



SQUAMISH NATION

Election Commission

October 10th, 2017

To Squamish Nation Members.

This letter is to provide an update on the recent work completed by the Squamish Nation Electoral Commission.

From November 2015 when the Commission was first created and appointed to present day, the Electoral Commission has worked to “oversee the development of, and amendments to, the Election and Referendum Law” which included “consultation with Squamish members on the development of, and amendments to, the Election and Referendum Law.” The goal was to achieve Membership’s desire of Election Reform – to amend and update the Squamish Nation’s outdated election rules.

The Electoral Commission is comprised of 8 members as follows:

- **Dave Jacobs** - Elder Representative
- **Christine Baker** - Squamish Valley Representative
- **Jacob Lewis** - Off-Reserve Representative
- **Donalene Rapada** - Off-Reserve Representative
- **Clarissa Antone** - Seymour & Mission Representative
- **Crystal Brown (nee Paull)** - Capilano Representative
- **Shayla Jacobs** - Youth Representative

As well as support from **Brittany John** and **Renee Campbell** as Alternate Members in the event of a resignation, and **Monica Jacobs** as a non-voting member of the Commission and Administrative support. This project was supported by **Dustin Rivers** as a project personnel.

For the past 23 months since first being appointed in Nov 2015, the Electoral Commission has:

- Hosted **42 meetings** with Membership. Talking and hearing from approximately 500 members in 2016.
- Held **43 Electoral Commission meetings** where Commissioners reviewed notes, comments, and feedback collected at consultation meetings, and used these to write the draft Election & Referendum Law.
- Hosted **16 family dinners in May and June 2017** to present on the draft Election Law
- Conducted a survey in Winter 2016 with **161 respondents**.
- Sent out **6 summary reports** on a regular basis.
- Produced a **55-page draft Election & Referendum Law** entirely based on input from Members.

The goal of the process for the last two years was to produce a draft document, written by Membership, that would be put to a referendum vote by Membership. This was always intended to be a document for our Membership, by our Members.

We, unfortunately, have to report that the Squamish Nation will not be going to a referendum to address election reform in this Council term.

In May 2017, the Commission held family dinner meetings with three 'open meetings' for any members to attend, as well as family dinners with the Harry, Newman, Lewis, Baker, Jacobs, Williams/Paull/Rivers, Nahanee, Joseph, Williams, Natrall, George, Antone/Cordocedo, Charlie, and Washington state-based families. At these meetings, we used a survey to collect information on how much Squamish Nation members liked or disliked ideas that had been included in the draft law. The Electoral Commission promised the results of this survey would be shared and we've included here to follow up on that promise,

The Electoral Commission members were there to listen to Membership and include Membership's ideas, thoughts, concerns, and feedback. Our objective was always to listen to our Members and write a draft law that would reflect those wishes.

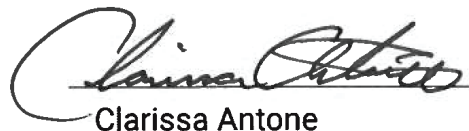
Our hands out to the many members who took time out of their busy schedule to participate and get involved. You all came to help make our community a better place for ourselves and our future generations, and we want to thank you.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Electoral Commission at election_commission@squamish.net, or reach out to individual Commission members.

We thank you all.
Chet kw'enmántumiyap.



Dave Jacobs



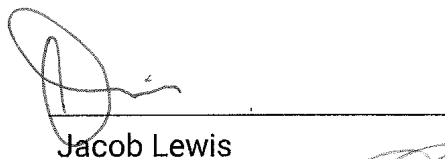
Clarissa Antone



Christine Baker



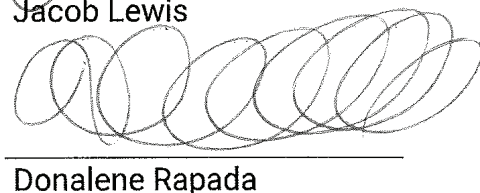
Crystal Brown (nee Paull)



Jacob Lewis



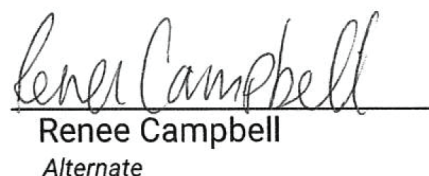
Shayla Jacobs



Donalene Rapada



Brittany Johr
Alternate



Renee Campbell
Alternate

BACKGROUND:

THE SQUAMISH NATION ELECTORAL COMMISSION

- **CONDUCTED A REVIEW WITH SQUAMISH FAMILIES**
- **PRESENTED THE PROPOSED “SQUAMISH NATION REFERENDUM & ELECTION LAW”**
- **THE REVIEW WAS TO PRESENT THE IDEAS COLLECTED FROM MEMBERS**
- **AND SEE HOW MUCH OUR PEOPLE ‘LIKED’ OR ‘DISLIKED’ THE IDEAS IN THE DRAFT LAW.**
- **PLAN WAS TO USE FEEDBACK FROM FAMILY DINNERS TO CREATE FINAL DRAFT FOR REFERENDUM WITH MEMBERSHIP**

IN THIS SURVEY WE COLLECTED 271 RESPONSES FROM 17 FAMILY DINNERS IN MAY-JUNE

DRAFT LAW AND SUMMARY IS AVAILABLE AT SNELECTIONCOMMISSION.COM/DOWNLOADS

IF YOU WOULD LIKE A VERSION WITH LARGER IMAGES, YOU CAN FIND ON OUR WEBSITE OR CONTACT REGISTRY AT 604-982-8607.

Survey Details:

Total # of Respondants: 271

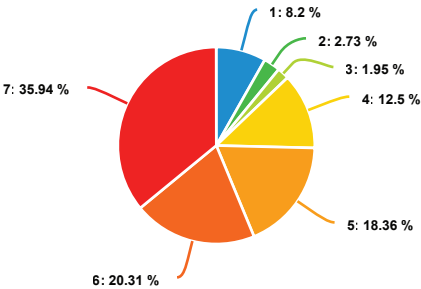
Confidence Level (%): 95

Margin of Error (%): +/- 5.5

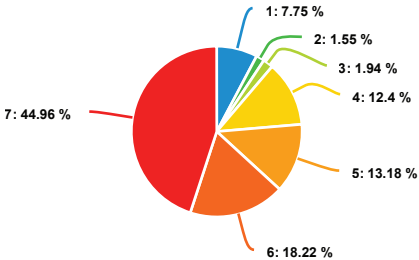
ELECTION REFORM SURVEY FROM MAY-JUNE 2017



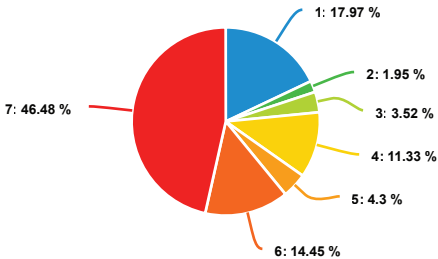
1. How much do you like or dislike the preamble section?



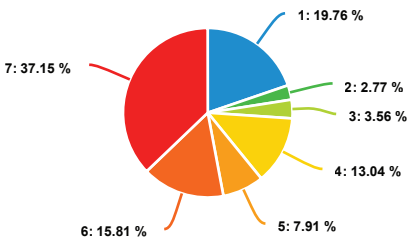
2. How much do you like or dislike the definition of “conduct that is unbecoming a Councillor”?



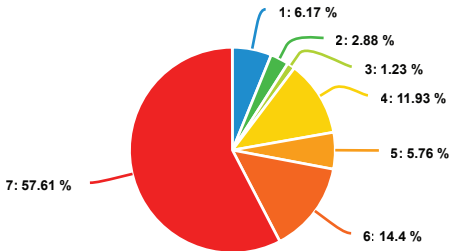
3. How much do you like or dislike the idea that the chair of Council be elected by Membership?



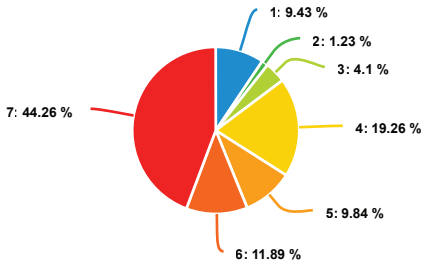
4. How much do you like or dislike having there being dedicated seats on Council for different regions of our nation?



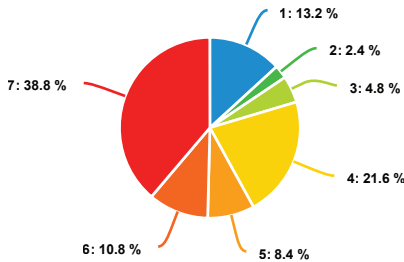
5. How much do you like or dislike the definition of “good standing with the Squamish Nation”?



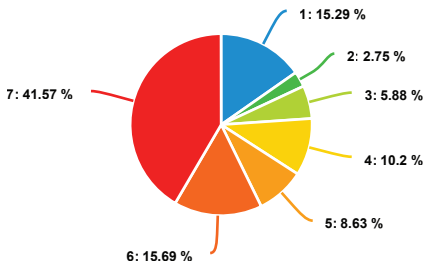
6. How much do you like or dislike the definition of “immediate family”?



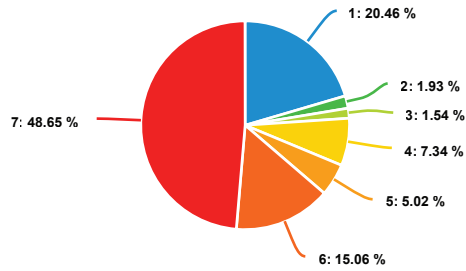
7. How much do you like or dislike elections happening on the first Sunday in December?



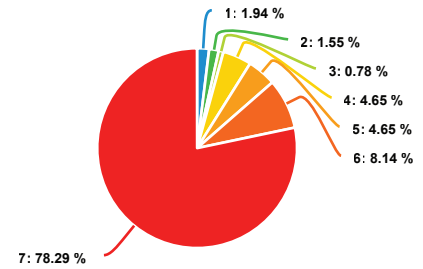
8. How much do you like or dislike requests for referendums require the signatures of 30% of eligible voters?



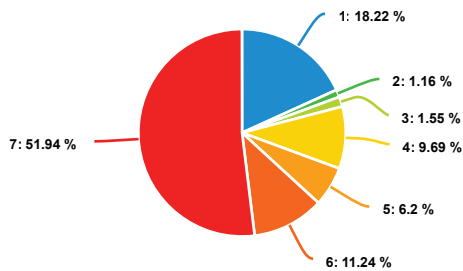
9. How much do you like or dislike there having “mail-in ballots” for elections or referendums?



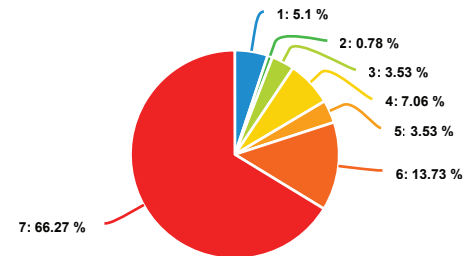
c. ...not be working the elections “voting personnel”.



10. How much do you like or dislike there having online voting for elections or referendums?

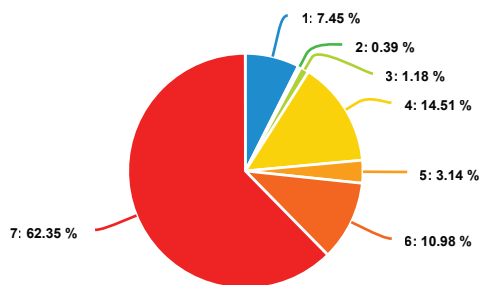


d. ... not be an immediate family member of someone who is working the elections (“voting personnel”).

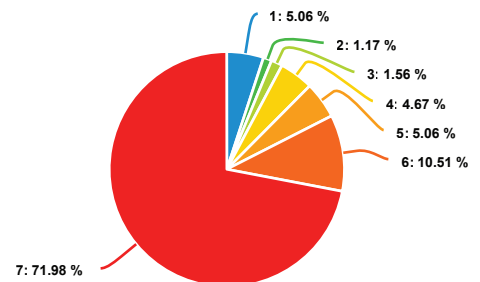


11. How much do you like or dislike that to be eligible to run for Council, a candidate is:

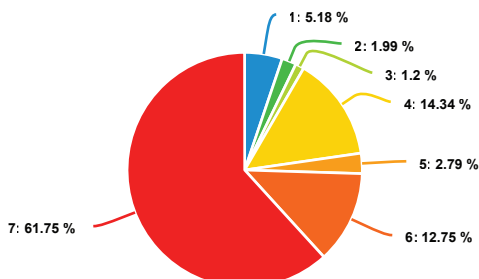
a.not be suing the nation.



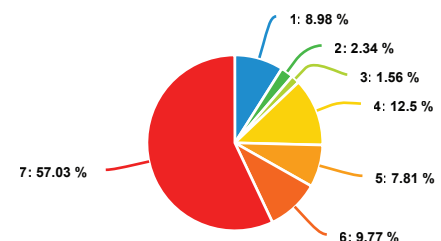
e. ... be only running for one elected position.



b. ...not be a spouse of a commission member.



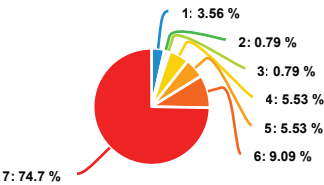
f. ... not have filed for bankruptcy or, if they have filed for bankruptcy, has been discharged from bankruptcy proceedings for a period of at least two years.



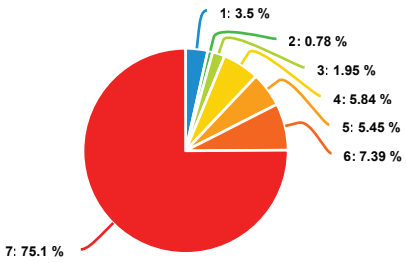
ELECTION REFORM SURVEY FROM MAY-JUNE 2017



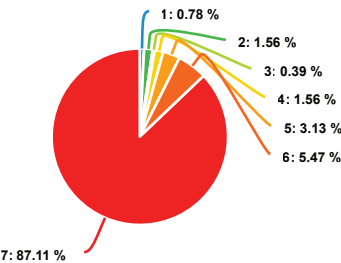
g. ... not be suffering from a medical condition, including mental illness or dependency on drugs or alcohol, that a medical practitioner in writing concludes would render that individual likely to be incapable of performing the duties or exercising the powers of the elected office,



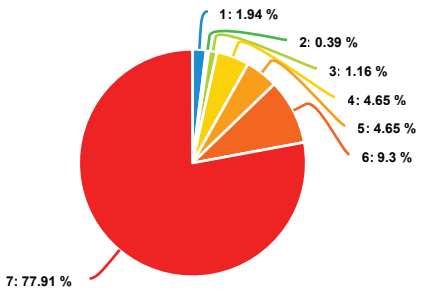
k. ... has not been charged with an impaired driving offence in any jurisdiction in the previous 10 years.



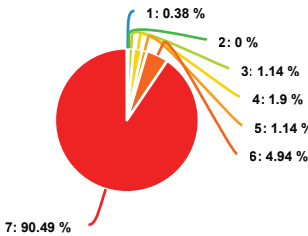
h. ... not have been convicted of theft, fraud or bribery in any jurisdiction.



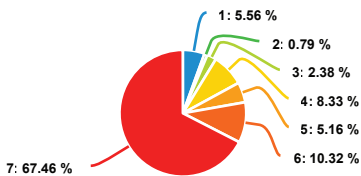
l. ... has not ever been removed from an elected office.



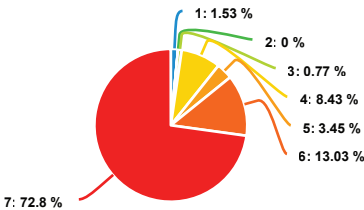
i. ... has not been convicted of an indictable offence involving sexual assault or assault against an individual under the age of 18.



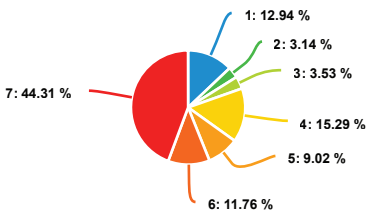
12. How much do you like or dislike that if a Squamish Nation employee assumes an elected office, that Squamish Nation employee must resign his or her employment with the Squamish Nation within 30 days after his or her election to that office?



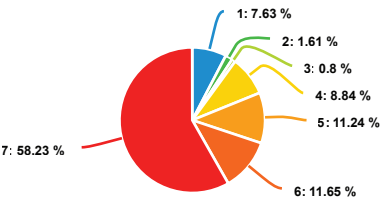
j. ... has not been convicted of any other indictable offence in the previous 10 years, unless as part of his or her defence in those proceedings he or she reasonably argued they were exercising an aboriginal right.



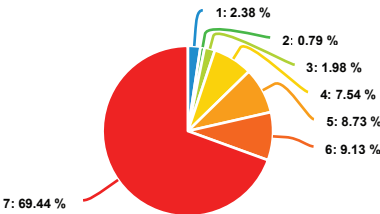
13. How much do you like or dislike that to be a candidate in an election, a member must seek the written endorsement of at least 3% of voting population to show community involvement?



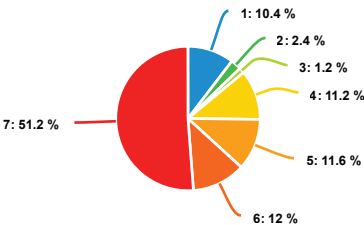
14. How much do you like or dislike that if there is a vacancy on Council, that the first and only the first runner-up in the most recent election is given the option to take that position?



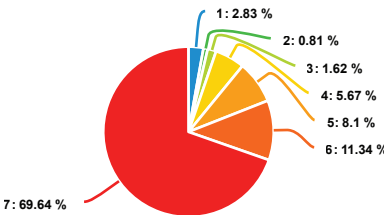
18. How much do you like or dislike that a candidate for elected office must track and report their campaign expenses and donors?



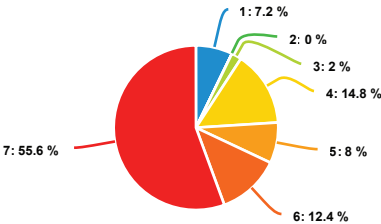
15. How much do you like or dislike that if the runner-up declines or is ineligible to take the position, then a by-election is called for members to select the replacement?



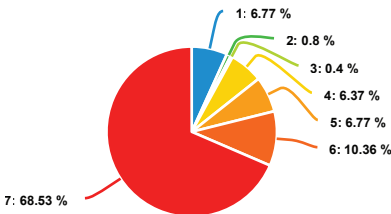
19. How much do you like or dislike that a campaign in a referendum must track and report their campaign expenses and donors?



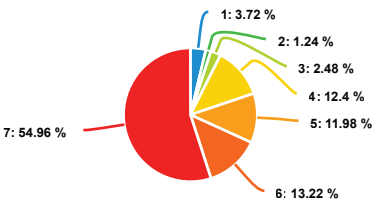
16. How much do you like or dislike that by-elections can only happen if there is 15 or more months remaining on the term?



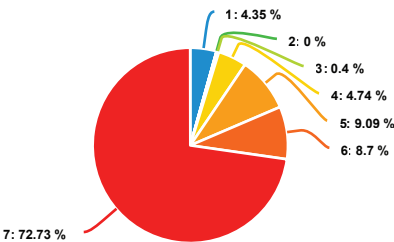
20. How much do you like or dislike that only Squamish Nation members are the ones allowed to donate to a campaign for Council or campaign in a referendum?



17. How much do you like or dislike that if there is a referendum, any person or group of people campaigning for a particular position in that referendum must register their campaign?



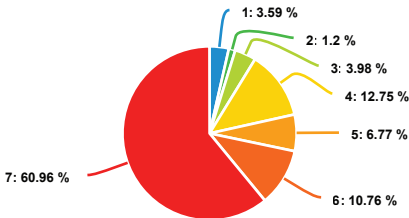
21. How much do you like or dislike that the counting of the in-person ballots happens on the same day as voting?



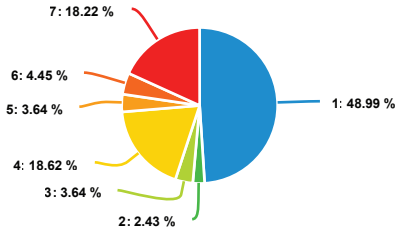
ELECTION REFORM SURVEY FROM MAY-JUNE 2017



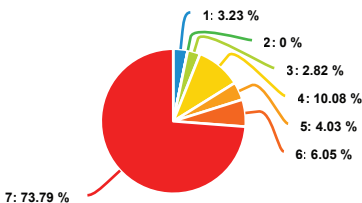
22. How much do you like or dislike that an individual must not post, display or distribute campaign material within 200 meters of a Squamish Nation administration building?



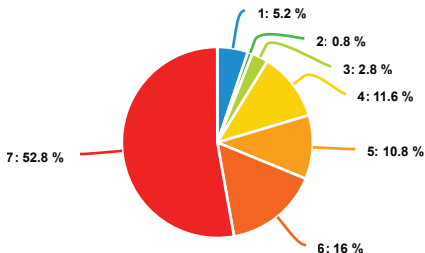
26. How much do you like or dislike that tie votes are decided by drawing names out of a hat/box/etc. (depository)?



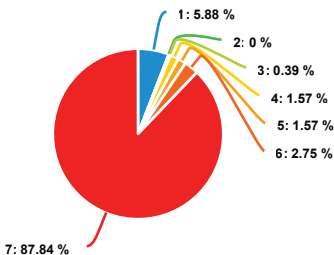
23. How much do you like or dislike that employees or anyone who is elected or nominated are not allowed to use information they obtained from working for the nation to promote a particular candidate?



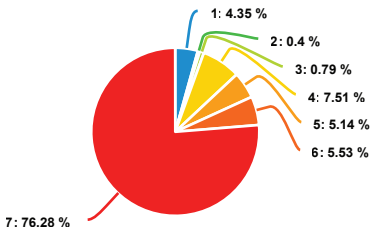
27. How much do you like that a candidate can file for a recount? (section 4.2.1 a.)



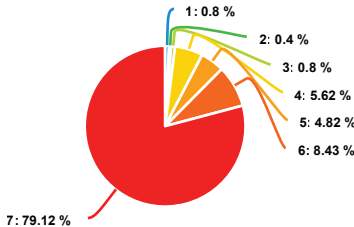
24. How much do you like or dislike that individuals are banned from buying votes (with money, gifts, etc.)?



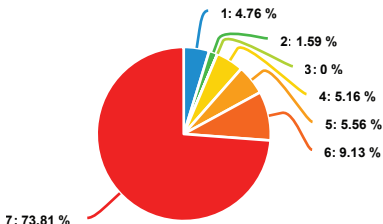
25. How much do you like or dislike that individuals that commit an offense under this law is punishable by a fine up to \$10,000?



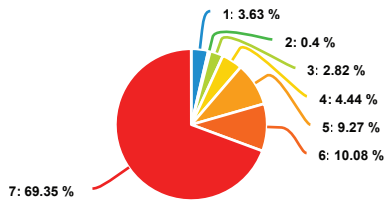
28. a. How much do you like or dislike that a Councillor can be automatically removed from Council if theyare no longer an "eligible candidate"?



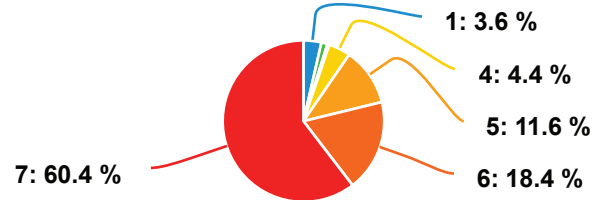
28. b. How much do you like or dislike that a Councillor can be automatically removed from Council if theyhave four unexcused absences for Council meetings per year?



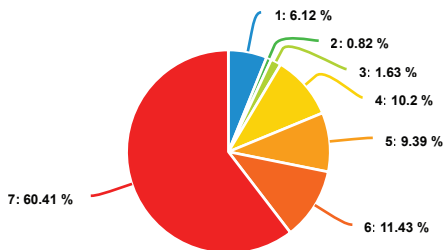
29. How much do you like or dislike that, if a Councilor has engaged in “conduct unbecoming a Councilor”, can be removed if 30% of voting members sign a recall petition?



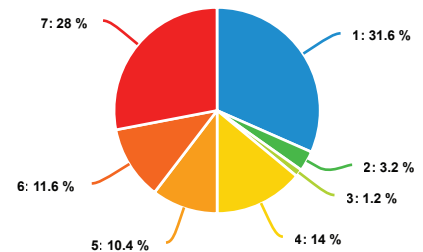
32. How much do you like or dislike the Electoral Commission being composed of seven individuals as follows: one elder; one youth; member living in Eslhá7an or Seymour Reserve #2); a member living in Capilano; a member individual who is a Squamish Valley eligible; and two individuals who are not ordinarily resident on any Squamish reserve.



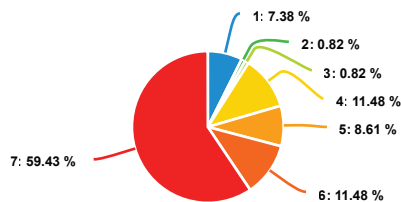
30. How much do you like or dislike that the Election Commission will hear appeals for a removal?



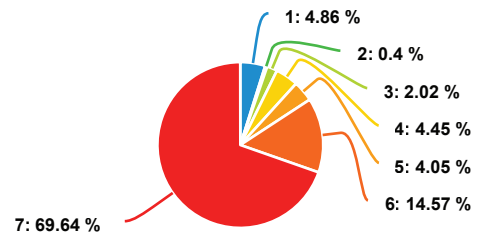
34. How much do you like or dislike Council selecting the Electoral Commission members for a four-year term?



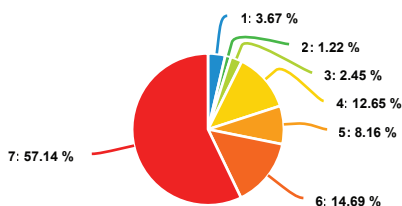
31. How much do you like or dislike that a “Tribunal” made up of legal professionals and ethics professionals will hear reviews of Election Commission decisions?



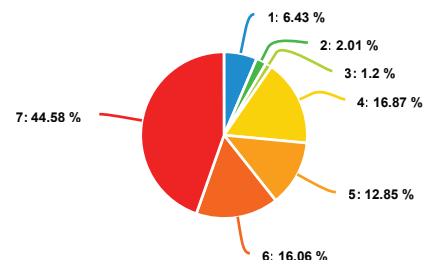
35. How much do you like or dislike the Electoral Commission and the Appeal Tribunal each reporting to Council on its activities and expenditure of funds received by it under this Law and that report must be posted for Members?



32. How much do you like or dislike the creation of an independent body (called the Electoral Commission) made up of Squamish Nation members to oversee Squamish Nation elections & referendums?



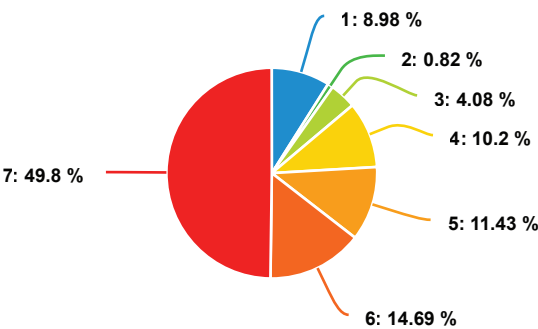
36. How much do you like or dislike that the Electoral Commission may make Regulations to assist with this Law?



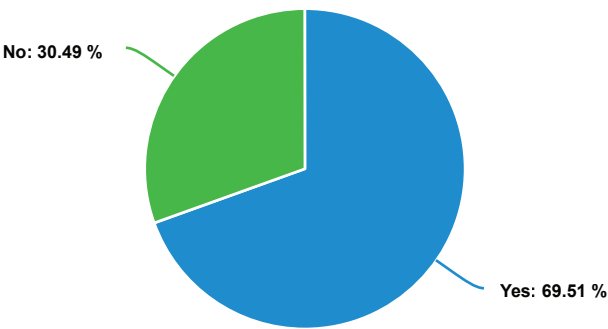
ELECTION REFORM SURVEY FROM MAY-JUNE 2017



37. How much do you like or dislike that any amendment to this law must be approved by 60% of the voting members who vote in an amendment referendum?



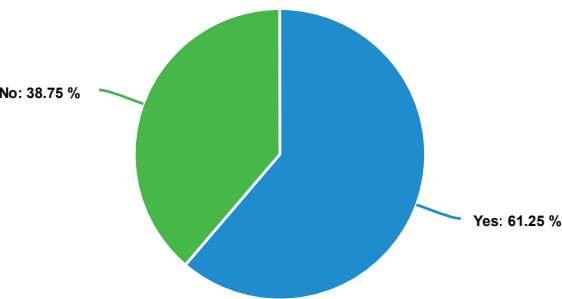
39. a. Do you want to see a change in the size of Council (16)? (If you selected no, skip questions 65 (b) and (c).)



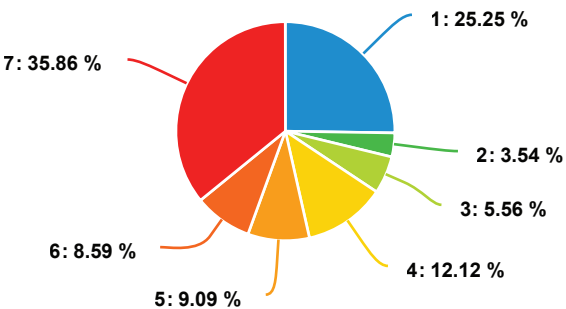
39. b. If you want to see a change in size in Council, what do you think the size should be?

(5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 were written in, but 8 was written in the most with 68 entries.)

39. Should the band manager be elected?



39. c. Members told the Election Commission in the surveys and round tables that "eight" Councilors was their preferred option to switch to. How much do you like or dislike "Eight" as the option for the Council size be changed to?



THANK YOU TO ALL WHO PARTICIPATED.

YOU FEEDBACK, IDEAS, AND INPUT WAS VALUED
AND WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION.