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Ministry of Attorney General

VIA EMAIL: [citizenengagement@gov.bc.ca](mailto:citizenengagement@gov.bc.ca)

**Re: public engagement on electoral reform**

Sierra Club BC is British Columbia's oldest environmental non-profit. We believe that electoral reform will not only strengthen public faith and participation in British Columbia's democratic institutions, but will also lead to better environmental outcomes over the long term.

We thank the Province for engaging citizens through its "How We Vote" process and for the opportunity to provide our perspective.

British Columbia's current "First Past the Post" system (FPTP) is a holdover from a bygone era and a cause of ever-dwindling citizen engagement with our democratic institutions. This is seen most dramatically in consistently poor voter turnout, election after election.

Under FPTP, citizens believe their vote does not count, which continues to have a corrosive effect on civic life. To reinvigorate our democracy, FPTP must be replaced with proportional representation.

Sierra Club BC has participated in the deliberative conversations conducted by Make Every Voter Count (MEVC) and supports the proposals put forward in MEVC's submission (attached).

MEVC's submission recommends the following:

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.

Sierra Club BC endorses MEVC's submission and recommends the adoption of its proposals.