## Fair Representation for Nova Scotians: Petition to the House of Assembly

A petition to ensure Nova Scotians have a fair electoral system

We, the undersigned residents of Nova Scotia, draw the attention of the Nova Scotia House of Assembly to the following:

- That fair representation is central to any functioning democracy;
- That women, African Nova Scotians, Acadians, Aboriginals and other cultural and ethnic minorities have historically been under-represented in the House of Assembly;
- That recent electoral boundary changes did not meet the democratic expectations of many electors, and illustrate the need for a wider examination of Nova Scotia's electoral democracy;
- That the Nova Scotia Electoral Boundaries Commission recognized their mandate was limited in such a way that changes would be unsatisfactory to many, and recommended "the Nova Scotia Legislature initiate a process involving both extensive critical examination and public consultation on the current electoral system as well as possible alternatives to it."
- That the Nova Scotia Electoral Boundaries Commission also recommended that the Legislature "establish a process for consulting with key minority groups, in particular the Acadian and African Nova Scotian communities, for the purpose of determining alternative means for achieving fair and effective minority representation."

THEREFORE, your petitioners call upon the Nova Scotia House of Assembly to implement these two recommendations by immediately initiating an open, public, transparent, citizen-driven consultative process to examine voting system options and improving Nova Scotia's democracy.

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