



**MAKE YOUR MARK.**

**MESSAGE FROM JACK BLANEY,  
CHAIR OF THE CITIZENS' ASSEMBLY**

**For each British Columbia citizen, this is a chance-of-a-lifetime opportunity.**

The Government of British Columbia has taken the unprecedented step of creating an independent assembly of 158 British Columbians to examine our system of voting. Anyone on the voters list—including you—could be selected.

The Citizens' Assembly will learn about electoral systems and listen to British Columbians' views on the subject. The members of the

Assembly will then decide which electoral system they feel is best for the province. You could be one of those on the Assembly who will play a role in shaping how our democracy works.

I'm really excited to be part of this ground-breaking initiative, which is unique in Canadian history. I hope you'll make sure you're on the provincial voters list so you'll be eligible for membership on the Assembly.

*Dr. Jack Blaney is an experienced facilitator who can bring people together around a common goal. He is a former president of Simon Fraser University, where he spearheaded numerous initiatives to increase access to educational opportunities. Dr. Blaney has also served on a variety of community and government boards, and is a recipient of the Order of British Columbia.*

*If you wish to be eligible to be a member of the Citizens' Assembly, you must be on the provincial voters list. The deadline for registration is August 22, 2003.*

**For information on voter registration:**



**ELECTIONS BC**

**Toll-free** 1-800-661-8683

**TTY** 1-888-456-5448

**Website** [www.elections.bc.ca](http://www.elections.bc.ca)

**Email** [electionsbc@gems3.gov.bc.ca](mailto:electionsbc@gems3.gov.bc.ca)

**For information on the Citizens' Assembly:**



**Website** [www.citizensassembly.bc.ca](http://www.citizensassembly.bc.ca)

**Fax** 604-660-1236

**Address** P.O. Box 12118

2288-555 West Hastings Street

Vancouver, BC V6B 4N6





## MAKE YOUR MARK.

To be eligible for selection as a  
Citizens' Assembly member

**YOU MUST BE ON THE  
VOTERS LIST BY AUGUST 22**

### How do I get on the provincial voters list?

It's easy. To register as a provincial voter, you can:

- Call Elections BC toll-free at 1-800-661-8683, or
- Visit your local Government Agent office or Elections BC's Victoria office.

You will be provided with an Application for Registration form that can be dropped off at any Government Agent office or dropped off or mailed to Elections BC's Victoria office.

### I'm registered but I've moved.

Call Elections BC toll-free at 1-800-661-8683 to update your address information over the telephone. Operators are available Monday to Friday, 8 am to 8 pm, and on Saturdays, 10 am to 4 pm. You can also update your registration information on Elections BC's website at: [www.elections.bc.ca](http://www.elections.bc.ca)

### Why should I register now?

To be eligible for possible selection for the Citizens' Assembly, Elections BC must receive your Application for Registration no later than August 22, 2003. You must also be registered as a provincial voter in order to participate in a provincial election or by-election.

### WHAT IS THE CITIZENS' ASSEMBLY?

The Citizens' Assembly was created by the Government of British Columbia with the unanimous support of the British Columbia Legislature. It is an independent, non-partisan assembly of individuals who will meet to examine the province's electoral system—that is, how our votes determine who gets elected to sit in the provincial Legislature.

### WHO WILL THE MEMBERS BE?

The Citizens' Assembly will have 158 members, two from each electoral district, who will be representative of the province as a whole. Members will reflect the gender, age and geographical make-up of British Columbia. The selection process will begin in September with a random draw of names from the provincial voters list. Those whose names are drawn will be contacted and asked if they wish to participate. Some restrictions on eligibility apply, for example elected officials or people acting as representatives of political parties.

### WHEN WILL THE CITIZENS' ASSEMBLY BE OPERATING?

The members of the Assembly will be selected this fall and will begin meeting in January 2004. Members will learn about different voting systems, then hold public hearings around the province. Finally, the Citizens' Assembly will meet in fall 2004 to decide whether to recommend a new electoral system for the province, or to keep our current system.

### WHAT HAPPENS IF THE CITIZENS' ASSEMBLY RECOMMENDS A NEW ELECTORAL SYSTEM?

The recommendation will be put to all the voters in British Columbia as a referendum question at the next provincial election in May 2005. If the voters endorse the Citizens' Assembly's recommendation, then a new electoral system will be in place for the following provincial election in 2009.

### WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION ON THE CITIZENS' ASSEMBLY?

Please visit the Citizens' Assembly website at [www.citizensassembly.bc.ca](http://www.citizensassembly.bc.ca) or write Citizens' Assembly, P.O. Box 12118, 2288-555 West Hastings Street, Vancouver, BC V6B 4N6.

### VOTER REGISTRATION INFORMATION

#### Who can register?

To qualify as a provincial voter in B.C., you must be:

- 18 years of age or older;
- a Canadian citizen; and
- a resident of British Columbia for the past six months.