

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.

Robert Martin

DESCRIPTION OF PRESENTATION

A presentation expressing the need for citizens to reclaim control of the democratic process.

KEY THEMES

The presenter discussed the need to reform the current electoral system. Mr. Martin stated that there is no respect for custom and tradition in Canadian society. The presenter argued for a system based on the “citizen sovereign”. Declining voter turnout, according to Mr. Martin, constitutes the shirking of responsibility on the part of citizens. Mr. Martin expressed the opinion that citizens should have to post a bond to vote in elections in order to make the government liable for their actions. The presenter argued that Canada is one of the weaker nations in need of a stronger centralized government to deal with societal concerns. Mr. Martin stated that citizens should be held liable for the negligence of governments.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr. Martin recommended the adoption of a system based on the “citizen sovereign”, under which individuals would take responsibility for their decisions, and the decisions of government.

QUESTIONS, ANSWERS AND COMMENTS FROM THE PANEL

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| Q | Have you thought about any electoral systems to accommodate your idea? |
| A | Yes, I see a modified system of representation by population. We should be able to pick a random person out of the voters list who should be able to represent the people that don't vote. |