

Feedback from the public sent to Bob Bromley

RE: Motion requesting authority to extend the term of the current Assembly

March 13, 2014

All comments are from individual, private citizens and should not be taken to represent the views of their employers.

From: Mike Mitchell [mailto:mitchemma@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 06, 2014 9:32 PM
To: Bob Bromley
Subject: 2016 election

Hi Bob- about this 2016 proposal: I'll accept the idea if the Premier will agree to postpone the implementation date of Devolution one more year. It doesn't make a bit of sense to rush headlong to April 1, 2014 when big questions like liability for mine cleanup remain unresolved.

Mike Mitchell

from: jack danylchuk [mailto:jdanylchuk1@me.com]
Sent: Friday, March 07, 2014 6:07 AM
To: Bob Bromley
Cc: jack danylchuk
Subject: another year?

Good morning Mr. Bromley: Jane Groenewagen's proposal to extend the life of this legislature and its un-elected premier by another year is an outrage and insult to voters; it suggests that the electorate isn't capable of holding more than one thought at the same time and that voters will be overcome with fatigue if they are asked to exercise their franchise three times in one month. Nonsense. If NWT legislators want to extend the term to five years from four, the time to put that proposal forward is in the 2015 election, as a separate question - given that this is a 'consensus' government - or claims to be. In the meantime, the government must address the sad lack of knowledge of governance in the Northwest Territories, as described in the report by the Electoral Boundaries Commission. I hope your mailbox and the mailbox of every other MLA is flooded with notes like this.

Best Regards,
Jack Danylchuk

From: Salty T [mailto:slacker@theedge.ca]
Sent: Friday, March 07, 2014 8:02 AM
To: Bob Bromley
Subject: Extending the legislature term

Hey Bob.

I hope you're voting no to this...I can't see you voting yes. Move the vote up, have it on the same day as the feds – whatever you guys want. But as you answer to the people, you cannot simply ask the federal government to extend your term as they are not actually the authority from which you derive your legitimacy.

It might be hard for this government to understand, but as voters, we can keep more than one issue straight (especially because the federal election is so simple). My two cents? Have it on the same day and save us some money.

Regards,
Todd Slack.

From: Anderson [mailto:and@theedge.ca]
Sent: Friday, March 07, 2014 11:19 AM
To: Bob Bromley
Subject: Term of Office

Bob –

There was a request from the Legislative Assembly for feedback re: possibly extending the term of office from 4 to 5 years.

In my view, such an extension would be a conflict of interest for sitting MLAs. We did not vote in MLAs for a 5 year term and there is some dead wood in the Assembly that many would like to get rid of. The MLAs that have floated this idea knew when they were elected that there are fixed terms for Federal, Territorial and Municipal elections. Knowing this before they were elected, they should have brought up this issue at that time if they thought it important.

The possibility of voter "fatigue" is disrespectful to those voters who take voting seriously.

James Anderson

> On Mar 7, 2014, at 12:43 PM, "craig yeo" <craig.yeo@gmail.com> wrote:

>

> A defiant voice on record. Thank you.

>

> Pair this up with the federal vote suppression law and why would the citizens bother to show up?

From: Janice McKenna <janicemckenna@theedge.ca>

Date: March 7, 2014 at 10:03:46 AM HST

To: "robert_hawkins@gov.nt.ca" <robert_hawkins@gov.nt.ca>

Subject: Extension

Hello Robert, I am writing to let you know that I am not in favour of this proposed extension. I believe we as constituents voted in the previous election in knowledge of the specific time frame for that term in office. I further believe I have another vote at the end of the term to continuing supporting my vote or making another choice. If the proposed extension is approved, I would be very disappointed in this current government. And I request you to vote against it. Jan.

From: JULIE GREEN [<mailto:juliegreen@theedge.ca>]

Sent: Friday, March 07, 2014 2:16 PM

To: Tom Beaulieu; Robert Hawkins; Michael Nadli; Wendy Bisaro; Glen Abernethy; Robert Bouchard; Jane Groenewegen; Robert C McLeod; David Ramsay; Frederick Blake; Alfred Moses; Kevin Menicoche; "Norman_Yakeleya"@gov.nt.ca; Michael Miltenberger; Jackson Lafferty; Bob McLeod; Bob Bromley

Subject: No to one year extension

I want to record with you my opposition to the motion proposed yesterday to extend the 17th Assembly by one year. This move is anti-democratic in the sense that there is no opportunity for public consultation, and little time (five days) for public debate. With devolution scheduled to make place in about three weeks, I don't see the necessity of government continuity for an additional 2.5 years. In 1.5 years, on the original election date, people should have a say about the performance of their MLAs and the decisions they have made about devolution.

I can imagine a situation in which one or more MLA resigns in 2015 to run for the federal seat or as mayor of a tax-based community. That means there will be a by-election and the additional cost - or leaving the seat open, which is worse.

I urge you to leave the election date where it is and face the electors with your skills and decision-making record and see whether they want to return you to the assembly.

Best,

Julie Green
Yellowknife

From: Mark Bogan [mailto:markbogan@rocketmail.com]

Sent: Friday, March 07, 2014 3:30 PM

To: Glen Abernethy; David Ramsay; Daryl Dolynny; Bob McLeod; Robert Hawkins; Robert Bouchard; Robert C McLeod; Michael Nadli; Jackson Lafferty; Tom Beaulieu; Wendy Bisaro; Jane Groenewegen; Kevin Menicoche; Norman Yakeleya; Bob Bromley; Alfred Moses; Jackie Jacobson; Michael Miltenberger; Frederick Blake

Subject: five year term

I oppose extending the life of this Assembly to a five year term.

Thank you.

From: Lois Little [mailto:loislutra@ssimicro.com]

Sent: Friday, March 07, 2014 1:37 PM

To: Andrew Robinson; Bob Bromley

Subject: MLA Weledeh News Release

Thank you for this release. The democratic chill sweeping the country is very disturbing. When I heard the motion yesterday, my first thought was that the PMO is now dictating to the GNWT not only on devolution and environment regulation but on democratic rights and freedoms. Not only is the GNWT rolling over indigenous rights but also the rights of all northerners - both equally unacceptable.

Lois

From: Michael Corbett <mcorbett@theedge.ca>
Date: March 8, 2014 at 2:00:57 PM MST
To: <bob_bromley@gov.nt.ca>
Subject: FW: Mandate Extension

Bob,

You have my backing and support in rejecting, as you state, “this unethical and embarrassing” motion to extend the Assembly Mandate.

I have sent the following to all MLAs.

“I am sending the following note to all MLAs:

Although you are not my representative in the NWT legislative Assembly I firmly believe that, as an elected MLA, you are obligated to act in the best interest of all residents of the NWT.

That being said, I emphatically request that you vote against the motion to extend the current mandate by up to one year.

I do not believe that you have the moral or ethical authority to even request this action. The people of the NWT voted for their MLAs for a four-year term and without going back to the electorate for approval, this Assembly cannot extend its mandate.

Also, to suggest that voters would be confused and/or frustrated with the possibility of up to 3 elections taking place in a relatively short period of time denigrates the intelligence of all Canadians and particularly the electors in the NWT.

If you really must change the election date why not make it shorter rather than longer?

Please show all residents of the NWT the respect that we so justly deserve.”

Michael Corbett
3802 McAvoy Road
Yellowknife, NT
X1A 2G9
867-766-3808

From: Lois Little <loislutra@ssimicro.com>

Date: March 9, 2014 at 1:32:14 PM MDT

To: <glen_abernethy@gov.nt.ca>, <tom_beaulieu@gov.nt.ca>, Wendy Bisaro <Wendy_Bisaro@gov.nt.ca>, <frederick_blake@gov.nt.ca>, <robert_bouchard@gov.nt.ca>, Bob Bromley <Bob_Bromley@gov.nt.ca>, <daryl_dolynny@gov.nt.ca>, <jane_groenewegen@gov.nt.ca>, <robert_hawkins@gov.nt.ca>, <jackie_jacobson@gov.nt.ca>, <Jackson_Lafferty@gov.nt.ca>, <bob_mcleod@gov.nt.ca>, <robert_c_mcleod@gov.nt.ca>, <kevin_menicoche@gov.nt.ca>, <michael_miltenberger@gov.nt.ca>, Alfred Moses <alfred_moses@gov.nt.ca>, <michael_nadli@gov.nt.ca>, <david_ramsay@gov.nt.ca>, Norman Yakeleya <Norman_Yakeleya@gov.nt.ca>

Subject: NWT 2015 Elections

This is to express my objection to the motion to defer my right to vote in 2015. A decision to tamper with this fundamental democratic right cannot be made without the full and informed consent of all citizens of the NWT. To propose a weekend to consider deferring my right is an affront to democracy and to the hard fought battle to have the right to vote. Let me remind you that women's right to vote entailed a very long battle and indigenous northerners have only had this right since the 1960s. How brazen of this government to suggest that our right to vote can be deferred at the request of one without any authority, by another that was elected by less than 40% of Canadians and no northerners! Shame on you.

In addition to the undemocratic nature of this motion, I am astounded that a government that has jammed structural and institutional reform down our throats without full disclosure or consensus of all northern governments and citizens, would have the audacity to expect to have its mandate extended. This is a powerful statement of the contempt that the current Legislative Assembly holds for the principles of consensus government and the harmony and future of its citizens.

Reject this motion!

Lois Little
Yellowknife

From: France Benoit <france@francebenoit.com>

Date: March 9, 2014 at 6:27:48 PM MDT

To: "glen_abernethy@gov.nt.ca" <glen_abernethy@gov.nt.ca>, "tom_beaulieu@gov.nt.ca" <tom_beaulieu@gov.nt.ca>, Wendy Bisaro <wendy_bisaro@gov.nt.ca>, "frederick_blake@gov.nt.ca" <frederick_blake@gov.nt.ca>, "robert_bouchard@gov.nt.ca" <robert_bouchard@gov.nt.ca>, Bob Bromley <bob_bromley@gov.nt.ca>, "daryl_dolynny@gov.nt.ca" <daryl_dolynny@gov.nt.ca>, "jane_groenewegen@gov.nt.ca" <jane_groenewegen@gov.nt.ca>, "robert_hawkins@gov.nt.ca" <robert_hawkins@gov.nt.ca>, "jackie_jacobson@gov.nt.ca" <jackie_jacobson@gov.nt.ca>, "Jackson_Lafferty@gov.nt.ca" <jackson_lafferty@gov.nt.ca>, "bob_mcleod@gov.nt.ca" <bob_mcleod@gov.nt.ca>, "robert_c_mcleod@gov.nt.ca" <robert_c_mcleod@gov.nt.ca>, "kevin_menicoche@gov.nt.ca" <kevin_menicoche@gov.nt.ca>, "michael_miltenberger@gov.nt.ca" <michael_miltenberger@gov.nt.ca>, Alfred Moses <alfred_moses@gov.nt.ca>, "michael_nadli@gov.nt.ca" <michael_nadli@gov.nt.ca>, "david_ramsay@gov.nt.ca" <david_ramsay@gov.nt.ca>, Norman Yakeleya <norman_yakeleya@gov.nt.ca>

Subject: Opposition to motion to change election date

Although I can appreciate the need to discuss the management of 3 elections in one month, the way you are going about it is just plain wrong.

I just finished watching the news, what lessons would Ukraine learn from us at this crucial time in their walk towards democracy? If Putin had decided to consult the Russian people for 2 days, over a weekend, before extending his job for one more year, we would have said he was making a farce of democracy. In the NWT, you are doing the same and claim it is so I can better vote next year! What's the difference?

Two days of so-called consultation is a sham, why the rush? What are you afraid of? We've all known about October 2015 for years!

I want an independent committee to review the situation. As a minimum, you should delay by 6 months as in other jurisdictions...please don't use the excuse that we can't have an election because it is winter, or that we can't have an election because it's spring...next thing you know you'll say we can't have an election in the summer because too many people are away!

Please give yourself a good headshake, the world is watching!

France Benoit
Yellowknife

From: Michele Thoms [thoms@theedge.ca]

Sent: Sunday, March 09, 2014 9:44 PM

To: Bob McLeod

Cc: Bob Bromley; Daryl Dolynny; David Ramsay; Frederick Blake; Glen Abernethy; Jackie Jacobson; Jackson Lafferty; Jane_Groenwegen@gov.nt.ca; Kevin Menicoche; Michael Miltenberger; Michael Nadli; Norman Yakeleya; Robert Bouchard; Robert C McLeod; Robert Hawkins; Tom Beaulieu; Wendy Bisaro

Subject: Vote to extend term

I think Linden MacIntyre said it best this weekend in his Fifth Estate piece on Mike Duffy; "when you mistakenly believe that... privilege means entitlement you are already on the threshold of humiliation".

You were privileged to have been elected to your current office for four years. You are not entitled to five. Aside from this vote reeking of a sense of entitlement, some other words that come to mind are unethical, immoral, undemocratic, arrogant and ignorant. I am appalled that you have even considered a vote to extend your own term. The fact that you are actually doing so is abhorrent.

It is not for you to say how long your term is. The electorate did that during the last territorial election. I understood at that time that I was voting for my candidate for a term of 4 years, with the opportunity to re-elect him or vote for someone new at the end of that time.

I strongly disagree with the concerns that having all three elections at the same time would affect voter turn out in a negative way. As a matter of fact, I believe the opposite. Those of us who do vote will continue to vote. Those that do not may be convinced to do so as a result of the increased exposure. How great would it be to have all of my ballots handed to me at once. Considering the fact that I have been asking Elections Canada for years to put my polling station at a location that actually had parking, it would be a dream.

I beg of you not to vote to extend your own terms. I beg of you to represent your constituents in an honest and ethical manner. I beg of you not to cross over the "threshold of humiliation". Should you do so, I hope your constituents take offence and show you how much they do in the next election.

Michèle Thoms

From: Bob Gamble [mailto:gamble_bob@hotmail.com]

Sent: Monday, March 10, 2014 10:56 AM

To: Glen Abernethy; Bob Bromley; Wendy Bisaro; Michael Nadli; (bouchard_robert@gov.nt.ca); (jane_groenwegen@gov.nt.ca); Alfred Moses; Robert C McLeod; David Ramsay; Frederick Blake; Jackson Lafferty; (menicoche_kevin@gov.nt.ca); (jackioe_jacobson@gov.nt.ca); Daryl Dolynny; Norman Yakeleya; (beaulieu_tom@gov.nt.ca); Robert Hawkins; Bob McLeod; Michael Miltenberger

Subject: DO NOT DO IT!

For those of you contemplating to vote in favour of extending your term: don't do it.

At the very least, allow time for full and open public debate on a matter of such importance.

Bob Gamble
Yellowknife

From: Miki [mailto:mikipromislow@yahoo.com]

Sent: Monday, March 10, 2014 11:48 AM

To: Jane Groenewegen; Michael Nadli; Wendy Bisaro; Glen Abernethy; Robert Bouchard; Alfred Moses; Robert C McLeod; David Ramsay; Frederick Blake; Jackson Lafferty; Kevin Menicoche; Jackie Jacobson; Daryl Dolynny; Norman Yakeleya; Michael Miltenberger; Tom Beaulieu; Robert Hawkins; Bob McLeod; Bob Bromley

Subject: Legislative Assembly term should not be extended

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposal to extend the term of this Legislative Assembly by one year.

I agree with those members who have been quoted in the press as saying that it is undemocratic for sitting members to extend their term in office. While I do not disagree with the concept of a 5-year term, or perhaps a term that could vary between 4 and 5 years for future assemblies, it is an affront to democracy for sitting members to essentially vote themselves in for another term.

News of this proposal only came out to the public late last week and is being voted on today. This rushed approach certainly does not allow adequate time for the public to become informed or respond.

Please do not vote in favour of the proposed extension to the term of this Legislative Assembly. The democratic principles that this government is founded on should be respected. The citizens of the NWT that you serve deserve better.

Sincerely,
Miki Ehrlich
Yellowknife

From: Shauna Morgan [mailto:shauna.yk@gmail.com]

Sent: Monday, March 10, 2014 11:36 AM

To: Bob McLeod; Michael Miltenberger; Michael Nadli; Wendy Bisaro; Glen Abernethy; Robert Bouchard; Jane Groenewegen; Alfred Moses; Robert C McLeod; David Ramsay; Frederick Blake; Jackson Lafferty; Kevin Menicoche; Jackie Jacobson; Daryl Dolynny; Norman Yakeleya; Tom Beaulieu; Bob Bromley; Robert Hawkins

Subject: Extending your term is undemocratic

Dear Members, Premier and Cabinet:

I am very concerned about your recent and sudden proposal to get the federal government to extend your term for an extra year.

You are assuming, based on absolutely no public consultation, that Northerners approve of you continuing to steer our collective ship. You are essentially voting yourselves into office for an extra year, and this is clearly undemocratic.

There are many challenges and decisions to be made during this devolution transition, and we need closer public scrutiny during this time, not less. This includes the public being able to vote on who they want to continue steering the devolution ship.

Please reconsider.

Thanks

Shauna Morgan
Yellowknife

From: Deborah Bruser <deborahbruser@gmail.com>

Date: March 9, 2014 at 1:39:34 PM MDT

To: Bob Bromley <bob_bromley@gov.nt.ca>

Cc: Deborah Bruser <deborahbruser@gmail.com>

Subject: Extension of election term...

Good morning Bob,

I expect that I am not alone amongst your constituents in opposing the proposed extension of term for the incumbents currently in place. My reasons for strongly opposing this are as follows:

1. The four year term was what was in place at the time of the last election and should not be varied without going back to the electorate. To attempt to vary this post-election seems to me undemocratic.
2. If a five year term is to be considered this should be fully disclosed and debated prior to the next election.
3. A reason being put forward for changing the length of term at this time is that the current elected officials have a deep knowledge of and investment in the devolution process and should be seeing it through. This seems frail reasoning to me - surely the task of implementation lies with the civil servants who implement and administer legislation (e.g. devolution). As well, those elected knew at the outset what their length of term was and should have been actively engaged in succession planing around that timeline.

Thanks so much for your fine leadership Bob and I am relieved to know that you oppose the extension of term at this time. Thank you for conveying my input and for keeping me updated.

Best regards,

Deborah Bruser

Sent: Friday, March 07, 2014 1:41 PM
To: Jane Groenewegen; Michael Miltenberger; Glen Abernethy
Cc: Bob Bromley
Subject: Extending your mandate

Hello,

Unilaterally extending your mandate is outrageous.

If you need to avoid 3 elections in one month, then why don't you move your election one month earlier, or two months earlier? If for some reason an election just has to be held in the month of October, then why don't you move it to October 2014?

This motion tells me you're getting a little too entrenched in your chairs.

You want to move an election? Make it earlier and avoid this ethical pigsty.

Thanks,

Elizabeth Portman

From: Steve Lacey [<mailto:masked@theedge.ca>]

Sent: Monday, March 10, 2014 10:22 AM

To: Michael Nadli; Wendy Bisaro; Glen Abernethy; Robert Bouchard; Jane Groenewegen; Alfred Moses; Robert C McLeod; David Ramsay; Frederick Blake; Jackson Lafferty; Kevin Menicoche; Jackie Jacobson; Daryl Dolynny; Norman Yakeleya; Michael Miltenberger; Tom Beaulieu; Bob Bromley; Robert Hawkins; Bob McLeod

Subject: Extending the session

Dear Members of the NWT Legislative Assembly,

RE: Motion to ask the Federal Government to extend the term of this legislative session from four years to five

This issue has come up far too suddenly for ordinary citizens to give it due consideration. We would ask the Assembly to delay or table the vote on this motion until sufficient time has passed for a reasonable public debate, if it is possible to do so.

If not, then for your consideration, our opinion is split: in our house there is one voice in favour of delaying the next Territorial election for a year, for reasons of preventing "voter burnout;" and there is one voice in favour of keeping the session to four years, so that voters have the chance to vote out MLAs who are not doing the job to the voters' satisfaction.

Sincerely,

Steve and Dawn Lacey
Yellowknife

