

MP's survey shows majority of Peel residents want death penalty kept

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BY JOHN KERNAGHAN

A poll of some 10,500 Peel South constituents indicates that almost 70 per cent are opposed to a five-year extension for the trial abolition of capital punishment, MP Don Blenkarn revealed this week.

In a December questionnaire sent out by Blenkarn, 69.92 per cent said they are against permanent abolition of the death penalty.

Slightly more than 14 per cent agreed with the five year moratorium while 16 per cent were undecided.

About 12 per cent agreed all capital punishment should be abolished and nearly 18 per cent were undecided.

Reviewing the statistics this week Blenkarn said he would vote against the extension. He feels murder should be redefined to include first and second degree murder.

He believes the death penalty should be imposed for pre-meditated murders and slayings of prison

guards and police officers.

In response to a question asking if capital punishment should be restored for all crimes of murder, 34.37 per cent agreed and 46.85 per cent rejected the proposal.

Asked if capital punishment should apply only to

against total abolition of abortion; 83 per cent supported abortions where the physical or mental health of the mother would suffer; and 52.41 per cent were against abortion on demand.

Almost 60 per cent of the

T.L. Kennedy students were shocked by the results of their own survey on capital punishment. Page 6.

pre-meditated murder, 38.06 per cent said yes while 37.66 did not agree.

On the question of whether the death penalty should apply only to killers of police officers and prison guards and those who cause death during skyjackings or for money, 34.30 per cent agreed and 42.42 per cent said no.

Blenkarn said the Peel South response was similar to surveys conducted by four other MP's.

On the abortion question 80 per cent of responses were

respondents on the question of immigration called for a more restrictive policy demanding proof of immigrants' ability to support themselves. About 31 per cent approved of less restrictive policies but 75 per cent said no to an open door policy. About 61 per cent voted against total restraint.

Questioned about the parliamentary situation, 48 per cent agreed opposition parties should strive to keep the government in power. However 85 per cent said the support should only be given

if appropriate legislation is brought forward.

Commenting on this section of the questionnaire, Blenkarn said it is apparent that few people want an election.

He called the Liberal response to the Oct. 30 election result "pitiful" to date.

"People may not want an early election but they could very well get one," he said.

Another questionnaire, to be sent out this week, will ask residents about their views on taxpayers subsidies of the 1976 Olympics in Montreal and the need for reform in the Employment Insurance Commission.

Blenkarn feels the Olympics will be a good thing for Canada, but says there are alternatives to a one-city extravaganza. He feels the use of several sites could avoid costly duplication.