The Honourable Karina Gould, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Democratic Institutions
House of Commons, Ottawa

Dear Minister,

We write as the eight members of the academic advisory committe for the
mydemocracy.ca public engagement initiative. As you may know, we provided early input into
the design of the survey instrument.

While the initiative was not without controversy, we were pleased to see it generate close to
400,000 unique engagements with individual Canadians. To our knowledge, this is the largest
public consultation ever undertaken by a Canadian government.

From our perspective, the most important aspect of the mydemocracy.ca initiative is that it
collected a large amount of data on Canadians' opinions about many elements of our political
system. Opinions were shared on technical elements such as compulsory and online voting.
Canadians also shared their values and views on important issues around representation,
accountability, and cooperation.

We believe that the data collected at mydemocracy.ca offer an important source of information
on Canadian democratic values. The Vox Pop Labs report commissioned by the government
provided important insights into the views of Canadians, but much more work remains. We
believe that it is essential that the data collected by mydemocracy.ca be made publicly available
to the academic research community, students, and to the broader public once any outstanding
privacy concerns are addressed. A cleaned and anonymized version of the data could easily be
shared through university libraries or made available on your department's website.

We thus have a simple question: Can you confirm that the data collected by mydemocracy.ca will
become publicly available as soon as a cleaned and anonymized version of the data is ready?

We look forward to a positive response.

Best,
 André Blais, Université de Montréal
Elisabeth Gidengil, McGill University
Richard Johnston, University of British Columbia
Peter Loewen, University of Toronto
Scott Matthews, Memorial University
Jonathan Rose, Queen's University
Laura Stephenson, University of Western Ontario
Melanee Thomas, University of Calgary