

For Immediate Release

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PEI casts ballots for Electoral Reform this fall.

Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, July 7, 2016— The Provincial Government has now approved all legislation to allow for a plebiscite on Electoral Reform to be held in the fall of 2016 which will be coordinated by Elections PEI.

A committee on Democratic Renewal gathered information from Islanders in the fall of 2015 and spring of 2016 and recommended five options be used in a Plebiscite to determine how members of the Legislative Assembly are elected.

“Is it time for change? That’s the question facing Island voters this fall with four new options, First-Past-The-Post plus Leaders, Dual Member Proportional, Mixed Member Proportional, Preferential Voting, plus our current system of First-Past-The-Post” says Chief Electoral Officer of PEI, Gary McLeod.

The Plebiscite voting period will be from October 29th until November 7th 2016. During this 10 day period, Islanders will be able to vote electronically by internet or touch tone telephone. There will also be two days, Friday November 4th and Saturday November 5th, of in-person voting at polling stations which will be located across the Province.

Following a tendering process, Montreal based company, Simply Voting, has been awarded the contract to conduct the electronic voting process on behalf of Elections PEI. “This will be the first time in Canada that an electronic voting process will be used in any type of Provincial election” states McLeod. “The advancement in technology in recent years in conjunction with the experience of Simply Voting will provide a stable, secure and simple voting process to Islanders”. “We will also be offering traditional polling stations for those who choose to vote using paper ballots” says McLeod.

This will also be the first time in Canada 16 and 17 year olds will be eligible to vote. As these young people will be of voting age at the next Provincial Election, the Committee on Democratic Renewal also recommended that they be engaged in the process.

Upcoming public education events will be listed on a new website being launched; www.yourchoicepei.ca, which will be a complete digital source of information for the plebiscite on electoral reform. This will be used to complement our public education tools on social media with the use of Facebook and Twitter as the Elections PEI team will visit communities and events across the Island this summer and fall.

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