

PRESENTATION SUMMARY

ABBOTSFORD PUBLIC HEARING
DATED 5 JUNE 2004
AT THE RAMADA INN AND CONFERENCE
CENTRE

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS A BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE PRESENTATION TO THE CITIZENS' ASSEMBLY ON ELECTORAL REFORM. IT ATTEMPTS TO CAPTURE THE KEY ISSUES AND ARGUMENTS THAT WERE PRESENTED AND DISCUSSED DURING THE PUBLIC HEARING. IN SOME INSTANCES, THE PRESENTER HAS ALSO MADE A SUBMISSION TO THE ASSEMBLY AND THIS IS ACCESSIBLE VIA THE WEBSITE AT WWW.CITIZENSASSEMBLY.BC.CA BY CLICKING ON "GET INVOLVED". IF SUCH A SUBMISSION IS AVAILABLE, IT WILL BE NOTED AT THE END OF THIS REPORT.

Harold Daykin

DESCRIPTION OF PRESENTATION

MMP for BC via eighteen regional compensation seats without use of party lists.

KEY THEMES

The presenter expressed the need for the introduction of a limited amount of proportionality into the electoral system. Mr. Daykin displayed a simulation of the results of the BC election of 1996 on the basis of fifty-seven single-member districts and eighteen compensation seats. The presenter argued that this system would enable voters to split their votes and enable the representation of significant third parties.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr. Daykin recommended a change to a limited form of MMP, utilizing two ballots with the compensation seats being awarded to the party's "top losers" in the constituency contests according to the proportion of the vote secured via the second party ballot. The presenter proposed that almost one-quarter (approximately eighteen) of our MLA's be elected by proportional representation. The list proportion of the system would be organized on the basis of three regions and the translation of votes to seats would be calculated using the modified Sainte-Lague divisor.

According to Mr. Daykin, the adoption of this system would result in greater fairness for parties deprived of seats at the constituency level; substantial improvement in the matter of voices in caucus within each region; modest improvement of small party representation; and avoidance of ranked party lists.

QUESTIONS, ANSWERS AND COMMENTS FROM THE PANEL

Q How did you settle on this method of regional representation?

A It is a very brief rationale for large regions, which now have something like 14 conventional ridings. If you made smaller regions with less than three members, the small parties would never get a look in. I went to five small regions in the interior with only one seat because of the distribution of the population, but I earmarked two seats for the Okanagon.

QUESTIONS, ANSWERS AND COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

Q Are you in favour of a direct vote for the premier?

A No, I think that's a bad idea. I think that the American system of government is a bad system. If Britain had had the American system of government with the separate election of a President, at the time of the fall of France, Britain would have folded.

SUBMISSION: YES SUBMISSION ID# DAYKIN-0190