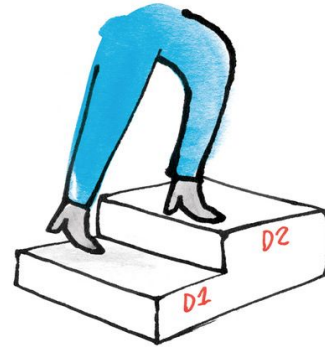


Democracy's Second Act



Citizen Councils: An international perspective

Peter MacLeod, Principal, MASS LBP
@petermacleod @masslbp



years of **MASS LBP**

An unusual decade-long Canadian experiment in deliberative democracy

Share the story of this experiment and why I think it points towards democracy's second act.



John

The students' Assembly on Federal Reform Draft Report

Dianne
Cary

Salvación

Tamara

Ta

“...people who have so little going on in their lives that they are prepared to spend 18 weekends discussing proportional representation”

Christina Blizzard, The Toronto Sun



“...looking for some excitement in their humdrum lives.”

Ian Urquhart, The Toronto Star



“It’s ridiculous.”

Professor Nelson Wiseman, University of Toronto



METROLINX
 An agency of the Government of Ontario
 Une agence du gouvernement de l'Ontario

A special invitation to help create the next transportation plan for the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area
 Une invitation spéciale à la création du prochain plan de transport pour la région du grand Toronto et de Hamilton

Response required by
March 1
 Réponse exigée d'ici
 1 MARS

Dear Resident of
 #8-1212 Sky Blue Drive
 Toronto, ON M5A 4F4

CANADA POST / POSTES CANADA
 Postage paid / Lettre payée / Post paid / Poste aux lettres

Citizens' Reference Panel on Pharmacare in Canada
 An initiative funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research and partners
 Groupe consultatif de citoyens sur l'assurance-médicaments publique au Canada
 Une initiative financée par les Instituts de recherche en santé du Canada et partenaires

This letter has been sent to only 10,000 households across Canada
 Cette lettre n'a été envoyée qu'à 10 000 ménages à travers le Canada

A special opportunity to help shape government policy concerning the cost of prescription drugs
 Une occasion spéciale pour aider à la création d'une politique gouvernementale sur le coût des médicaments d'ordonnance

Resident of / À l'occupant du
 Smith Ln
 MB R3B 1E1

Deadline
 September 23
 Date limite
 23 septembre

CANADA POST / POSTES CANADA
 Postage paid / Lettre payée / Post paid / Poste aux lettres

TORONTO

Only 12,000 households in Toronto have been randomly selected to receive this invitation
 We need you to volunteer for the City of Toronto's new Planning Review Panel

Resident of
 #2-400 Roncesvalles Ave
 Toronto, ON M6R 2Z0

Deadline
October 6
 Respond Today

CANADA POST / POSTES CANADA
 Postage Paid / Adressé / Adressé / Adressé / Post paid / Poste aux lettres

38 Citizens' Assemblies and Reference Panels across Canada



Planning priorities,
City of Toronto



Noise management,
Toronto Pearson



Condominium legislation,
Government of Ontario

Digital Identity and Privacy

Regional transportation priorities

Housing legislation

Income polarization

Supervised Injection Services

Hospital Services and Budgeting

Municipal Amalgamation

Long-term land use planning

Compensation for municipal councillors

Heavy infrastructure

Airport Noise

Municipal Revenues

Pharmaceutical insurance

Mental Health

Municipal Planning Policies

Cancer Care

Public Housing

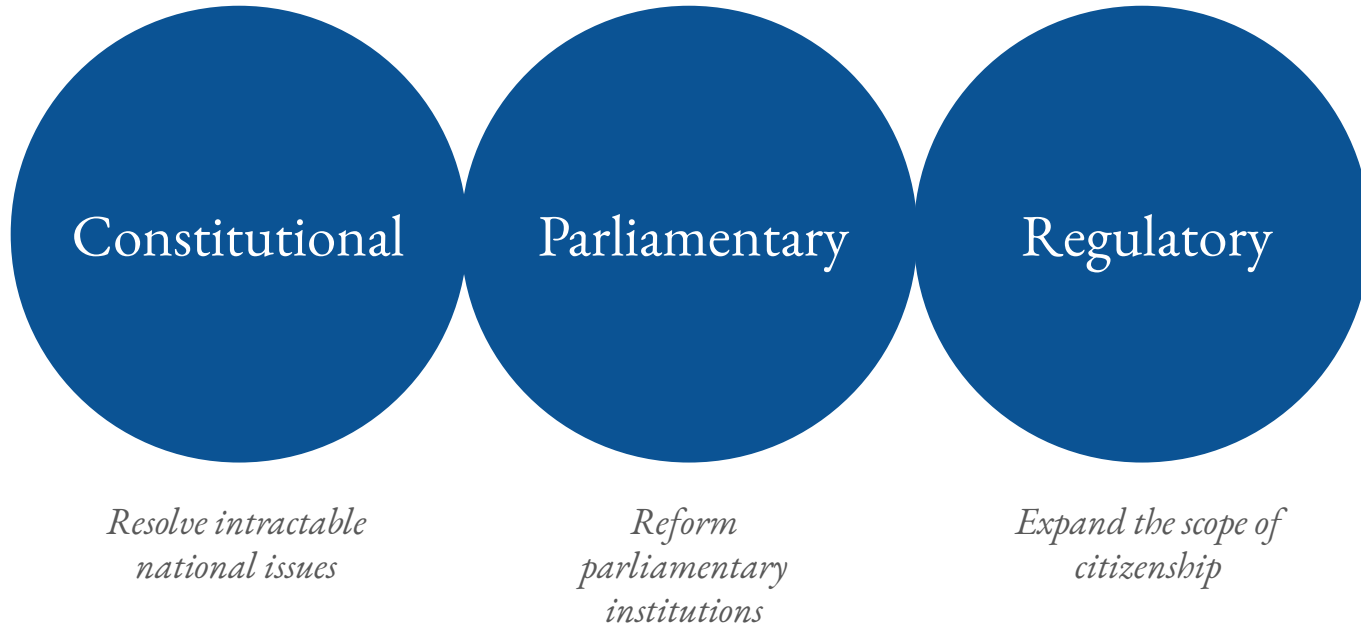


Citizens' Reference Panel on Pharmacare in Canada (2016)



Canadian Citizens' Assembly on Democratic Expression — *Harmful Speech and Digital Technologies* (2020)

Three deliberative projects within the 'wave'



Update the policy sequence



Update the policy sequence



A different way of doing politics

Fundamentally, democracy is about enfranchisement.

It is about widening the circle, adding seats to the table.

This *deliberative wave* is the start of *democracy's second act*

Elitism

Men with titles

Men with land

Men of the correct faith

Men

Women with men-at-arms

Women

Minority groups

Indigenous peoples

Prisoners

People with developmental disabilities

Children

Men with titles

Men with land

Men of the correct faith

Men

Women with men-at-arms

Women

Minority groups

Indigenous peoples

Prisoners

People with developmental disabilities

Children

Capability

A shifting ratio

1:1

One person,
one vote

A shifting ratio

1:1

v

1:100,000

One person,
one vote

One representative, one hundred
thousand voters

*Where's our best prospect for driving down
the second ratio?*

Constitutional

Parliamentary

Regulatory

We are living in a populist and anti-liberal age

PROPOSAL

Game-changer: Creating Canada's Democratic Action Fund

A plan for giving Canadians a seat at the table and creating better public policy

At scale
80
per year

Creating a Democratic Action Fund

The Democratic Action Fund would provide opportunities for more Canadians to shape the policies that shape their lives. Fully funded, the Democratic Action Fund would reach 800,000 Canadian households each year and provide deliberative programming for as many as 3,000 Canadians, contributing more than 120,000 hours of volunteer time to policy-making. Within ten years, every Canadian would receive an invitation to participate in one or more deliberative processes.

Moreover, these projects would:

- Support the creation of an active and engaged citizenship;
- Work to close the gap between elites and the general public;
- Increase trust in government;
- Create more responsive public policies that enjoy broad, popular support; and
- Bolster our existing system of representative democracy against the trends of rising populism, pessimism and polarization.

PROPOSAL: DEMOCRATIC ACTION FUND

People want a say but they're also willing to serve.

People want a say but they're also willing to serve.

The problem isn't that we ask too much of people, but too little.

To learn more, visit masslbp.com

Peter MacLeod, Principal, MASS LBP
@petermacleod @masslbp

