



Scottish Referendum—Interview with SNP!

Scotland has been striving for independence, envisioning a Scotland that is “prosperous and successful”. Alex Salmond is set to announce the date for the poll next Thursday. The referendum will enact the poll asking a simple question: “Should Scotland become an independent country?”

The poll will allow sixteen to seventeen year olds to vote for the first time in a major poll.

Nicola Sturgeon said: “The announcement marked an important step in Scotland’s independence journey”.

When she met with the steel apprentices at steel engineering in Renfrewshire, she said: “We have an ambitious vision for this country, one that is prosperous and successful, reflecting Scottish values of fairness and opportunity, promoting equality and social cohesion. But I be-

lieve this vision can only be realised through the powers that independence will bring.”

The apprentices are due to cut out the date for the referendum out of steel plate with a laser.

A current citizen of Scotland, when asked about the benefits of the referendum said, “In some ways, yes, it would benefit Scotland in a psychological way but not in an economical way.” He also said, “It does give Scots a chance to have their say.” And when asked about the first minister, Alex Salmond he replied, “ I think he’s a great debater and an excellent economist but has become more arrogant and Scots have started to notice that.”

We asked Annabelle Ewing some questions about the referendum:

What benefits do you see independence giving Scotland?

Scotland should have the right to choose its own future. With independence, Scotland always gets the governments we vote for.

What Difficulties if the referendum is approved do you think will occur?

It is important to note, for example, that of the 30 countries which have become independent since 1945 via a referendum, the average period of time between the referendum and independence is some 15 months.

If the referendum does not go through do you think you will keep fighting for independence?

We will continue to make a positive case for independence and are confident that the people of Scotland will vote 'Yes' in 2014.

Do you think this view is shared by the majority of Scots?

More and more people are recognising that the Scottish Parliament should have full responsibility for all areas affecting Scotland.

Why have you allowed 16- and 17- year olds to vote?

Young Scots are not the citizens of tomorrow, they are the citizens of today - they have the biggest stake in Scotland's future, and the Scottish Referendum (Franchise) Bill will ensure that everyone aged 16 and above on the day of the referendum will have the chance to have their say. I am proud of an SNP Government that is bringing forward this exciting extension to the democratic process in Scotland. The need for an independent Scotland - the 'why of independence' - is a compelling message for people of all ages.

What in your opinion is the main benefit for an independent Scotland?

It is fundamentally better for all of us if decisions about Scotland's future are taken by the people who care most about Scotland – the people of Scotland. We have the greatest stake in making Scotland a success – no one else will do a better job. Independence is about opportunity for Scotland - and opportunity for all the people who live, work and is building their future here. The SNP

Government has an ambitious vision for Scotland: a prosperous and successful European country, reflecting Scottish values of fairness and opportunity, promoting equality and social cohesion. A Scotland with a new place in the world; as an independent nation.

Alastair