

# WSSR WORKSHOPS ON SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH

## Electoral and Democratic Reform

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January 27, 2017

9:00am – 4:30pm

### Outline

#### **Democracy**

- A brief history of democracy
- Its multiple objectives
- Its essential components
- The democratic deficit in Canada: getting better or worse?

#### **Canada Elections Act**

- It's history
- Its mandate
- The role of the Chief Electoral Officer
- How does Canada compare?
- Bill C-23 "Fair" Elections Act & Bill C-33

#### **Class Discussion** (please come prepared for this discussion)

How to reform the Canada Elections Act?

### Required Readings

- Fair Elections: <https://www.liberal.ca/realchange/fair-elections/>
- Electoral Reform: <https://www.liberal.ca/realchange/electoral-reform/>
- Government Advertising: <https://www.liberal.ca/realchange/government-advertising/>
- Political Financing: <https://www.liberal.ca/realchange/political-financing/>
- Leaders' Debates: <https://www.liberal.ca/realchange/leaders-debates/>
- Mandate letter to the Minister of Democratic Institutions: <http://pm.gc.ca/eng/minister-democratic-institutions-mandate-letter>

### Recommended Readings

- "Fair" Elections Act [http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/AnnualStatutes/2014\\_12/page-1.html](http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/AnnualStatutes/2014_12/page-1.html)
- Legislative Summary of Bill C-33: An Act to Amend the Canada Elections Act (2014) Legal and Social Affairs Division <http://www.parl.gc.ca/HousePublications/Publication.aspx?Language=E&Mode=I&DocId=8626914>
- Special Committee on Electoral Reform Report 3: Strengthening Democracy in Canada: Principles, Process and Public Engagement for Electoral Reform. Presented to the House: December 1, 2016 <http://www.parl.gc.ca/HousePublications/Publication.aspx?Language=e&Mode=I&Parl=42&Ses=I&DocId=8655791>