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December 12, 2016

Hon. Maryam Monsef
Minister of Democratic Institutions
546-S Centre Block
House of Commons

Dear Minister Monsef,

I am writing today to provide you with notice that, in light of your recent responses in Question Period, I intend to ask questions of you regarding MyDemocracy.ca and your government's planned agenda on electoral reform during your upcoming appearance before the Standing Committee on Procedure and House Affairs (PROC) on December 13, 2016.

I have also placed notice of motion with PROC, enclosed, to invite you back to the committee to discuss those topics at a later date. If you are not comfortable answering these questions, I will move that motion so that you can come back to provide answers when you are more fully prepared. I am hopeful your Liberal colleagues on PROC will agree to it swiftly.

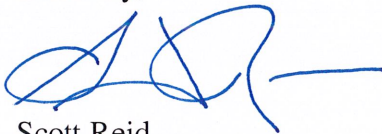
The reason for my questions tomorrow, and for my motion, is that, thus far in Question Period, you have not given specific answers to these questions, asked to you in the House. Some of these questions are as follows:

- Who made the final decisions regarding the wording of the questions and, after a version of the questionnaire was field-tested in November, which questions would be included, which would be excluded, and which would be added after the results of that field-test were known?
- Why didn't the government include questions from the special committee's online survey, such as whether Canadians want a referendum on any proposal for change, as recommended by the committee in its second report?

- How does the government's contractor for MyDemocracy.ca, Vox Pop Labs, screen out multiple responses from single individuals, from non-citizens, and from malicious users?
- How does the contractor avoid screening out multiple, valid responses from single devices or IP addresses, such as the case of multiple respondents living in a single device household, or using public internet access points?
- Will you make public the numbers and details of responses that were excluded for any reason, and explain those reasons in detail?
- Why, until this past weekend, were responses unaccompanied by personal information to be discarded from the final results, why was this policy not clearly advertised to respondents when filling out those questions, why did it take until the survey was live for a week and a half to realize this was a problem and to address the issue, and why did you obfuscate on this question when asked multiple times in the House, preferring to talk about the ability of Canadians to participate instead of whether their responses would be counted?
- Why do many questions on your survey include obviously false choices, misrepresentations of reality, unnecessarily simplified alternatives, and clearly biased "even if" statements, when clearly acceptable alternatives, in the form of questions included in the special committee's questionnaire, were available for months?
- Why did you accuse the special committee of taking a pass on the hard choices, and tell the House that "it did not complete the hard work we had expected it to", while at the same time failing to ask substantive questions to Canadians in your own, subsequent questionnaire at MyDemocracy.ca, apart from those on the secondary matters of mandatory voting, online voting, and lowering the voting age?

For your information, I have made this letter public on my website, and will be distributing copies to members of the Standing Committee on Procedure and House Affairs.

Sincerely,



Scott Reid

Encl.

Notice of motion from Scott Reid, MP
Friday, December 9, 2016

That the Committee invite the Minister of Democratic Institutions to appear for not less than two hours to answer questions regarding MyDemocracy.ca and the government's planned agenda for electoral reform.

Avis de motion de Scott Reid, député
Le vendredi 9 décembre 2016

Que le Comité invite la ministre des Institutions démocratiques à comparaître pendant au moins deux heures pour répondre à des questions sur Madémocratie.ca et sur les intentions du gouvernement concernant la réforme électorale.