

Community Discussion



Charlottetown, PE

Following the recent coin toss in District 5 (Vernon River - Stratford), the Young Voters of Prince Edward Island and the UPEI Student Union are hosting a community discussion on Wednesday, June 10th at the Guild on the topic of electoral reform.

"With a voter turnout north of 86 per cent, P.E.I. sets the gold standard when it comes to democratic engagement — so I think we were all a little shocked last month to see a tie settled by coin toss," said Matt Campbell, event co-organizer.

"We wanted to bring together a group of knowledgeable people with varying perspectives for an important discussion on the events last month, as well as some of the problems with our current first-past-the-post system and how P.E.I. can achieve meaningful electoral reform."

The event will consist of a panel discussion moderated by author and journalist Dave Atkinson, and will include:

- Don Desserud, Professor - UPEI Department of Political Science
- Mary-Ellen McInnis, PC Candidate – District 5: Vernon River – Stratford
- Peter Bevan-Baker, newly elected MLA for District 17 and Leader of the Green Party of PEI
- Bobby Morrissey, Federal Liberal Candidate in Egmont

"This year, almost a quarter of Islanders voted for parties who received only a single seat between them. Election after election, governments have been formed that do not reflect the will of a majority of voters," said Jesse Hitchcock, event co-organizer.

"The UPEI Student Union "Get Out The Vote" campaign was successful in providing information to student voters regarding the recent provincial election. We look forward to working alongside the Young Voters of PEI as we aim to increase voter engagement in our province and our country," said Dana Kenny, President of the UPEI Student Union.

Doors will open at 6:30 PM, with the event beginning at 7 PM. A Q&A and informal discussion will follow. Admission is free and open to the public, and a cash bar will be available.

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