



Voters chose to reject MMP

October 13, 2007

Wary voters opt to keep status quo

Oct. 11

Wednesday night we saw democracy in action and in full force. Ontarians overwhelmingly rejected the mixed-member proportional system and voted 63 per cent in favour of our existing electoral system.

Ironically, first-past-the-post met the double majority that MMP needed to win. Premier Dalton McGuinty said at the beginning of this process that we did not choose our electoral system, but rather we inherited it. The results of Wednesday night show that FPTP is now the democratically chosen electoral system of Ontario.

Polls by Environics and the Strategic Counsel done early in the campaign showed that there were many who did not know about the referendum and were undecided. But as the campaign wore on, all polls indicated that people were more informed, less undecided and less willing to vote for MMP. Every poll indicated that FPTP had momentum among voters. An SES poll on Oct. 9 showed that only 17 per cent of people surveyed felt uncomfortable making a decision on the referendum.

So much for the claim that Ontarians were uninformed. To say otherwise is to insult the voters' intelligence. If we respect democracy, we must respect the decisions of all democratic exercises, including this one.

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