

Democratic Renewal: A Clear Question and a Binding Vote

The Hon. Wade MacLauchlan gives notice that tomorrow he will move, seconded by Pat Murphy, the following Motion:

WHEREAS Islanders voted in a plebiscite on democratic renewal in November of 2016;

AND WHEREAS the plebiscite was the continuation of the process that began with the release of the White Paper on Democratic Renewal in July of 2015;

AND WHEREAS following the release of the White Paper an all-party committee held multiple public hearings across Prince Edward Island;

AND WHEREAS there is an understanding that many Islanders desire renewal in the way we choose representatives to the Legislative Assembly;

AND WHEREAS the Mixed Member Proportional Representation model achieved the highest level of support;

AND WHEREAS participation in the plebiscite was proportionately low, in comparison to the Island's traditional high voter turnouts during general elections;

- SO WHAT?

AND WHEREAS there is an understanding that tying a vote on electoral reform to a general election will undoubtedly raise turnout;

QUESTIONABLE

AND WHEREAS the November 2016 vote was under the terms of the *Plebiscite Act*;

- What act will accompany this motion?

AND WHEREAS plebiscites are non-binding;

AND WHEREAS a clear question in a binding referendum on democratic renewal will give all Islanders the confidence of knowing that there is broad-based support for a new electoral system;

AND WHEREAS a binding referendum will underline the importance of the decision facing Islanders - and provide an opportunity for respectful and informed debate;

ALREADY HAS THAT

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this Assembly consider a specific *Referendum on Democratic Renewal Act* that will bind government to its results;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this legislation will honour the plebiscite results by including the Mixed Member Proportional Representation option that was voted upon in 2016 as one of two choices in a clear and binding referendum;

16 Nov., 2016

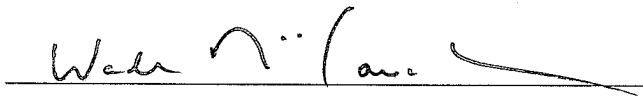
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AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Members of the Legislative Assembly debate and determine the alternative to Mixed Member Proportional Representation - so that the *Referendum on Democratic Renewal Act* will include a clear and precise choice as part of its statutory authority;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this *Referendum on Democratic Renewal Act* be passed into law prior to the next general election;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the proposed referendum on a clear question be held in conjunction with the next provincial election.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Wade MacLauchlan", written above a horizontal line.

Premier Wade MacLauchlan

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Pat Murphy", written above a horizontal line.

Pat Murphy