

# PRESENTATION SUMMARY

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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](http://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.

# Gil Reynolds

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## DESCRIPTION OF PRESENTATION

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Equal representation by number of MLA's; each ballot is equal. Reduce the huge cost of government MLA's.

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## KEY THEMES

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The presenter discussed the need for equal representation between districts on the basis of population. Mr. Reynolds argued that malapportionment is difficult to justify today given the methods of communication and transportation available. The presenter stated that it is unfair that two rural ridings combined may contain fewer constituents than a single urban district.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr. Reynolds recommended reducing the number of MLAs to 50, and redrawing the boundaries so that they each represent the same number of voters, rather than plus or minus 25% of the provincial average. According to Mr. Reynolds, this would reduce the expenses required to run the government.

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## QUESTIONS, ANSWERS AND COMMENTS FROM THE PANEL

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| Q | By reducing the number of MLAs to fifty that would make the districts larger?   |
| A | Yes. With modern communication and transportation I don't feel that is that big of a problem. I don't think acreage deserves an MLA, people do.   |
| Q | How would this affect local representation and accountability within local ridings as many people do not have computers and the internet?   |
| A | There would be a representative for every constituency. Some of these would simply become much larger as they don't have the population to justify their current size. I think 25% enables a gross imbalance in the system. |

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QUESTIONS, ANSWERS AND COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

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Q        If you reduce the number of MLAs to save money but you have larger areas then you would have to compensate by putting in offices; wouldn't this offset your proposed savings?

A        Undoubtedly it will, but some of these other electoral systems being proposed would increase costs further by producing minority governments. You probably would have to put in offices and people to staff them. Fifty was an arbitrary number, but the number of representatives could be reduced.