Hello, so-and-so,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Waterloo Region Chapter of Fair Vote Canada to suggest an idea we would like to discuss with your group. I know you are familiar with the mandate of our non-partisan organization to promote electoral reform toward some form of Proportional Representation (PR) in Canada. You may be aware that PR is used in most democratic countries around the world, and that there is evidence that many of these countries have better social policies and better records in fighting climate change than we have in Canada. Because of this evidence, we feel that the mandates of Fair Vote Canada and several other grass roots citizen groups are compatible, and that we might find ways to work together.

Since the Trudeau government abandoned electoral reform during its first mandate, Fair Vote Canada has been asking the government to create a Citizens’ Assembly to investigate electoral systems and make recommendations for reforming Canada’s system. It is felt that the government may be open to taking this step toward electoral reform , since the reason Trudeau gave for abandoning any change in the voting system was that there was ‘no consensus’ among Canadians regarding the need for change. A Citizens’ Assembly could offer the consensus that was felt to be lacking in 2017.

We were very encouraged this past November, when Jagmeet Singh of the NDP wrote a letter to Trudeau (attached) offering to work with the Liberal government to create a Citizens’ Assembly for this purpose. The Green Party also indicated their agreement.

We feel that this is a good time to support this proposal in communicating with our local MPs about the benefits of a Citizens’ Assembly, and we feel that a joint effort with other grass roots groups, such as yours may give a stronger message for our MPs to communicate to Trudeau. We are wondering whether a representative or two from your group would be interested in attending a joint Zoom meeting with representatives from ours and other groups, to discuss ways in which we might combine our efforts to achieve our goals.

Looking forward to your response to this idea,

Changed the name of our Chapter to include Kitchener, and what support in Cambridge and the Townships we have, and the name of the corporation. Changed the wording to make it not be an exclusively NDP idea—that there is already cooperation on this issue in Parliament (and mostly not to tick off Green Party members who are also involved in these advocacy groups without minimizing Singh’s effort.)

I really like it because it is clear on our intentions and yet short. I do wonder if we might include a link to the Fair Vote Canada website that deals with the evidence of concern to that particular advocacy group. We have:

[PR and the Economy](https://www.fairvote.ca/economy/)

[PR and Climate Change Action](https://www.fairvote.ca/climate/)

[PR and Health](https://www.fairvote.ca/health/)

[Women and PR](https://www.fairvote.ca/women/)

[PR and Income Inequality](https://www.fairvote.ca/pr-and-inequality/)

So it won’t do every organization, but for those who deal with the above, it might make it more relevant to them.

Jenn