

PRESENTATION SUMMARY

SECHELT PUBLIC HEARING DATED
5 JUNE 2004 AT THE DRIFTWOOD INN

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.

Helen and Doug Roy

DESCRIPTION OF PRESENTATION

We will encourage to go for proportionality.

KEY THEMES

Helen Roy told the hearing that she valued both local representation and proportionality. She explained that she would like a more eclectic range of choices at the polls, and spoke in favour of the mixed member proportional (MMP) electoral system. Mrs Roy encouraged the Assembly to publicize its findings. She argued that the need for electoral reform is urgent and stated that she would like to see a new electoral system in operation in less than five years. Mrs Roy also advised that any new system recommended by the assembly may require expansion, moderation or change after it has been adopted in British Columbia. For this reason, she recommended the creation of a permanent, watchdog committee to monitor, assess and accept citizen input, in order to fine tune any new electoral systems to the unique requirements of British Columbia. This should be a non-partisan, independent, Citizens' Committee with a clear mandate and powers.

Doug Roy also agreed that it was important for an electoral system to combine both local representation and greater proportionality. He told the hearing that he fully supports the MMP system as practiced in New Zealand and Germany.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Helen and Doug Roy recommended the introduction of MMP in British Columbia.

Helen Roy also recommended the creation of a Citizens' Committee to monitor, review and adjust any new electoral system introduced.

Quote: "Electoral reform is urgent. Today we are rushing to dictatorship because of indifference, lack of community courage, hopelessness and ignorance."

QUESTIONS, ANSWERS AND COMMENTS FROM THE PANEL

There were no questions or comments from the panel.

QUESTIONS, ANSWERS AND COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

Following this presentation one member of the audience had a questions.

Q	Given your vast experience on this planet, do you see MMP increasing the participation of members of the community
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	below the age of 40?
A	I think that this whole process is very invigorating and energizing, and I wish there were more young people here today to hear people's concerns. So yes I think this could get more young people involved as long as it is publicized.

SUBMISSION: NO