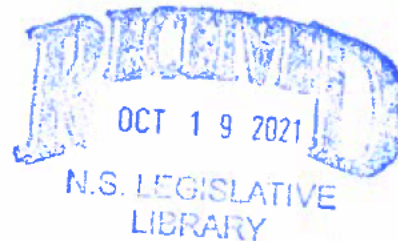


Submission to the Law Amendments Committee.



In reference to the proposed law to have a fixed election in July. These are my thoughts and the effects this timing has on many people in the province.

- 1) Many families plan vacation time around this time of year. For example: A campaign worker must give up any vacation plans for at least 5-6 weeks prior to the election day. Besides affecting the campaign worker it may affect his/her families and other families from afar who may choose to visit at this time.
- 2) In our area many people (voters) move to the beach on week-ends and sometimes during the week as soon as weather permits. Knocking on doors with no one home and leaving election information is not productive for anyone. Just more flyers littering the neighbourhood.
- 3) Summer elections at this time may not be a great time to find campaign workers as the economy tends to find a job for most wishing to work.
- 4) Candidates trying to host events will have difficulty arranging them around school closings, kid's sports, summer camps, and holidays.
- 5) Credit for establishing the next election date must be extended to the present government. The recent summer election call created unnecessary hardships for many folks who already had summer schedules planned well in advance to the election call.

In addition to the proposed law an addendum needs to be added. This addendum would include provisions for changes to this law. The changes would require the support of the Governing Party and the Official Opposition. This addendum will require a grace period of at least a 2 weeks after an election date is announced. The need for the grace period is to provide a level playing field. This grace period can be used to find suitable office space, installation of internet, production of flyers, sign production and organization of campaign teams. Presently the governing party has a one week advantage over the opposition parties as they know when the call will be made.

In summation the establishment of a fixed election date deserves credit given to the new government. The timing I feel is best served by moving it to the fall or earlier to the spring. No government should be allowed to call a snap election without announcing a grace period and approval by the Official Opposition Party.

Submitted by:

Cecil Smith