

PRESENTATION SUMMARY

LILLOOET PUBLIC HEARING DATED
16 JUNE 2004 AT THE RECREATION 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.

Dorothy-Jean O'Donnell

DESCRIPTION OF PRESENTATION

Members of the Legislative Assembly should elect the Premier and all Ministers.

KEY THEMES

Dorothy-Jean O'Donnell introduced herself as a federal candidate for the People's Front. She argued that there is a role for political parties in mobilizing citizens and providing a vision but that governing is not an appropriate role for a political party and should be undertaken by citizens. Ms O'Donnell proposed that members of the legislature should elect the Premier and that the legislature should organize itself into different ministries and then elect a spokesperson that becomes the minister. She argued that it was time for the legislature to evolve beyond the current division between two opposing political parties. Ms O'Donnell supported proportional representation but did not advocate for any particular PR system. She explained that she saw some merit in the idea of having lists, but that that raised the problem of who chooses the lists. She suggested allowing collectives other than political parties to also put their names on the list so the voter could either vote for the party list or for a particular name. Ms O'Donnell also encouraged the Assembly to look for a mechanism to ensure that aboriginal people are elected.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Dorothy-Jean O'Donnell recommended that the Premier and Ministers be elected by Members of the Legislative Assembly.

She also recommended the introduction of proportional representation in BC.

QUESTIONS, ANSWERS AND COMMENTS FROM THE PANEL

There were no questions or comments from the panel.

QUESTIONS, ANSWERS AND COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

There were no questions or comments from the audience.

SUBMISSION: NO