

Our democracy needs strengthening.

Nearly half of Canadians [think it's getting weaker](#).

The Samara Centre for Democracy is asking for your commitment to immediate, concrete change.

The **nine actions** outlined here are practical and simple, and can be accomplished in the first year of a new Parliament. They should have cross-party support. They require minimal public spending. Most don't even require legislation. All that's needed is political will.

Parliament



To empower independent and thoughtful representatives, the parties should:

1 - Liberate debate by ending the use of [Whips' lists](#) of approved speakers, and creating a [parallel debate chamber](#).

2 - Free [committees](#) to do non-partisan work by changing the standing orders to elect committee chairs in the House, and elect committee members in caucuses.

3 - [Empower MPs](#) to scrutinize government by changing the Standing Orders to end omnibus bills, and committing Government to more transparent accounting.

Parties



To embrace transparency and share power, the parties should:

4 - Respect Canadians' [privacy](#) by bringing parties under meaningful [privacy legislation](#) with external oversight.

5 - Clean up [nomination races](#) by requiring greater transparency, stronger rules, and public reporting.

6 - Reduce the power of the party leader by opting into the provisions of [The Reform Act](#) to make caucus decision-making more democratic.

People



To open new avenues of participation for ordinary Canadians, and help deepen and enrich our civic culture, the parties should:

7 - Empower citizens to set the agenda by requiring Parliamentary debates on [petitions](#) that gather enough support.

8 - Invest in lifelong [civic learning](#) by supporting local and national community groups to educate and empower citizens.

9 - Enable a true two-way conversation between citizens and their representatives by creating new supports for MPs to encourage [community democratic engagement](#) through permanent constituency offices.

Your idea here:

Put democracy on the agenda!