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Via Email
citizenengagement@gov.bc.ca

Ministry of Attorney General

Re: Electoral Reform – How We Vote - Recommendations from Unifor on 2018 Referendum

Unifor is Canada's largest private sector union, with more than 315,000 members across the country, working in every major sector of the Canadian economy.

Unifor has called for electoral systems in Canada that:

1. Make every vote count
2. Forms governments in proportion to the number of votes cast per party; and
3. Upholds local representation

The voting system in BC is broken. It's time to fix it. Our current electoral system is one of the last western democracies that continue to use the antiquated system of First-Past-the-Post.

Electoral reform is an issue that all trade unionists should be concerned about. On behalf of fairness and equity, we seek to defend and strengthen rights. To make long-standing positive change in our communities, we need a new voting system where every vote counts.

In response to the Attorney General's request for public input on the process for the upcoming referendum on proportional representation - Unifor endorses the submission to the Attorney General by "Make Every Voter Count" in whole. (see attached MEVC submission)

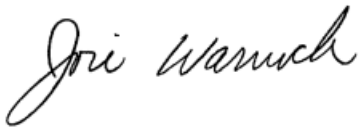
For ease of reference – a summary of the three key recommendations:

1. Ballot Question: The ballot should include a specific question requesting a public mandate to adopt proportional voting that is linked to a transparent public process to choose a specific proportional system.

2. Timing of Referendum: The referendum campaign should not overlap with the fall municipal election campaigns.

3. Campaign Finance and Third-Party Advertising Regulations: The referendum should be subject to regulations that limit the influence of big money.

In solidarity,



Joie Warnock
Western Regional Director



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JW/GM/ja:cope343

Encl.

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