 77   B
Undecided... 97   B
Don't know/No response... 99   B

QGENDR

We'd just like to ask a few questions that will be used for statistical purposes only.

Record gender of respondent (DO NOT ASK)

Male.. 1
Female 2
A transgender male.. 4   B
A transgender female... 5   B
Non-binary... 6   B
No response 99   B

QAGE

What is your age?

18-34.. 1
35-44.. 2
45-54.. 3
55-64.. 4
65 or greater... 5
No response 99

QEDUC

What is the highest level of schooling that you have completed?

Grade 8 or less.. 1
Some high school 2
High School diploma or equivalent... 3
Registered Apprenticeship or other trades certificate or diploma............................. 4
College, CEGEP or other non-university certificate or diploma 5
University certificate or diploma below bachelor's level.. 6
Bachelor's degree.. 7
Post graduate degree above bachelor's level...................................... 8
No response 99

QCOMM

What community do you live in?

Beaver Creek 1
Burwash Landing 2
Carcross 3
Carmacks 4
Champagne Landing 5
Dawson 6
Destruction Bay 7
Faro 8
Haines Junction 9
Ibex Valley 10
Johnsons Crossing 11
Keno Hill 12
Mayo 13
Mt. Lorne 14
Old Crow 15
Pelly Crossing 16
Ross River 17
Stewart Crossing 18
Swift River 19
Tagish 20
Teslin 21
Upper Liard 22
Watson Lake... 23
Whitehorse 24
Other (please specify) 77
Don't know/ No response.. 99

THNKP

Thank you very much for taking the time to complete this survey.