



FINAL REPORT

Yukon Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform

OCTOBER 2024

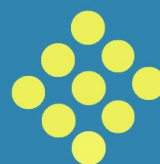
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The Yukon Citizens’ Assembly on Electoral Reform members and staff reside on the traditional territories of all 14 Yukon First Nations and, in some cases, the traditional territory of bordering First Nations in northern British Columbia, the Northwest Territories, and Alaska. We are grateful for the opportunity to work, live, and host the Assembly meetings on the traditional territories of the Kwanlin Dün First Nation, Ta’an Kwäch’än Council and Carcross/Tagish First Nation.

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p3, and p36 - (Sara McPhee-Knowles)
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**YUKON
CITIZENS’
ASSEMBLY**

CHAIR'S NOTE

It has been an immense privilege to support The Yukon Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform – the first citizens' assembly in the territory – through their learning and deliberation. The members, who came from a diversity of communities, backgrounds, age groups and occupations, truly represented the territory. The Yukon is a big place; I've been lucky to see every community during my time living here, but sitting with the Assembly was the only time I've seen the whole territory in one room.

The members brought their best to this process, learned and engaged respectfully with each other and the subject matter during their time together. I thank them sincerely for their commitment to this process, and to their fellow Yukoners, as they deliberated carefully and made their recommendations. I would also like to thank the Assembly staff team, without whom this effort would not have been possible. Further thanks go to the student facilitators from Yukon University's Bachelor of Business Administration and Social Work programs, who did an excellent job of facilitating the Assembly members' small group discussions. Without the support of Peter MacLeod and Sarah Yaffe of Mass LBP, the Yukon Legislative Assembly Office staff, and the Yukon Bureau of Statistics, the Yukon Citizens' Assembly would not have been successful. Our presenters, Dr. Jonathan Rose, Max Harvey, Tony Penikett, Tosh Southwick, Dr. Graham White and Dr. Melanee Thomas, deserve appreciation for providing members with the information they needed throughout the learning phase. Lastly, thank you to those who sent in submissions, asked questions, and attended learning sessions. We appreciate your interest in the Citizens' Assembly's work.



This report outlines the deliberations of the Assembly. The Yukon Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform was tasked with examining electoral systems and making a recommendation about which would work best for the Yukon. The members carefully evaluated the various options and compared them against mutually agreed upon values, while considering the unique context and political culture of the Yukon.

This Citizens' Assembly is not the first on electoral reform in Canada. The British Columbia Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform in 2004 launched a global 'deliberative wave,' in fact, embarking on a similar initiative in the Yukon was considered in 2005, although it did not come to pass. The Ontario Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform followed a few years later. Now, there have been hundreds of similar processes across the world, commissioned by different levels of government. Topics for citizens' assemblies have ranged from reproductive rights in Ireland, city council budgeting in Australia, wait times for medical treatment in Brazil, and youth homelessness in Oregon, US. The members of the Yukon Citizens' Assembly have shown how productive it can be to engage citizens in policy decisions. I hope they may serve as an example for future assemblies across the territory, and Canada as a whole.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sara McPhee-Knowles'.

Sara McPhee-Knowles, Chair, Yukon Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

What Yukoners should know

The Yukon Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform was comprised of 38 Yukoners, two from each of the territory's 19 electoral districts, who were tasked with examining electoral systems and issuing a report recommending whether the current model of First-Past-the-Post should be retained or a new model for electing Members of the Yukon Legislative Assembly should be adopted.

The Assembly met over four weekends from May to September 2024, where members

established their values for working together, learned about electoral systems throughout the world and considered them in the unique context of the Yukon, then weighed options. Members learned that all electoral systems involve important trade-offs. They determined that the values of legitimacy, fairness, local representation and accountability, transparency, participation, simplicity and accessibility should be represented in an electoral system. These values guided their deliberations and decision-making.

The members learned about five families of electoral systems, and decided to focus their attention on four main electoral systems options which they felt best suited the Yukon context: First-Past-the-Post, Alternative Vote, Alternative Vote/Single Transferable Vote hybrid including multi-member districts in Whitehorse and single-member districts outside of Whitehorse, and Mixed Member Proportional.

After careful consideration, the members unanimously agreed to recommend a change to Yukon's electoral system. Their recommendation is to move to a Ranked Vote system (known elsewhere as Alternative Vote), where the winner of each electoral district (riding) must receive a majority of the

vote. This system encourages greater voter participation and an outcome that can be seen as more legitimate in the eyes of voters. This recommendation also maintains local representation, which was something that is highly valued under the current system of First-Past-the-Post.

The Assembly further recommends that the question posed to the Yukon public be a simple one, "Do you support the adoption of a Ranked Vote system replacing the current system? Yes or No," and that the threshold for a public vote be the same as the recommended system of 50% plus one vote.



What is a Citizens' Assembly?

Citizens' assemblies are a public learning process and a problem-solving process. Assemblies usually involve randomly selected members, who meet to examine a single issue, reach consensus, and draft recommendations for a government to consider and implement.

What was the mandate?

The Yukon Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform was tasked with examining and discussing different ways of electing our territorial government and making a recommendation to either keep our current voting system or adopt a different one.

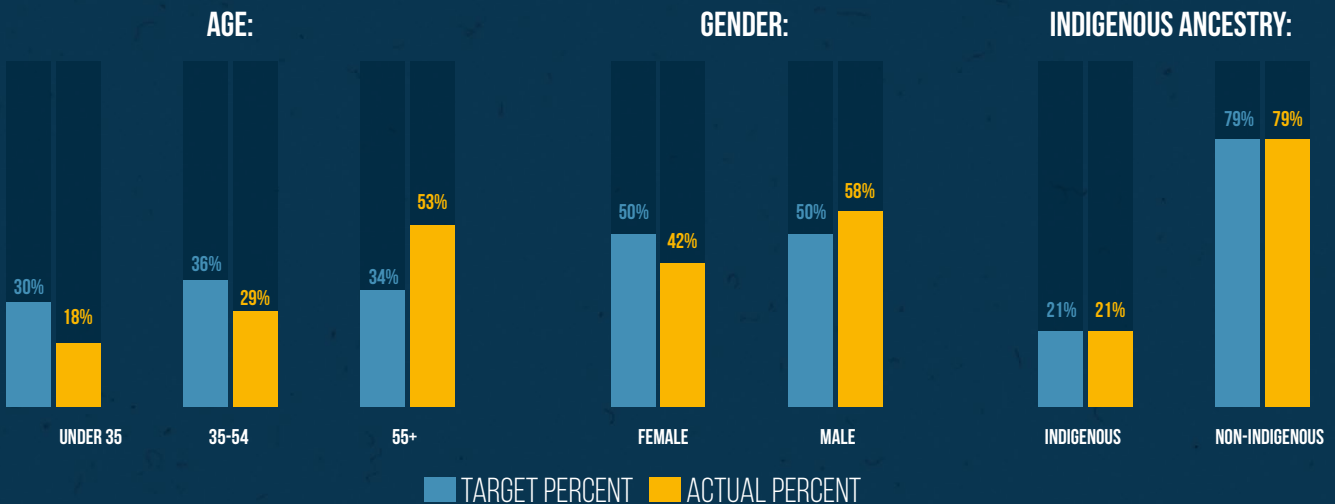
Why a Citizens' Assembly?

The Citizens' Assembly was a recommendation from the Special Committee on Electoral Reform, a committee of the Yukon Legislative Assembly that examined electoral reform from May 2021-April 2023.

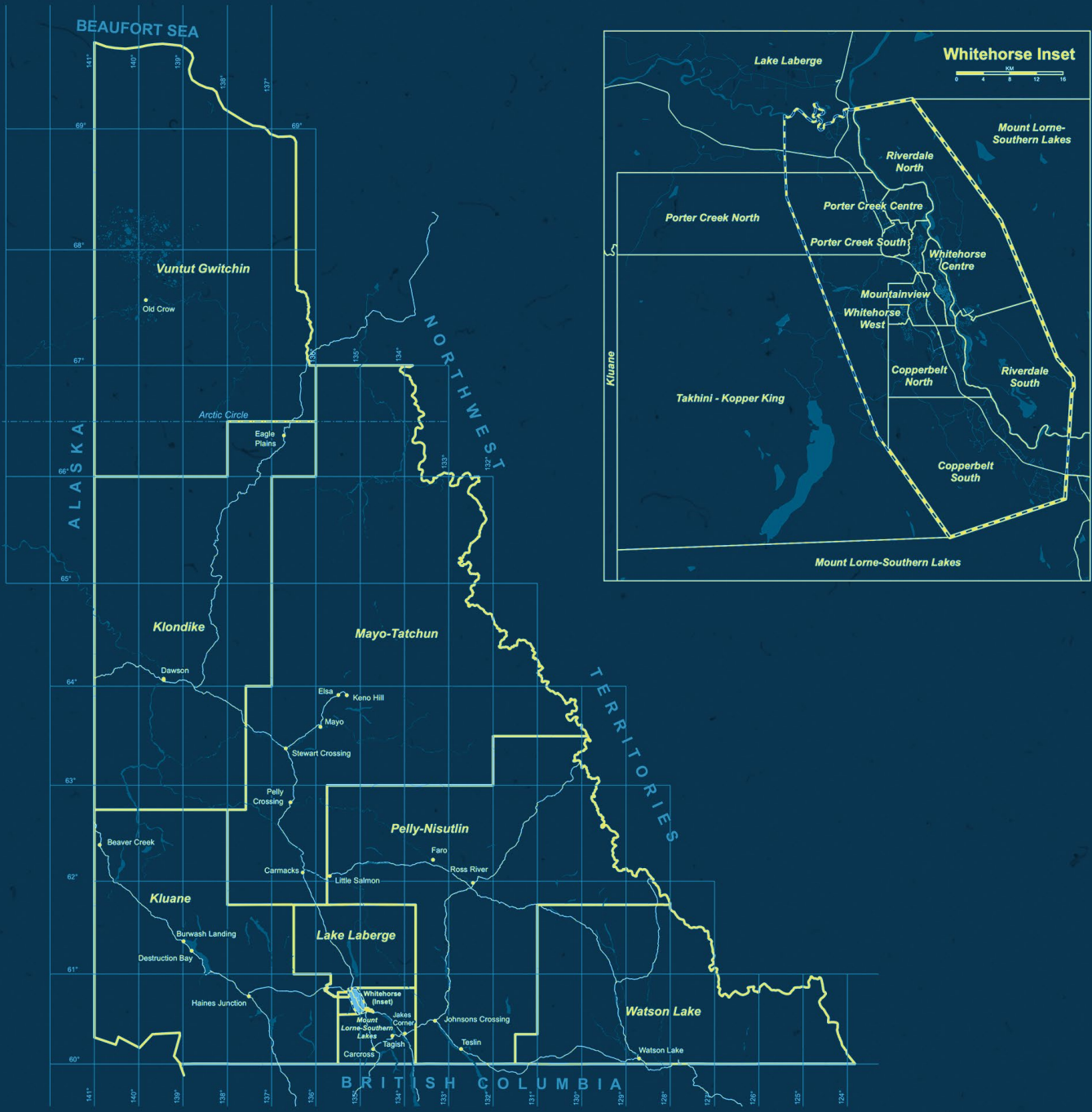
How were members selected?

Members were selected from a pool of respondents to the survey on the potential use of a citizens' assembly, conducted by the Yukon Bureau of Statistics from January-March 2023. From this pool, members were randomly selected using sampling criteria based on age, gender and Indigenous ancestry to roughly match the demographics of the territory.

Assembly profile



DATA PROVIDED BY THE YUKON BUREAU OF STATISTICS



Members per District

COPPERBELT NORTH – 2

MAYO-TATCHUN – 2

PORTER CREEK NORTH – 2

VUNTUT GWITCHIN – 2

COPPERBELT SOUTH – 2

MOUNT LORNE-SOUTHERN LAKES – 2

PORTER CREEK SOUTH – 2

WATSON LAKE – 2

KLONDIKE – 2

MOUNTAINVIEW – 2

RIVERDALE NORTH – 2

WHITEHORSE CENTRE – 2

KLUANE – 2

PELLY-NISUTLIN – 2

RIVERDALE SOUTH – 2

WHITEHORSE WEST – 2

LAKE LABERGE – 2

PORTER CREEK CENTRE – 2

TAKHINI-KOPPER KING – 2

Meet the Citizens' Assembly Members



ALEX SOMERVILLE | KLONDIKE

I left Nova Scotia years ago to spend a summer working in Dawson. It was working at the Dawson City Museum that nurtured my passion for Dawson, that I learned from the history of the Yukon the vital importance of communities working together. I have served on the board of directors of the Klondike Visitors Association and as the president of the Dawson Community Library Board.

In 2021, I was elected to the Dawson City council. My favourite Dawson City events are hosting Dawson City Music Festival's annual Lip-Synch Competition, working the docks at Moosehide Gathering, and helping at the Yukon Gold Panning Championships.

ANDREA HOYT | WHITEHORSE WEST

Originally from Whitehorse, I attended university in Nova Scotia and Manitoba before moving to Inuvik to work for the Inuvialuit. After about a decade in the Beaufort Delta, I moved to northern Labrador, started a family, and worked as a biologist and environmental assessment manager. Although I loved our small town and being surrounded by my husband's large family, we decided to move our family back to the Yukon in 2019 to be closer to my Mom.

Since then, we've have been enjoying all the opportunities of the "big city," from dance, climbing, and judo for the kids to quilting, hiking, and Yukonstruct for the adults! I've been a Canadian Ranger since 2012 and was grateful to be able to transfer to the Whitehorse Patrol after we moved. I'm looking forward to learning more about electoral systems and working with the rest of the Citizens' Assembly to find the best fit for the Yukon.

AZMY ABOULAZM | MAYO-TATCHUN

I am a professional engineer, academic and certified teacher with extensive experience in engineering and academic leadership. I've held a number of senior engineering and academic teaching and leadership positions at different universities, colleges, companies and governments — Senior Engineer, Faculty Member, Dean, Campus Administrator. I hold a bachelor, master and Ph.D. from Memorial University and I'm a Professional Engineer registered in the Yukon and Alberta.

BOB CHAMBERS | PORTER CREEK CENTRE

Born in Boissevain, Manitoba, raised in Brandon and attended college and university in Winnipeg. Married for 53 years to my wife Debra; we have three daughters and eight grandchildren. My career path was Information Technology as a programmer, then analyst, project manager and director. Worked for Manitoba Hydro, Manitoba Telephone and moved to Yukon in 1990 to work with the Government of Yukon.

I retired in 2008 from government and worked as a consultant in Project Management. I taught information technology at Yukon College and was a speaker at IT Conferences. Past President of a Curling Club, Toastmasters and Canadian Information Processing Society. I've curled in Men's Provincial Playdowns, Men's Territorial Playdowns and National Mixed Championship. I enjoy golf, camping, hiking, canoeing, fishing, and motorcycling.

BRENT MCDONALD | KLONDIKE

Arrived in Yukon from southern Ontario as an electrician in 1992 after spending a wonderful summer here in 1989. Found a plot of land in West Dawson, built a cabin the following year and began raising a crew of sled dogs, first one, then three, then six... until a yard full. Did some racing and enjoyed the mushing lifestyle. Worked as an electrical contractor, wildfire crew, ferry deckhand to captain, Housing Maintenance Contractor, Public Works building maintenance and Yukon Energy Diesel Plant Operator. Volunteered with The Percy Race, Yukon Quest, Humane Society, Little Blue Daycare, School Council, Dawson Rec Board, Dawson Slowpitch and Oldtimer Hockey. Enjoy playing hockey in winter and baseball in summer and of course family time with my partner Anna and our two children Ethan and Kate.

BRIAN MURRELL | MAYO-TATCHUN

Born in the Okanagan, BC. Raised in a small town 50 miles from Kamloops. Started Wildland Fire Fighting in the mid '70's, out of the Ashcroft Field Office then transferred into the Kamloops District Office in 1987. In 1991, I came to Carmacks to work for DIAND as a Wildland Fire Fighter Crew Leader. I have worked in the Mayo Regional Office for three years as a Regional Protection Officer (RPO). Worked out of Ross River for two years as RPO, then transferred back into Carmacks as RPO and stayed at that post until retirement in 2022. I have been a Canadian Ranger in the Carmacks Ranger Patrol since 1998 and I have been the Sargent (Commander) of the Patrol from 2000 to the present. Retirement is great ;)

CAROL GEDDES | PELLY-NISUTLIN

I am a Yukon Indigenous filmmaker who holds a graduate degree in Communications. Over a 30-year career, I have created a body of work that includes documentaries, television series and fiction. For my community, I also work in restorative justice and higher education. I am presently working with the NFB on a full-length documentary on the history of the Yukon Land Claim and the personal stories that underlie this epic accomplishment. In addition, I serve as Executive Elder for the Teslin Tlingit Council and Chancellor at Yukon University.

CHRIS HAWKINS | KLUANE

My partner and I arrived in Mendenhall from Prince George in 2010 with our 10 Siberians. Since then, our kennel has grown to about 30. Voting in an 1980s Australian election and different electoral methods of other democracies cued my interest in elections. This, and my desire for Yukoners to have the fairest system to elect MLAs is why I volunteered for the Assembly. I am semi-retired doing forestry ecological research with former students in the BC Peace Region where I also have a woodlot. I am the past president of the BC Woodlot Products Development Council and sat on the Yukon Science Institute and the Arctic Institute of Community Based Research boards.

DANA SUNDBY | WATSON LAKE

I've spent most of my life in small communities and always found it frustrating when we had government from far away making rules that didn't make sense for our community. This sparked my interest in voting systems and trying to find a better solution than what we have now.

I moved to the Yukon "for a year" three years ago. I enjoy the people and love the outdoors and history of this place.

DAVE MAVI | PORTER CREEK CENTRE

Since 2016, I've been calling Yukon home—a place I've fallen in love with, thanks to its breathtaking landscapes and vibrant culture. Professionally, I am an IT professional.

Outside of work, you might find me enjoying the great outdoors, whether it's skiing down the slopes or capturing the scenic beauty of our region through photography. I'm also a movie enthusiast, with a soft spot for Marvel films and the epic tales from "Game of Thrones."

I loved the whole experience of Yukon Citizen's Assembly. The organising staff put a lot of work into it and made sure everyone is able to voice those opinions. Participants were lovely and participated in intelligent conversation very respectfully.



DON HREHIRCHEK | MOUNT LORNE-SOUTHERN LAKES

I believe in God, first and foremost. Next comes Liberty and then freedom. I need not say anymore as this is where I stand. By My stand You know who I am!

DOUGLAS OLYNYK | WHITEHORSE CENTRE

I moved to the Yukon in 1989 to head the Historic Sites program for the Government of Yukon, retiring in 2011. I was previously introduced to the Yukon working with Parks Canada, Architecture and Engineering Branch for 15 years, restoring buildings in Dawson and establishing Chilkoot Trail National Historic Site. My career allowed me to spend time in all parts of the Yukon and to be involved with the development and implementation of the Yukon Historic Resources Act as well as heritage chapters of Yukon First Nations Final Agreements. I was Canada's representative on the International Council on Monuments and Sites (UNESCO), International Polar Heritage Committee from 2001–2018. I recently moved into downtown Whitehorse from Marsh Lake.

I have served on the boards of the Riverdale Community Association, South McClintock Citizens' Association and Friends of Yukon Permanent Art Collection. Fun facts: I studied both Engineering and Architecture at the University of Manitoba and played on their Bisons football team, winning two consecutive national championships. My partner owns a historic saloon and brothel. I volunteered for the Citizens' Assembly because I don't think our current electoral system is the best to represent the breadth of Yukoners' interests.



ELENA ROSS | PORTER CREEK SOUTH

I was born in the Philippines and orphaned at age 18. A midwife's salary was insufficient to pay for the care and education of my two younger siblings so, out of necessity, I left the Philippines and went to work in Singapore. From there I then moved to Canada in March 1990 and worked towards Permanent Residency and eventually Canadian Citizenship in 1994.

For many years I worked as a Personal Support Worker in home care, retirement residences, and long-term care. I had an opportunity to upgrade my midwifery education under the International Midwifery Program but due to a Family Law matter, I gave-up my dream of becoming a midwife and went to study Paralegal instead to have a better understanding of Canada's Legal System.

HOBART IRWIN | MOUNT LORNE-SOUTHERN LAKES

Came to the Yukon 45 years ago for a summer. Never left. Ran a TV shop for 24 years and have a Red Seal in Radio TV Repair. Retired now. Enjoying a life of gardening, biking, my cats, and my hobbies.

IRIS MERRITT | RIVERDALE NORTH

I am the third of five generations who call the Yukon home. Currently living in Whitehorse, I recently retired after 25 years with Yukon Media Development, Yukon Government. My interest in electoral reform began with my exposure to the electoral systems of Australia and New Zealand. I am curious to understand if Canada's First-Past-the-Post system provides an honest reflection of the intentions of voters or if there were potential improvements that could be made.

JEAN LANGLOIS | RIVERDALE SOUTH

I volunteered to serve on the Yukon Citizen's Assembly because I care about democracy and public service. I knew that most countries in the world don't use the electoral system that we do, and I was curious to learn more. I welcomed the opportunity to collaborate with diverse people from across the Yukon, to work through the issues, and to give our best advice to our fellow citizens.

I have worked in public policy for most of my career and have worked for the Yukon government since 2012. I have a Master of Business Administration and a Master of Science.

JONNA REAUME | MOUNTAINVIEW

I was born and raised in Windsor, Ontario. I first came to the Yukon in 2011 and left a few years later to return to school. After finishing my Bachelor of Social Work and living in Saskatoon, the lure of the Yukon was strong, and I came back to the Yukon in 2020, now calling Whitehorse home. I work for the Yukon Women's Transition Home (Kaushee's Place) and am currently working towards a master's degree in Community Development. I live in Hillcrest with my partner, young son, and big fluffy dog.



KELLY MORRIS | PELLY-NISUTLIN

I moved to the Yukon in November 1968. Born in North Bay, Ontario, I have lived in the Yukon for 56 years and have resided in Whitehorse, Dawson City and Teslin (currently). I am all about family and community, my career has been in hospitality, education, health and social programs for Trondëk Hwëch'in First Nation and Teslin Tlingit Council.

For the last dozen years I've operated and managed my own business in Teslin. I enjoy the outdoors, camping, hunting, hiking and spending time with my large extended family. One of my favourite pastimes is cooking and hosting large family gatherings.

KEVIN ADAMSON | LAKE LABERGE

I am a Yukoner born and raised. I've volunteered to work on electoral reform because I have concerns about what I see happening in other countries in terms of voting and voting schemes. My parents, grandparents, etc., all came from this land. I come from a Tutchone/Tlingit speaking home, I began to learn English at 4 or 5 years of age to attend formal schooling. I'm looking forward to our electoral reform work.

KEVIN RAY | COPPERBELT SOUTH

I was born and raised in Alberta and attended Concordia University in Montreal. I moved to Whitehorse in 2015 and worked as a brewer until recently starting a business selling life insurance. I love spending time with my partner Katie, my dog Wolfgang and cat Freddy.

KIM COROTHERS | PORTER CREEK SOUTH

Growing up in the Yukon gave me plenty of places to explore and expand my curiosities about the great outdoors. It seemed a great place to settle in with my husband and raise our children; all four were born and raised here, and all six grandchildren were born in the Yukon as well. I've been a successful business operator. I've worked in construction sales and am now a public servant with the Government of Yukon. My passion is research and problem-solving, understanding how things work and finding solutions to whatever I can



contribute. When not immersing myself in a great book or watching documentaries I'm always working on learning a new skill and enjoying the outdoors. I am eternally curious, enjoy good conversation, am a born traveler and explorer, and take great pride in being a Yukoner.

LYNNE MOFFAT | WHITEHORSE CENTRE

I live in Whitehorse and have worked for many years as a policy analyst.

MARILYN TAWIPSIM | RIVERDALE NORTH

I was born in Sawbill, Manitoba, on a huge Island, surrounded by huge lakes, there were plenty of fish and wildlife to sustain us. There were 10 children, myself being the youngest. My mom and dad built a large house to accommodate the big family. Our source of income was my father, George, who set traps and snares to catch small game, and my mother, Rosalie, cleaned the fur and dried it on a wooden board. With these small furs and other larger furs my dad would travel by dog-team to Brochet, Manitoba, and get supplies and food for the family. My father always bought oranges for me which were my favorite even to this day. During the summer months we traveled by boat.

My father George used the big dipper to guide his way to our destination. We would visit other family members in Brochet and stayed several days, attending church on Sunday. I was only 1 year old but remember a lot of things. Life was good.

My father passed away when I was 2 years old, and we moved to a place called Jack Pine, Manitoba. There were more people that lived there plus a small grocery store (yahoo, lots of candy!). My mother worked for the owners washing and cleaning their home. I remember having to haul water and I would stop to catch baby fish and throw them back in, and I would hear my mother calling out to me, so I scooped out some water and tried hurrying back, water falling out. It was another beautiful place with sunny beaches and a person could wade a long way before it got deep. Someone built us a small cabin and there was also a wall tent. I was taken away to attend residential school around six years old and being on a plane for the first time. I saw small houses and moving cars, and, in my mind, I thought they were toys.

MARINA BAILEY | PORTER CREEK NORTH

I am a First Nations woman who hails from Teslin, Yukon and I am a member of the Teslin Tlingit Council. I am also from the Eagle Clan.

Being raised by my grandmother has provided me with the traditional roots and beliefs that I consciously live with. I give the land, the animals, and the water high regard. We are all connected through this wonderful ecosystem, thus everyone and everything is given serious consideration. Respect and honor are aspects that apply to all.

I was born in Inuvik NWT to a mother who was in residential school, this is how I came to be raised by my grandmother. My grandfather was a game warden, so we travelled vastly throughout the North when I was a child.

I would do my schooling in Calgary, Alberta which culminated in my earning a BSc in Nursing at Mount Royal University. I worked in Cardiology, Nephrology and Osteo until I left Calgary to come and work at the Whitehorse General Hospital in 2000.

In Teslin I worked as a Family Care Worker, then a Justice Diversion Worker and finally, the Director of Health and Social Services for the Teslin Tlingit Council.

More recently, I accepted the job of the First Nations FASD Project Coordinator with the Council of Yukon First Nations. I recognize the injustice that we are doing to our people in ignoring the issue of FASD and hoped that I could make a difference in the lives of those living with FASD.

I feel that we need a government that addresses the needs of those with intellectual disabilities and addresses the overwhelming needs that they present. Poverty, involvement with the criminal justice system, housing, education, diagnosis and acceptance.

MARK MANOLIS | PORTER CREEK NORTH

Born and raised in Toronto, I am trilingual (English, French and Greek). Like many others, I came to the Yukon for a visit (2003) and never left. I hold a bachelor's degree in law and justice from Laurentian University. I am currently working at the Whitehorse Corrections Centre, where I deal with inmate discipline and internal investigations. I am very involved in the Centre's Occupational Health and Safety Committee, and Peer Support Team, and have a keen interest in the implementation of Restorative Justice.

I have many hobbies. I am a musician and collector of musical instruments, mostly bass guitars and synthesizers. I pride myself on having travelled all over North America to see my favourite band, "Phish." I've also spent a significant amount of time travelling around the world. I am an avid gardener and very passionate about culinary arts. I am a father to a 12-year-old and share my home with my partner, a dog, two cats, three hermit crabs, four tarantulas and loads of tropical fish.

M. COOKE | LAKE LABERGE

After spending a year traveling Canada, I fell in love with the Yukon and moved here shortly thereafter. I am proud to run an acreage in rural Yukon where I have the pleasure of raising my children. I am passionate about making the world a better place and proud to be a part of the Yukon Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform.

MELISSA ORDISH | TAKHINI-KOPPER KING

I live in Whitehorse with my husband and two kids (ages 9 and 11) and have lived in Whitehorse most of my life. I obtained my Chartered Accountant designation in 2010 and have worked as an accountant in public practice, industry and now government.

MICHAEL PEALOW | KLUANE

I moved to the Yukon in 2005 from the NWT. While I've lived in three provinces and two territories, I've lived in the Yukon longer than anywhere else—most of that time in Whitehorse. I moved to the Junction with my family three years ago. I love being on the land with my fiancée, Erin, and two teenaged daughters. I have too many hobbies to list.

I have been self-employed as a consultant since 2006, and my work takes me all over the place. These days, most of my work is focused on facilitation for complex challenges. One thing I love about facilitation work is how much I get to learn about all kinds of different things.

MICAH OLESH | COPPERBELT NORTH

I live in the Copperbelt North electoral district with my wife and two children. I moved to the Yukon in January of 1999 and never managed to move too far after that. Although after three years in Inuvik and seven years in Dawson City, I have aspirations of continuing southward again at some point.

I applied to be on the Citizens Assembly to have some input into how community will be translated into political leadership and would love to be able to somehow “game the system” to better support subsidiarity and distributionist principles. I enjoy yelling at clouds and misappropriating Zoomer slang to embarrass my kids.

NORMAN LECLERC | WATSON LAKE

I've lived in the Yukon for 22 years. Automotive Tech operating Rugged Terrain Repairs in Watson Lake. Volunteered three years for the ambulance service, 16 years ski patrol, 10 years fire department. Enjoy cooking, outdoors, ancient history and golf.

RYAN CAMPBELL-CLARKE | COPPERBELT NORTH

I grew up on Vancouver Island in a family of tradesmen and farmers. I attended the University of British Columbia for Engineering and graduated in 2015. In 2016, I moved to the Yukon for work as an IT professional and subsequently fell under the spell of the Yukon and haven't looked back since. In my spare time I enjoy the outdoors and spending time with my wife and son.

SAM OETTLI | MOUNTAINVIEW

I am a proud born and raised Yukoner. I grew up on the back of a dogsled in Carcross valley helping my Swiss immigrant parents with their dreams of running Malamutes and sharing their adventures with visitors to the Yukon. My passion for the outdoors grew from this amazing way of life, and it helped me become the person I am today.

I am heavily involved with the outdoor recreation community in Whitehorse and the Yukon and have had the privilege of meeting so many Yukoners in my work. I am so proud to be a part of this assembly as we do the important work as a group to steer the future of our great territory.

SHARON DAVIS | COPPERBELT SOUTH

I was born in Montana and lived for seven years in Alabama, where I completed a degree in Elementary Education. I taught in Alabama for three years before moving back to Montana and teaching there for five years. In 1974, my husband, our son, and I moved to Consul, Saskatchewan; our two daughters were born in Canada. I have four grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. I have lived 50 years in Canada and 47 in the Yukon.

I received my Master's degree in Counselling and Psychology, with certification in School Psychology. I was a teacher, counsellor and school psychologist in the Yukon for the past 47 years, and still work in education. I love living in the Yukon and so enjoy the beauty of the land and water, as well as the people. I have always had a keen interest in the political system as well as improving our democratic system to be inclusive and fair to all, fair not necessarily being equal. I am excited and humbled to serve on the Yukon Citizen's Assembly on Electoral Reform.

STEVEN CLIMIE | VUNTUT GWITCHIN

I moved to the Yukon from northern BC 18 years ago, and I have spent 14 of those years in the community of Old Crow, on the traditional territory of the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation. I am currently the principal of Chief Zzeh Gittlit School serving students from pre-K through grade 12. I volunteered for the Citizens' Assembly because I am an inherently curious person. I look forward to digging into this topic and learning with and from my fellow Yukoners as we fulfil our mandate.

STORRI CHESSON | RIVERDALE SOUTH

I am a teacher-librarian at an elementary school. Originally from BC, I've lived in the Yukon for 21 years. The first 10 years were spent in the community of Ross River before moving to Whitehorse. I am a grandmother, mountain-biker, skier, and Roller Derby star.

TRACEY ANDERSON | WHITEHORSE WEST

I was born and raised in B.C., arrived in the Yukon in 1990 looking for work and never left. The Yukon has been a great place to raise two of my five children, while I worked and earned a Tourism Studies and Management Certificate at the Yukon College. I've worked in the hospitality sector for 14 years, with several hotels. Then moved into the heritage sector for the next 10 years working with several museums, and the Yukon Historical and Museums Association. Currently, I work with the Government of Yukon as a Strategic Policy and Administrative Officer and look forward to retirement soon. Volunteering allows me to learn new skills, gain valuable experience, and make a positive impact in my community.

WILLIAM LU | TAKHINI-KOPPER KING

I moved from Iqaluit to Whitehorse in July 2022. With an education in political science and a professional background in law, I decided to participate in the Citizen's Assembly on Electoral Reform to serve my community and work together with fellow members to find an option that best meets the needs of Yukoners in a rapidly changing world.

WILFRED JOSIE | VUNTUT GWITCHIN

Living in Old Crow all my life. Love hunting, fishing, and sports - working most of my life to get to meet people at this meeting and get experience.





REPORT FROM

the Yukon Citizens' Assembly Members

*"We stand to gain nothing personally through our recommendations,
but we all stand to benefit collectively."*

Preamble

To our fellow Yukoners, from us, the members of the Yukon Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform, a diverse, randomly selected group of 38 Yukoners from all corners of the territory.

We were brought together to answer the question "Should the Yukon consider a different electoral system?"

To come to our decision, we were provided expert education on many different electoral systems used around the world and within Canada.

After extensive deliberations and discussion, we are pleased to present our findings, conclusions and recommendation of Ranked Vote.

Who we are

We are a diverse group of committed Yukon citizen volunteers, representative of all the Yukon's electoral districts.

We are a diverse group of people in all ways: age, class, career, background, demographics, gender and from urban and rural areas across the territory. Some of us were born and raised in the Yukon, while others moved here. We all call the Yukon home.

We expressed our interest to represent, and committed to serve over the course of four summer weekends. We were open minded; we did not have a predisposition for change. We were open to new ideas and to listening to other people—our fellow citizens and experts alike. We noticed how different we are, but

we were able to work together in a positive way. We were a highly engaged group. We felt comfortable asking questions, getting clarification, and really exploring the elements and logic of electoral system options, especially in our condensed political science course with Dr. Jonathan Rose, political studies professor from Queen's University.

We sincerely aimed to represent Yukoners throughout this process and generate a recommendation that would serve Yukoners going forward.

Why we volunteered

We volunteered because we wanted to determine if there is a better electoral system for the Yukon than our current one. Some members volunteered because they believe we need a more participatory electoral system for Yukoners, and value exploring other electoral systems options. Other members wanted to learn about options and felt compelled by our civic duty. The Yukon is built upon participating in community, and the assembly members are extending this tradition of community service. One member

stated, "I volunteered because I felt it is my civic responsibility, and I care about democracy."

As volunteers, we were always guided by the values of Yukoners and our decisions

were always made in the collective interest of all Yukoners. As one member mentioned, "We stand to gain nothing personally through our recommendations, but we all stand to benefit collectively."

“
*One member stated,
“I volunteered because I felt it
is my civic responsibility, and I
care about democracy.”*
”

How we worked

Over several weekends of deliberation, all members were really, truly, engaged in this process. We have a very high degree of confidence and faith in both the process of coming to this recommendation and the recommendation itself.

We came together with a diversity of opinions, beliefs and ideas. One of the first things that we did was develop a set of ground rules for our process. Then, we explored our values for working together and identified six key shared values that we

would use to help select an electoral system. Next, we engaged in an intensive process of learning about different electoral systems. This was supported by Dr. Jonathan Rose, several other speakers from the Yukon and Outside, and our excellent facilitators.

We then engaged in a lengthy deliberation on the various systems and how they could work in the Yukon and benefit the territory. With further deliberation, we finally came to a consensus on one system.

What we learned

We first learned about citizens' assemblies and how they function. Our members came together with different levels of knowledge about electoral systems. We undertook an incredible amount of learning in a short time. We deliberated intensely; we listened deeply to each other; and many of us changed our minds several times. We thoughtfully built consensus. All members were engaged

and care strongly about democracy and how electoral systems translate votes into governments and government decisions into action for citizens. We dove into how the different electoral systems work and how electoral systems can shape how votes are cast, how candidates campaign, and how consequent governments govern. We considered how these electoral systems could work in our unique Yukon context. It was a collegial environment; members felt safe speaking their minds and disagreeing at times.



Electoral systems reflect the values of our society. Voters affect how the electoral system behaves and the system itself affects how voters behave.



We learned that many democracies around the world are moving away from First-Past-the-Post, the electoral system currently used in the Yukon.

Electoral systems reflect the values of our society. Voters affect how the electoral

system behaves and the system itself affects how voters behave. Some systems are not as feasible in the Yukon, due to our unique geography and population distribution.

Electoral systems have three components: ballot structure, electoral formula, and district magnitude. Ballot structure is how the ballot is laid out and filled in. Electoral formula involves the rules by which a candidate wins. District magnitude is the number of candidates elected in each riding.

We learned about several electoral systems used in democracies worldwide. The current Yukon electoral system is First-Past-the-Post or single member plurality, which requires a candidate to receive more votes their competitors to win their riding, but not necessarily the majority of votes.



There is no single perfect system and every system involves trade-offs. For example, there's a trade-off between having a local representative for your riding and having each party's number of seats in the legislature reflect the number of votes they received (proportionality).

All our deliberations occurred with awareness of our Yukon context. While we looked at other systems used globally, we ultimately learned there was no place that was easily comparable to the Yukon in terms of our geographic size, population distribution and the cultural values we hold of balancing the needs of urban and rural citizens, as well as First Nations communities. We are truly unique here.

We learned that despite a wide diversity of views, we found broad agreement on our values as Yukoners and our final recommendation.

Electoral systems have three components: ballot structure, electoral formula, and district magnitude.

Ballot structure is how the ballot is laid out and filled in.

Electoral formula involves the rules by which a candidate wins.

District magnitude is the number of candidates elected in each riding.



There is no single perfect system and every system involves trade-offs.



Our values

The members of the Citizens' Assembly identified the values that were important in a Yukon electoral system. After much discussion, members refined the list, by consensus, to six core values; these values guided our deliberations and our decision making.

The values we established are:

Legitimacy: candidates and voters have confidence in the system and outcome, are a part of it, and participate. Process and outcomes are independently transparent.

Local Representation and Accountability: Recognizing that each region may have unique needs, it is important that Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) are responsible to the voters of their riding and represent their interests.

Fairness: The electoral system is inclusive and accessible for voters and candidates (not necessarily parties) with transparency throughout the process.

Transparency: All electoral processes and information are clear, written, publicly available, verifiable and open to public scrutiny.

Participation: An equitable, inclusive and accessible process ensures Yukoners' values are reflected. Voters and potential candidates know how to, can and want to be actively engaged, and understand how their vote counts.

Simplicity/Accessibility: The electoral system includes clear and understandable rules, processes and communications to ensure access, and minimize barriers, to participate as a voter and candidate for election.

As our discussions advanced, the members recognized the differences between urban (Whitehorse) and rural areas, due to the vast geographic area of the Yukon and that each community has their own unique needs.



Challenges Identified with Current First-Past-The-Post Electoral System

As members of the Yukon Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform, we worry that our electoral system doesn't reflect the wishes of the electorate, but rather, reflects disengagement and disillusionment. A healthy democratic system must be accessible, accountable to voters, and promote participation from voters and candidates alike. Most importantly, the system must have legitimacy. Candidates and voters must have

confidence in the system and outcome, are a part of it, and participate, seeing that their votes matter.

As a Citizens' Assembly, we feel that the current system of voting does not reflect these values as well as it should. In the Yukon Bureau of Statistics' May 2022 Yukon Electoral Reform Survey Report, only 29.5 per cent of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the current electoral system adequately reflects voter intentions. Only 25.1 per cent of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the current electoral system should be maintained.

Criticisms of First-Past-the-Post include:

- Issues with proportionality: Proportionality is where the number of votes each party receives translates into the number of seats that party has in the legislature.
- Feelings that too many votes are "wasted", which leads to people not wanting to participate in the electoral process.
- Widespread perception of insincere or strategic voting. Insincere voting is where voters feel like they should vote for or against who is most likely to get elected, rather who they would genuinely like to cast their vote for.
- The current system discourages independent candidates from running for office.
- The current system leads to less inter-party collaboration and increased polarization for both elected officials and voters.

We want a system that:

- Encourages more collaborative campaigns and MLAs working collaboratively with each other to the benefit of all Yukoners.
- Maintains the legitimacy and transparency of First-Past-the-Post, wherein voters understand how votes are counted and how candidates are elected.
- Gives Yukoners the ability to vote sincerely, where they can vote for a candidate, rather than against one.
- Allows for Yukoners to express more choices at the ballot box, as rather than having a single selection, they can rank all candidates in order of preference.
- Gives voters greater confidence that there is support for an elected official, because they have won their seat with a majority of votes rather than simply more votes than another candidate (plurality).



Fairness

rationality

Recommendation

We recommend **Ranked Vote** as a system of preferential voting where each voter ranks some or all of the candidates standing for election in their riding.

Every voter will indicate their preferred candidate and may optionally rank some or all candidates from first, or most preferred, to last, or least preferred. A single X would count as an expression of a voters' first and only choice.

To win, the successful candidate must receive a majority, consisting of 50 per cent plus one of votes cast in their riding.

If no candidate receives 50 per cent plus one on the first count, counting all first preference votes, the candidate with the fewest first preference votes will be eliminated. The next preference of the voters who marked the eliminated candidate as their first choice will then be distributed to the remaining candidates.

This process continues until one candidate receives at least 50 per cent plus one of the votes cast. As a result, the successful candidate will have demonstrated support from the majority of voters in their riding.

Additional Recommendations

- That the order of candidate names on ballots be randomized to reduce the potential advantage of names being in the same order for every ballot.
- That Elections Yukon undertake an extensive education program to help fully inform all potential voters about the choice they are making in a public vote, and consider consulting members of the Citizens' Assembly on the education program.
- That the threshold to win a public vote on our recommendations be the same as the proposed Ranked Vote system, 50 per cent plus one vote.
- That the following question be put to Yukoners in a public vote: "Do you support the adoption of a Ranked Vote system replacing the current system?" Yes or No.



Rationale

Ranked Vote ensures that more voter preferences are captured in the outcome of an election. The winning candidate in each riding must receive a majority of the votes cast, 50 per cent plus one, requiring them to have broader support across their riding. This can lead to greater voter participation and an outcome that can be seen as more legitimate in the eyes of voters.

Local representation and accountability are extremely important to Yukoners and Ranked

Vote maintains this value. Voters continue to have a clear, direct, local connection to representatives who are accountable to their constituents. This is something that we value in the current system.

In the current system, voters may feel compelled to vote strategically for a candidate they think has the best chance of winning, rather than their preferred candidate. With Ranked Vote, voters can honestly rank their choices without feeling their vote is wasted.



If their top choice is eliminated, their vote transfers to their next choice, ensuring their preferences can still influence the outcome.

Randomizing the order of candidates on ballots prevents any one candidate from getting an unfair advantage because of their position on the list. This way every candidate has an equal chance, and the result better reflects the voters' true preference.

Allowing voters the choice whether to rank all candidates, or only some candidates, and to allow the use of an X to count as indication of a voter's only choice, prioritizes voter expression and reduces the potential of spoiled ballots in voting under the new Ranked Vote system.

Minority Report

This minority report is authored by members of the Citizens' Assembly who are willing to accept the recommendation to use the Ranked Vote (also commonly known as Alternative Vote) system throughout the Yukon, although it was not our first preference.

During the final discussions of the Citizens' Assembly, we had narrowed down the options, and two electoral systems were deliberated. The electoral system not selected was an Alternative Vote/Single Transferable Vote hybrid system. In this system, all Yukoners would cast their vote using a ranked ballot. The hybrid system included Single Transferable Vote in Whitehorse, which would reflect proportionality within larger urban districts that elect more than one MLA. The rural districts would have remained single member districts using Alternative Vote and Whitehorse would have become two multi-member districts.

At the end of the process, every member of the Citizens' Assembly agreed that Yukoners should adopt an electoral system that uses a ranked ballot. Each one of us believes that a ranked ballot is superior to First-Past-the-Post in that it allows voters more control over their vote and ultimately leads to greater expression of voter choice. It also allows citizens to vote sincerely, for their preferred candidate, without having to worry about any strategic implications. Strategic voting means voting for a less preferred candidate to prevent the

election of another candidate or party. In other words, many people find themselves voting against someone rather than for someone. This can lead to increased polarization, voter apathy, and dissatisfaction with the political process. As a Citizens' Assembly, we support the adoption of Ranked Vote for these reasons.

However, the authors of this minority report wanted to go a step further, and deal with the problem of disproportionality that has affected our electoral results. In many cases, our First-Past-the-Post system returns a party seat count in the Yukon Legislative Assembly that does not reflect the percentage of votes cast for a party. Parties with a simple plurality of votes for their candidates can win a majority of seats. A party with fewer votes overall can

still form government.

This results in many voters feeling like their votes do not count.

The electoral system proposed by the Citizens' Assembly does not have any elements of proportional representation, and therefore does not address this issue.

Each one of us believes that a ranked ballot is superior to First-Past-the-Post in that it allows voters more control over their vote and ultimately leads to greater expression of voter choice.

We felt strongly that the Alternative Vote/Single Transferable Vote hybrid would have allowed for proportional representation, with the number of votes reflected in the number of seats won in the multi-member districts. Of the electoral systems reviewed during the Citizens' Assembly process, Alternative Vote/Single Transferable Vote hybrid was the only system that would have allowed for proportional representation in Whitehorse while maintaining local representation in

the rural communities without adding a tier of seats assigned by party lists, as with the Mixed Member Proportional system. Because of the Yukon's geographical size, and population distribution highly concentrated in Whitehorse, implementing single transferable vote across the territory would have resulted in unreasonably large multi-member districts in rural Yukon. Approximately 80 per cent of the population resides in and around the urban center of Whitehorse, while the rest are spread out across a vast geographical area in small communities, each with their own distinct set of concerns. Ensuring local representation was one of our Assembly's core values, and the only way to have proportional representation and preserve this local representation in the rural communities was to keep single member districts in rural areas. That means that only Whitehorse would have multi-member districts, and therefore could have proportional representation, as the former is a precondition for the latter.

Other elements of the Alternative Vote/ Single Transferable Vote hybrid system that members appreciated were that it was adaptable and flexible, reflecting the Yukon's unique context. Many acknowledged that such a system would have allowed for greater voter choice and greater collaboration between candidates and elected members of the Legislature. Because the electoral quota (number of votes required for a candidate to win) would be lower in multi-member districts, this system could have allowed for greater possibility of electing independent candidates. Many appreciated that greater district magnitudes would have allowed for more intra-party choice of candidates at the ballot box and more MLAs to bring

constituency issues forward, while keeping the same number of MLAs in the Legislature.

The majority of the members of the Citizens' Assembly felt that, although doing this would largely solve the problem of disproportionality in the Yukon, a hybrid system was too complex to implement and that there were some issues around the appearance of fairness in the vote counting process. They worried that it would lead to confusion and the perception that we were proposing a two-tiered system, one for Whitehorse and another for the rural communities. Many did not feel that it would



We therefore lend our support to the consensus recommendation of Ranked Vote.



be appropriate to have such a difference between how Whitehorse residents voted compared to the rest of the territory.

However, a large minority of members felt strongly enough about the issue of disproportionality that we recommended putting the hybrid model forward as our assembly's recommendation despite those concerns; as the majority preferred the Ranked Vote system, we felt compelled to put the hybrid model forward in this minority report.

While the authors of this minority report ultimately didn't have their preferred system selected, we acknowledge that the proposed changes to the Yukon's electoral system ultimately give voters greater choice through the use of a ranked ballot system, and reform of any kind was preferable to all members of the Citizens' Assembly rather than continuing with the current First-Past-the-Post system. We therefore lend our support to the consensus recommendation of Ranked Vote.

Other Considerations Outside the Mandate of the Citizens' Assembly:

Some other issues that were raised during the Assembly's deliberations, but which were not addressed in our recommendations as they fell outside our mandate were as follows.

Voting age: A presenter from Vote 16 Yukon participated in a panel discussion during the second meeting. Voting age was outside the core mandate of the Assembly, but was noted by some members to be an issue that could benefit from further analysis.

Future Citizens' Assemblies: At the end of the process, several members expressed interest in citizens' assemblies being used to tackle other difficult policy problems. It was felt that this approach was extremely successful in representing all Yukoners' interests and encouraged respectful conversations that incorporated multiple perspectives, allowing for deep and meaningful deliberation. Some topics that were mentioned as potential topics for future citizens' assemblies were housing and health care. One assembly member suggested that random selection from

pool of interested individuals, corrected for demographics, as this Citizens' Assembly was, is an effective way to ensure representation and commitment.

Electoral Boundaries: The 2024 Electoral District Boundaries Commission was underway at the same time as the Citizens' Assembly. The mandates of the two were very different and did not overlap. However, considerations of electoral district boundaries and population density were part of the discussions on local representation during the Citizens' Assembly's deliberations. Although we were unable to address the issues of concentration of the Yukon's population in Whitehorse and the Electoral District Boundaries Commission's recommendations for additional seats in Whitehorse, we did consider the urban/rural balance of power; many members felt that the vast geographical area outside of Whitehorse should be reflected in the distribution of seats.



BACKGROUND

Understanding the Citizens' Assembly Process

The Yukon Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform was a recommendation from the [Special Committee on Electoral Reform](#), an all-party committee of the Yukon Legislative Assembly that examined electoral reform from May 2021-April 2023. During that time, the Special Committee conducted 14 videoconference hearings with subject matter experts, received 60 written submissions, held 8 public hearings in 7 different communities, and conducted two public engagement surveys. In the second survey, 63 per cent of respondents supported the creation of a Citizens' Assembly to explore different voting systems.

The terms of reference for the Yukon Citizens' Assembly were developed by the [Special Committee on the Yukon Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform](#), which met between May and October 2023. The Citizens' Assembly was created by Motion Respecting Committee Reports no. 8 – Concurrence in the Final Report of the Special Committee on the Yukon

Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform, carried November 7, 2023, in the Yukon Legislative Assembly.

The idea of a citizens' assembly on electoral reform in the territory was first raised in a 2005 report on electoral reform written by Ken McKinnon. This report was completed shortly after the British Columbia Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform had concluded and Ontario announced it would undertake a similar process. However, McKinnon's report recommended that the Yukon not proceed with a citizens' assembly on electoral reform at this time, given the lack of support from public opinion polling data or interest groups, the expense of the citizens' assembly process, high voter turnout in the territory, and relative recency of the Final Agreements with Yukon First Nations. McKinnon instead recommended a focus on legislative renewal as a first step in democratic reform in the territory.

Process Overview

The Yukon Citizens' Assembly met over four weekends between May and September. The heart of the Citizens' Assembly is people processing information. The initial meetings were weighted towards learning and understanding, while later meetings were weighted towards deliberation and building towards a recommendation. An overview of each meeting's learning and deliberation is described below.

First meeting: May 24-25

The first session opened with a land acknowledgement from the Citizens' Assembly's Elder-in-Residence Ernie Lennie, followed by welcoming remarks from Premier Ranj Pillai, Leader of the Yukon NDP, Kate White, and Minister John Streicker. MLAs from the Official Opposition were invited and declined the invitation.

The Citizens' Assembly Chair, Dr. Sara McPhee-Knowles, provided an overview of the mandate and schedule. Members introduced themselves and spoke about why they volunteered. Through facilitated discussions, the members then worked on determining values that would guide their work together. Over the course of the weekend, members revised and agreed on rules of procedure for the Assembly and identified values that should be present in the Yukon's electoral system.

This weekend included three presentations. Following each one, members had the opportunity to ask questions. The presentation sessions were open to the public over Zoom. Recordings and transcripts were posted on the Yukon Citizens' Assembly website.

- Max Harvey, Chief Electoral Officer, gave an overview of the current electoral system and the Electoral District Boundaries Commission process.
- Tony Penikett, former Premier of the Yukon, spoke about the political development of the territory over time.
- Tosh Southwick from inspire.reconciliation.potential gave an overview on values that underlie governance systems.

On Saturday evening, following dinner, MLAs John Streicker and Lane Tredger spoke about the role of an MLA and their experiences as elected representatives. MLAs from the Official Opposition were also invited to attend but declined to participate. An audio recording and transcript were posted online.

Key decisions by members:

- Our values as a Citizens' Assembly
- Our procedures to guide our work
- Yukon electoral system values

Second meeting: June 8-9

The second meeting focused on learning about different electoral systems with Dr. Jonathan Rose, department head of political studies at Queen's University and former academic director of the Ontario Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform.

Dr. Rose opened with explaining the main elements of an electoral system: district magnitude, electoral formula and ballot structure. Next, the members learned about the current system used in the Yukon, First-Past-the-Post or single member plurality, then

moved on to List Proportional Representation and Mixed Member Proportional and Parallel systems.

Saturday evening, there was a presentation from Fair Vote Canada over Zoom discussing the polling they had done in the Yukon and advocacy for proportional representation, and a panel discussion with Dave Brekke from Fair Vote Yukon and Keegan Newnham-Boyd from Vote 16 Yukon.

The second day's learning focused on the Alternative Vote and Single Transferable Vote systems.

All learning sessions, presentations and the panel discussion were recorded and posted online following the meeting. The List Proportional Representation, Mixed Member Proportional and Parallel systems presentations were open to the public in real time via Zoom.

On the second day, the Citizens' Assembly members revisited their electoral systems values that had been identified in the first meeting and ranked these values in order of importance. They also spent some time matching values with system features to give the Chair and Dr. Rose clear direction for developing electoral system scenarios over the summer recess.

At this point, the members decided to eliminate List Proportional Representation

from further consideration, because it had the least alignment with their identified values, particularly local representation and accountability. They also raised the concern that this system would not be as accessible to independent candidates.

Key decisions by members:

- Prioritizing the list of Yukon electoral system values
- Removing List Proportional Representation from further consideration
- Requesting detailed Yukon electoral system scenarios for Alternative Vote, Alternative Vote/Single Transferable Vote hybrid, Mixed Member Proportional, and First-Past-the-Post.



Optional Summer Sessions:

Electoral Systems Q&A with Dr. Jonathan Rose, Queen's University – July 10

In this session, Dr. Rose provided a summary of the information presented during the second meeting, and members had the opportunity to ask clarifying questions after having time to reflect on the material presented in June.

Gender and Politics with Dr. Melanee Thomas, University of Calgary – July 30

Throughout the first and second meetings, members expressed interest in how different electoral systems might affect representation, so this session was organized in response to that feedback from assembly members. In this session, Dr. Thomas asked three main questions, and provided rationale and supporting research in her responses:

1. Would changing from a single-member plurality (SMP) to a more proportional electoral system guarantee an increase in women's numerical representation? No.
2. Can gender parity in electoral politics be achieved under SMP? Yes.
3. Would things typically found in more proportional electoral systems (e.g., district magnitude of 2+) meaningfully increase women's numerical representation? Maybe.

A recording of this presentation was posted on the Citizens' Assembly website and shared with members.

Northern Considerations in Electoral Reform with Dr. Graham White, University of Toronto – August 22

Members had expressed interest in better understanding consensus models of government used in neighbouring territories, particularly during the second meeting. In this session, Dr. White provided members with an overview of consensus government in the Northwest Territories and Nunavut. He also offered some comments related to his testimony to the [Special Committee on Electoral Reform in 2022](#).

Third meeting: August 24-25

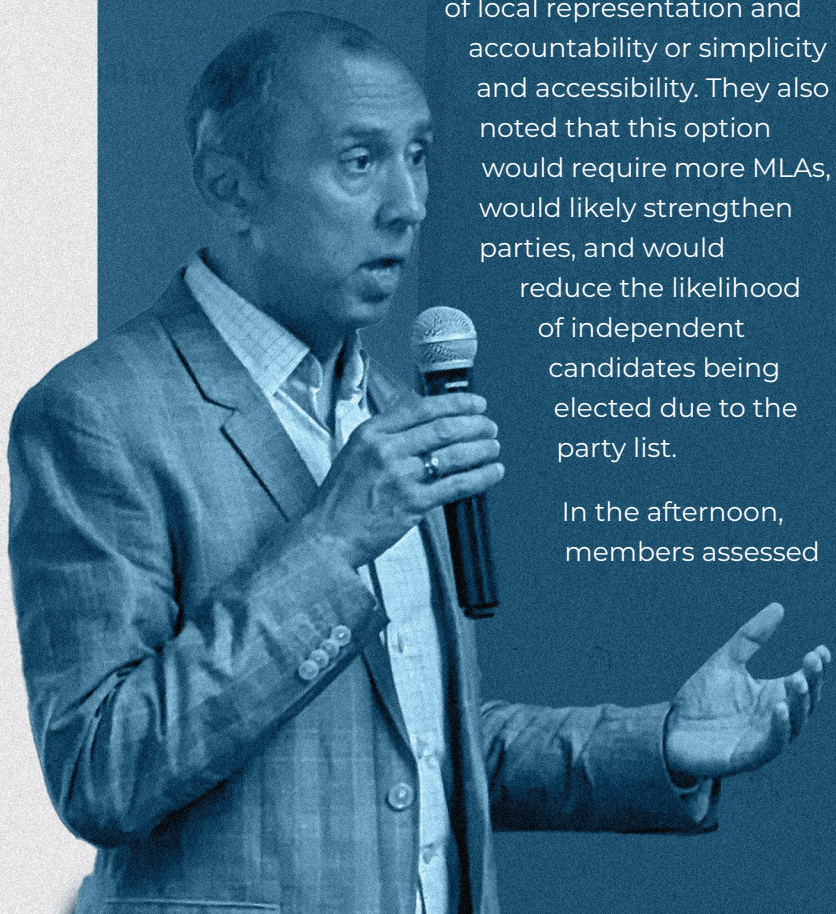
The third meeting focused on understanding and deliberating the electoral system scenarios developed by Dr. Rose and Dr. Laura Levick (see Appendix A). The four scenarios were: First-Past-the-Post, Alternative Vote, Alternative Vote/Single Transferable Vote hybrid, and Mixed Member Proportional (Table 1.).

The Assembly Chair gave a recap of the process so far, along with a summary of the public submissions received between May 25 and August 12. Dr. Rose went through each scenario in turn, then members asked detailed questions and discussed the trade-offs of each option.

On day two, members compared the pros and cons of all the scenarios and continued to ask questions about how different options might work in practice.

At this time, the members eliminated Mixed Member Proportional as an option for further consideration. They found that this system did not align with their values of local representation and accountability or simplicity and accessibility. They also noted that this option would require more MLAs, would likely strengthen parties, and would reduce the likelihood of independent candidates being elected due to the party list.

In the afternoon, members assessed



	First-Past-the-Post	Alternative Vote	Alternative Vote/Single Transferable Vote	Mixed Member Pro-portional
How do voters make choices? (Ballot structure)	One choice (categorical)	Ranked choices (ordinal)	Ranked choices (ordinal)	One candidate choice plus one party choice
How many politicians per district? (District magnitude)	Single member districts	Single member districts	Rural: single member Whitehorse: multi-member	Single member districts plus list seats chosen by all voters
How is a district won? (Electoral formula)	Most votes wins (plurality)	50%+1 (majority)	Rural: 50%+1 Whitehorse: quota	Plurality in single districts; proportional formula for list seats

Table 1: The four scenarios

the remaining three options: Alternative Vote, Alternative Vote/Single Transferable Vote hybrid, and First-Past-the-Post. In small groups, members were asked to rank these three options; many groups chose to prototype a ranked ballot to do so.

The members unanimously agreed that First-Past-the-Post was their least preferred option, meaning the Citizens' Assembly had consensus on changing the Yukon's electoral system.

The remaining two options (Alternative Vote and Alternative Vote/Single Transferable Vote hybrid) each had a lot of support from the members. Both of these options encourage greater expression of voter choice through the use of ranked ballots.

Concerns from members about the hybrid system were that this option could be viewed as one system for Whitehorse and another for communities beyond the capital, although they understood this is because multi-member districts with fewer than five members lack proportionality, which would

lead to unreasonably large districts spread over a very large area outside of Whitehorse because of the low population density in rural Yukon. There were also concerns about the perceived complexity of counting votes under Single Transferable Vote, although introducing an element of proportionality was viewed positively by some members. A concern about the Alternative Vote system throughout the Yukon was the lack of proportionality overall; however, many members expressed support for the greater simplicity and uniformity of this option.

A member suggestion was for all members to have conversations with their community about the remaining two options and report back at the fourth meeting.

Key decisions by members:

- Removing Mixed Member Proportional from further consideration.
- Removing First-Past-the-Post from further consideration.

Fourth meeting: September 7-8

The fourth meeting focused on determining the Assembly's recommendation and preparing the final report. An evaluator from the Federation for Innovation in Democracy was invited to observe the weekend's proceedings.

After an opening circle and a brief recap of the third meeting, the members discussed their conversations between meetings. Members found that: Alternative Vote was simpler to explain and more readily accepted; that confusion existed about how the current first-past-the-post system worked; that the Alternative Vote and Alternative Vote/Single Transferable Vote hybrid model was supported if presented at a high-level with few details, but there were some concerns about the multi-member districts in Whitehorse and the lack of uniformity across the territory.

They then moved into small group discussions evaluating the pros and cons of the two remaining options and were asked by the Chair to emphasize the differences between the two options rather than their similarities. Members were broadly agreed on the pros and cons of the two remaining options, which share many similar attributes (and, for Yukoners outside of Whitehorse, are the exact same). The main question was whether to introduce multi-member districts in Whitehorse.

In the afternoon, members reached the point of making a decision on which electoral system to present to the Yukon. A secret ballot was held with the question: Which system should be the Yukon Citizens' Assembly recommendation?

Two members of the Advisory Group, Lindsay Cornell and Kelvin Leary, were present to count and verify the votes and voting process.

From the 35 members present for the voting, the result was 17 in favour of the Alternative Vote/Single Transferable Vote hybrid and 18 in favour of Alternative Vote as their first choice to move forward.

Following some discussion, the Chair turned to language around consensus in the Citizens' Assembly procedures. Using a show of hands, members indicated if they could support, or 'live with' either option being the recommendation.

The result here was further apart, with 24 members stating willingness to support

Alternative Vote/Single Transferable Vote as the recommendation, and 30 stating they could support Alternative Vote being the recommendation.

Based on this outcome, with majority assent, Alternative Vote was

advanced as the recommendation of the Citizen's Assembly.

Two further secret ballots were held. The first asked members: I accept the voting system recommendation made by the Yukon Citizens' Assembly—Yes | No.

The result here was 32 Yes and 3 No. This affirmed the decision to recommend Alternative Vote by majority assent, with 91 per cent accepting the recommendation.

The final ballot asked members: I support the process followed by the Yukon Citizens' Assembly over the course of the four meetings—Yes | No.



This affirmed the process undertaken to reach the recommendation by majority assent, with 97 per cent support for the process.



The result here was 34 Yes and 1 No. This affirmed the process undertaken to reach the recommendation by majority assent, with 97 per cent support for the process.

After reaching their decision, members discussed additional points to recommend about the Alternative Vote system, then moved into drafting report sections in small groups and completed one round of reporting out and giving feedback. Drafting included a group developing a minority report section explaining the Alternative Vote/Single Transferable Vote hybrid option.

The focus of day two was continued drafting of the report, selecting their preferred name for the recommended new electoral system (Ranked Vote), and developing and rehearsing a short presentation of their recommendation.

In the afternoon, the Yukon Citizens' Assembly members presented their recommendation to two Members of the Legislative Assembly, John Streicker and Kate White, followed by a Q&A session. (Note: All Members of the Legislative Assembly were invited to attend.)

To wrap up the final day, a group photo was taken, and a closing circle held. Ernie Lennie, the Assembly's Elder-in-Residence, gifted his talking stick to the Citizens' Assembly. Certificates of appreciation were presented to all members by Assembly staff.

Key decisions by members:

- To recommend Ranked Vote be the new electoral system for the Yukon.
 - That voters may indicate as many or as few preferences as they choose.
 - That a single X may count as indicating a voter's first preference.
 - That candidate names be randomized on the ballots.
 - That candidates must achieve 50 per cent plus one votes to be declared the winner in their riding.
- That the name of the recommended system be Ranked Vote, as opposed to Alternative Vote.
- That members support the process by which they came to their recommendation.



Deliberative Practices

The Yukon Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform was the first time a citizens' assembly has been used in the Yukon. However, over the last 20 years, the use of citizens' assemblies has grown worldwide, and best practices have emerged in how to design and implement these processes.

The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) gathered and published [11 good practice principles for deliberative processes for public decision-making in 2020](#).

The chair and staff were guided by these principles in the following ways as they developed Yukon's first citizens' assembly.

1. **Purpose:** *"The objective should be outlined as a clear task and is linked to a defined public problem. It is phrased neutrally as a question in plain language."*

The [mandate](#) of the Yukon Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform is to 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. The Citizens' Assembly's decision on voting systems must reflect the importance of balance

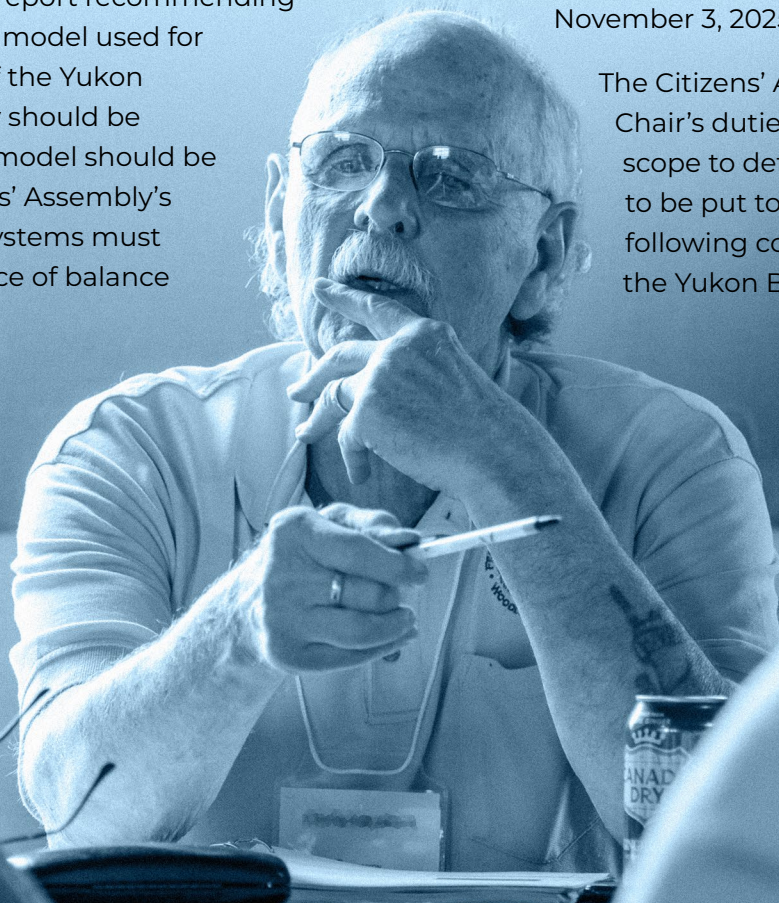
for rural and urban representation.

The terms of reference specified that if the Citizens' Assembly 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.

2. **Accountability:** *"There should be influence on public decisions. The commissioning public authority should publicly commit to responding to or acting on participants' recommendations in a timely manner. It should monitor the implementation of all accepted recommendations with regular public progress reports."*

The Citizens' Assembly recommended a change to the Yukon's voting system, and this was released in a media statement on September 12th, 2024, following the 4th meeting. In response, the Yukon Liberal Caucus announced that a plebiscite would take place concurrently with the next territorial general election on or before November 3, 2025.

The Citizens' Assembly, in the Chair's duties, was given the scope to define a question to be put to a public vote, following consultation with the Yukon Bureau of Statistics



and Elections Yukon. The members drafted a question in their final meeting, which was submitted to Elections Yukon following the plebiscite announcement.

3. Transparency: *“The deliberative process should be announced publicly before it begins. The process design and all materials – including agendas, briefing documents, evidence submissions, audio and video recordings of those presenting evidence, the participants’ report, their recommendations (the wording of which participants should have a final say over), and the random selection methodology – should be available to the public in a timely manner. The funding source should be disclosed. The commissioning public authority’s response to the recommendations and the evaluation after the process should be publicised and have a public communication strategy.”*

The Citizens’ Assembly was announced in 2023. Updates were posted regularly on the Yukon Citizens’ Assembly website (www.yukoncitizensassembly.ca), including overviews of the program for the weekend meetings, summary notes of decisions, and video recordings of presentations from experts. Public submissions were also posted publicly. Website updates were regularly communicated via an email newsletter, where interested members of the public could subscribe through the website. There were a total of 63 subscribers by September 30, 2024.

Media coverage by CBC Yukon (radio and web), the Yukon News and Yukon Star (print and web), CHON FM (radio and web), and CKRW (radio and web) occurred throughout the process. Coverage followed the appointment of the assembly chair (February 2024), selection of members (May 2024), the first meeting and public submissions opening (May 2024), the second meeting

with Dr. Jonathan Rose and his public talk (June 2024), the Assembly’s recommendation and response by Yukon political parties (September 2024). All media coverage was posted on the Assembly website.

Although substantial public outreach took place through the Special Committee on Electoral Reform process, the Yukon Citizens’ Assembly on Electoral Reform wanted to give Yukoners an opportunity to learn more about the citizens’ assembly process and contribute their ideas.

The learning sessions from the first two meetings were made publicly available on the Yukon Citizens’ Assembly website. As well, Dr. Rose and the Assembly Chair hosted a public event on Monday, June 10 in Whitehorse and on Zoom called “Does Voting Even Matter? What Electoral Systems Might Tell Us.” This event included a discussion of electoral systems basics, an overview of the Citizens’ Assembly process, and a public Q&A. The event was recorded and the recording was also posted online.

The Citizens’ Assembly invited submissions from members of the public from May 25 to August 12, 2024. Citizens’ Assembly staff circulated posters to each Yukon community and advertised the submission process on North of Ordinary screens in all Yukon communities and in the Yukon Star email newsletter. Letters were sent to NGOs with an interest in electoral reform, all municipal councils and local area councils, and all Yukon First Nation governments letting them know about the submission process and offering to meet with them to answer questions about the process. Forty-four submissions were received, including thirty-four short text submissions, five letters and five reports. Submissions were posted online and shared with the Yukon Citizens’ Assembly members in advance of the third meeting in August,

where the Chair presented a summary of the submissions. The summary was also posted on the website.

4. Representativeness: *“The participants should be a microcosm of the general public. This is achieved through random sampling from which a representative selection is made, based on stratification by demographics (to ensure the group broadly matches the demographic profile of the community against census or other similar data), and sometimes by attitudinal criteria (depending on the context). Everyone should have an equal opportunity to be selected as participants. In some instances, it may be desirable to over-sample certain demographics during the random sampling stage of recruitment to help achieve representativeness.”*

The [second survey conducted by the Special Committee on Electoral Reform](#) was on the proposal to form a Citizens’ Assembly on Electoral Reform and was conducted by the Yukon Bureau of Statistics between January 12, 2023, and March 5, 2023. This survey had

a response rate of 17.5 per cent, and 6,354 Yukoners over the age of 16 completed it. In this survey, respondents were asked if they would be interested in participating as a member of a citizens’ assembly. A total of 1,793 respondents (28.2 per cent) said they would be interested. The range of interested people in each electoral district ranged from 4 to 176. The terms of reference prescribed that the respondents to the survey would form the selection pool for Citizens’ Assembly members. This meant that not every Yukoner over the age of 16 had an equal opportunity to be selected as a participant, as they would have had the selection process been completed through a civic lottery.

On March 13, 2024, the Yukon Bureau of Statistics sent out a letter or email to each of the people who had indicated that they were interested in participating in a Citizens’ Assembly in the 2023 survey. This letter included the eligibility criteria from the terms of reference and the tentative schedule for the Yukon Citizens’ Assembly meetings, and asked those who were interested and eligible



to respond to a further survey. The letter and survey were translated into English and French. The survey closed on April 7, 2024. Of the initial pool, 655 respondents, or 37 per cent, were available and eligible to participate in the Citizens' Assembly. Of the remainder, 825 (47 per cent) did not respond, 106 (6 per cent) were ineligible to participate, 160 (9 per cent) declined to participate, and 18 (1 per cent) of responses were incomplete.

The selection model from the pool of interested and eligible respondents was based on age, gender and Indigenous ancestry, with geography being managed by selecting two members from each electoral district. The Yukon Bureau of Statistics completed the draw from that pool and returned the results to the Assembly Chair and Deputy Chair to contact the potential members. The goal was for the resulting citizens' assembly membership to roughly match the demographics of the territory. Because not all top ranked participants said yes when invited to participate in the Assembly, the resulting group ended up including more older individuals and men than the demographic profile of the Yukon.

The Citizens' Assembly staff team attempted to mitigate the underrepresentation of women and youth in the following ways. More women facilitators were selected to achieve gender balance in the room, and care was taken to ensure that report outs and small group discussions included a mix of male and female participants. The Chair also ensured that there were women speakers who addressed the Assembly, Tosh Southwick and Dr. Melanee Thomas, and the presentation by Dr. Thomas specifically addressed gender balance in politics. Two women and one man were also invited to serve on the advisory group, and the Chair and Deputy Chair were both women.

In order to address the underrepresentation of younger Yukoners, the Chair recruited an advisory group member with extensive experience in youth democratic engagement. Additionally, a representative from Vote 16 Yukon was invited to present to the Assembly. Although they were not providing input into the process, several student facilitators fell into the youth category of 18-30, which increased the youth presence in the room.

5. Inclusiveness: *"Inclusion should be achieved by considering how to involve underrepresented groups. Participation should also be encouraged and supported through remuneration, expenses, and/or providing or paying for childcare and eldercare."*

To support participation from members from a broad range of backgrounds, Citizens' Assembly members were paid an honorarium of \$200 per meeting day, per the [terms of reference](#), and were compensated for travel costs and childcare. Compensation for elder care was offered, but not required by any members. Meals were provided during the Assembly's meetings and care was taken to ensure that dietary restrictions were accommodated. In the intake form, Assembly staff also asked members to let them know of any other accommodations they might need to fully participate. Staff focused on creating as much ease for members to participate as possible.

All meetings were held in Whitehorse except for the session on Saturday, August 24, which was held in Carcross. Whitehorse was the only location with sufficient space and hotel accommodation to host meetings over a weekend.

Having a First Nations Elder at all meetings helped to provide cultural context and ensure

the space was welcoming to First Nations participants. Elder-in-Residence Ernie Lennie facilitated opening and closing circles at each meeting, and by passing the talking stick and giving some guidance via a prompt, gave all participants an opportunity to reflect and communicate their feelings about the process in a culturally inclusive setting.

6. Information: *“Participants should have access to a wide range of accurate, relevant, and accessible evidence and expertise. They should have the opportunity to hear from and question speakers that present to them, including experts and advocates chosen by the citizens themselves.”*

Participants had the opportunity to hear from a range of experts. Invited presenters in the learning phase included several political scientists, an elections officer, a former Yukon premier, current MLAs, an election systems advocate and a youth advocate. In addition, three optional sessions were held over the summer in response to member feedback and these sessions were recorded and posted. Members were offered printed copies of meeting documents and given access to documents in a shared online folder.

The members were provided with four detailed electoral systems scenarios drafted by Dr. Jonathan Rose and Dr. Laura Levick after members had narrowed down the options from the original five families of electoral systems. These scenarios were tailored to the Yukon context, and were peer reviewed by Dr. Harold Jansen of the University of Lethbridge.

7. Group deliberation: *“Participants should be able to find common ground to underpin their collective recommendations to the public authority. This entails careful and active listening, weighing and considering multiple*

perspectives, every participant having an opportunity to speak, a mix of formats that alternate between small group and plenary discussions and activities, and skilled facilitation.”

To ensure skilled facilitation of small group discussion, eight student facilitators were hired and trained at the start of the process. The student facilitators were senior students selected from Yukon University’s Business Administration and Social Work programs. On May 4th and 5th, 2024, they participated in 15 hours of in-person facilitation training run by Peter MacLeod and Sarah Yaffe of [Mass LBP](#), a Toronto-based firm that has led more than 50 reference panels and citizens’ assemblies.

To emphasize the need for common ground and respectful listening, members of the Citizens’ Assembly identified values to guide how they would work together in the first meeting. These values were:

- Respect
- Curiosity
- Collaboration
- Fairness
- Inclusivity
- Open-mindedness

Members were also briefed at the start of the process on the logic behind the design and the timing of decisions, so that they would understand the structure of the process as their time together as an assembly progressed.

The learning sessions emphasized bringing in multiple perspectives from different speakers, including the panel discussions in the first and second meetings.

The program incorporated small group

discussions with a student facilitator at each table, along with report outs to the whole group, Q&A sessions, and larger discussions of the full group. The third and fourth meetings focused on deliberation. These meetings included a mix of discussions in facilitated small groups and the full group. Thought was given to the distribution of time spent in small groups and the full group, given that some participants felt less comfortable speaking within the full group.

8. Time: *“Deliberation requires adequate time for participants to learn, weigh the evidence, and develop informed recommendations, due to the complexity of most policy problems. To achieve informed citizen recommendations, participants should meet for at least four full days in person, unless a shorter time frame can be justified. It is recommended to allow time for individual learning and reflection in between meetings.”*

The timeline for this work, specified in the terms of reference, required that this final report be tabled in the Yukon Legislative Assembly by October 31st, 2024. The Chair was appointed on February 2nd, 2024. The Yukon Citizens’ Assembly members met in-person over eight meeting days, doubling the minimum recommended by the OECD. There was a minimum of two weeks in between meetings, along with a longer break over the summer, to allow for individual learning and reflection.

9. Integrity: *“The process should be run by an arms’ length co-ordinating team different from the commissioning public authority. The final call regarding process decisions should be with the arm’s length co-ordinators rather than the commissioning authorities. Depending on the context, there should be oversight by an advisory*

or monitoring board with representatives of different viewpoints.”

The Chair of the Citizens’ Assembly was appointed by the Clerk of the Yukon Legislative Assembly. Process design decisions were made by the Chair, who sought advice from Mass LBP and other experts, including some who had presented to the Special Committee on Electoral Reform.

Members of the Legislative Assembly were invited to be present at the start of the first session to give opening remarks (three MLAs attended), at a panel discussion at the end of the first meeting day (two MLAs attended), and at the close of the final session (two MLAs attended) to hear the members’ presentation on the process and their recommendation. Members of the Legislative Assembly and Members of the Citizens’ Assembly had the opportunity to ask each other questions following this presentation. Other than the above stated times, Members of the Legislative Assembly were not present.

Part of ensuring the integrity of the Citizens’ Assembly process was establishing an Advisory and Oversight Group to assist the Chair of the Assembly by providing impartial advice on the proceedings of the Assembly, the design of its curriculum, including the range of presentations, and to respond to any concerns from Assembly members and the public related to the conduct and impartiality of the Assembly itself. Members of the Advisory and Oversight Group were confirmed by the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly on the advice of the Chair of the Citizens’ Assembly.

The Advisory and Oversight Group includes members with expertise related to territorial governance, electoral systems, community engagement, and historically underrepresented communities. The group

met with the Chair and Deputy Chair regularly throughout the process. The group had a consultative and coordinating role rather than a decision-making role. If a member of the public or the Citizens' Assembly was dissatisfied with the process, the conduct of the chair or any facilitation team member, they could reach out to the advisory group who would respond and work to resolve the concern; however, the Advisory Group received no such complaints.

10. Privacy: *"There should be respect for participants' privacy to protect them from undesired media attention and harassment, as well as to preserve participants' independence, ensuring they are not bribed or lobbied by interest groups or activists. Small group discussions should be private. The identity of participants may be publicised when the process has ended, at the participants' consent. All personal data of participants should be treated in compliance with international good practices, such as the European Union's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)."*

To respect the Assembly members' privacy and protect them from media attention and lobbying from interest groups and members of the public, their names were not published until the process had concluded, and their statement containing their recommendation was released. Some members volunteered to speak with media at the first two meetings, and nine members volunteered as spokespeople following the process. Small group discussions were not included in the learning sessions that were posted publicly.

Members were given the opportunity to opt out of photography which several members chose to do, and photographs used in the final report were vetted to ensure those who opted out were not pictured.

The Citizens' Assembly staff only collected personal information required for the process and stored it securely. Members' personal information was kept private and was not shared without express permission.

11. Evaluation: *"There should be an anonymous evaluation by the participants to assess the process based on objective criteria (e.g. on quantity and diversity of information provided, amount of time devoted to learning, independence of facilitation). An internal evaluation by the co-ordination team should be conducted against the good practice principles in this report to assess what has been achieved and how to improve future practice. An independent evaluation is recommended for some deliberative processes, particularly those that last a significant time. The deliberative process should also be evaluated on final outcomes and impact of implemented recommendations."*

The Federation for Innovation in Democracy – North America conducted an independent evaluation of the overall process following the final meeting. The Citizens' Assembly staff asked participants to fill out a feedback form following each of the first three meetings to allow them to address participant concerns and make improvements for subsequent meetings. Following the fourth session, the Citizens' Assembly staff asked for any final feedback and permission to share contact information with other assembly members, Elections Yukon, and the Federation for Innovation in Democracy. The Yukon Citizens' Assembly staff team also conducted an internal evaluation and shared this with the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly.

Presenters, Advisory Group and Staff Team

Max Harvey was appointed as Chief Electoral Officer for the Yukon in May 2018. He has over 20 years of experience in senior electoral administration positions at federal and territorial levels. Before joining Elections Yukon, his career included service as an officer with the Royal Canadian Navy, as an Assistant Deputy Minister with the government of Newfoundland and Labrador, and in business as an entrepreneur, consultant, and executive coach. He has a Master of Business Administration degree from Memorial University.

Tony Penikett is a mediator, negotiator and former politician who served as the third premier of Yukon (1985–1992). First elected to the Yukon Legislative Assembly in 1978, representing Whitehorse West for the Yukon NDP, Penikett became party leader in 1981. In 1985, the NDP was elected to minority government. His government negotiated and signed the Umbrella Final Agreement with Yukon First Nations, negotiated the first four individual First Nation Self-Government Agreements, and brought forward the Yukon Human Rights Act. In 2020, Penikett

was named an Officer of the Order of Canada, in recognition of his contributions as a teacher, negotiator and public servant.

Tosh Southwick belongs to the wolf moiety and is a Citizen of Kluane First Nation. She grew up in a small northern community and is the mother to three children and the auntie to many more. She has worked with Yukon First Nations most of her career and in many different capacities. In her previous role as the Associate Vice President of Indigenous Engagement and Reconciliation at Yukon University, Tosh oversaw the integration of First Nation ways of knowing and doing throughout the institution. Tosh is a trained facilitator and knowledge sharer. She has also served as youth councillor and Deputy Chief for her First Nation. Tosh acquired her B.A. with honours in Psychology from the University of Victoria and completed a Master's in Education with the University of British Columbia.

Dr. Jonathan Rose is the department head of Political Studies at Queen's University. He has provided advice to governments and the Supreme Court of Canada on electoral reform and lectures around the world on Citizens' Assemblies. In 2006, he was Academic Director of the Ontario Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform. He has since led the Prince Edward County Citizens' Assembly and co-led the Lethbridge Citizens Assembly. He is co-author of the books, *When Citizens Decide: Lessons from Citizens Assemblies*, and *Deliberative Mini-Publics: Core Design Features*.



Dr. Melanee Thomas is a Professor in the Department of Political Science at the University of Calgary. One of her areas of research is studying the causes and consequences of gender-based political inequality, with a particular focus on political attitudes and behaviour. Her objectives are to identify how Canadians think about themselves in politics, explain how this is structured by gender and sexism, racism and colonialism, and then develop potential solutions that ameliorate and strengthen our democratic politics.

Dr. Graham White is Professor Emeritus of Political Science at the University of Toronto. His research focuses on the structures and processes of Canadian government, including the political institutions of Nunavut, the Yukon and the Northwest Territories. Dr. White is a former President of the Canadian Political Science Association and served for five years as English Co-editor of the Canadian Journal of Political Science.

Panelists:

Lane Tredger,
MLA for Whitehorse Centre

John Streicker,
MLA for Mount Lorne-Southern Lakes

Dave Brekke,
Fair Vote Yukon

Keegan Newnham-Boyd,
Vote 16 Yukon

Advisory Group Members:

Kelvin Leary is a retired Yukon civil servant, who most recently served as the Deputy Minister of the Executive Council Office. He spent over 30 years in the Yukon and federal public service and is still involved in mentoring public service leaders.

Marjan Ehsassi is the Executive Director of the Federation for Innovation in Democracy – North America (FIDE-NA). She is a governance and democratic innovations expert. She completed her Doctorate in International Affairs at Johns Hopkins University and has researched and supported the design and implementation of citizens' assemblies in Europe and North America.

Lindsay Cornell is the Executive Director of BGC Yukon. She has lived and/or worked in every Canadian province and territory, and has spent her career in youth justice and advocacy. Lindsay holds a Master of Science degree in social science from the University of Edinburgh and sits on many Yukon boards and committees.

Yukon Citizens' Assembly Team

Sara McPhee-Knowles, Assembly Chair

Christy Huey, Deputy Chair

Michael Vernon, Communications

Heather Roach, Admin

Jonathan Rose, Academic Lead

Ernie Lennie, Elder-in-Residence

Appendices

Appendix A: Yukon Electoral System Scenarios

Appendix B: Public Submissions

Appendix C: Selection Letter from the Yukon Bureau of Statistics

Facilitators:

Cali Battersby

Heather Perez

Matthew Mason

Robert McConnell

Chloe Godson

Marie Migullas

Mehak Kaur

Sumit Nayak

