

# PRESENTATION SUMMARY

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BURNABY PUBLIC HEARING DATED  
5 MAY 2004 AT HOLIDAY INN METROTOWN

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.

# Greg Dickey

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## DESCRIPTION OF PRESENTATION

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I support proportional representation because, among other things, it puts an end to what I call wasted vote syndrome which discourages citizens from voting for the candidate of their choice - (talk about counter-democratic!)

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## KEY THEMES

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The presenter expressed concern about the distortion of electoral results under FPTP, and the disenfranchisement of voters as a result of the "wasted vote syndrome".

## RECOMMENDATIONS

The presenter recommended a change to PR to enable people to vote sincerely, rather than strategically.

*The freedom to vote for the candidate or party whose views and platform are aligned with your own vision for your province, without fear that your vote will be effectively disregarded, must be held sacrosanct if we have any regard at all for democracy.*

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## QUESTIONS, ANSWERS AND COMMENTS FROM THE PANEL

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- Q Do you have any particular PR system in mind?
- A I favour the MMP system, but I'm not wedded to that. I feel that almost any system would be preferable to the system we have now.

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## QUESTIONS, ANSWERS AND COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

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- Q Have you given any thought to minimum qualifications for who is able to run as an MLA?
- A I believe in universal suffrage and I would not support any form of requirements. After all who is to decide? It is up to the people at the ballot box.

Q How do the people in rural areas get what they need out of PR?

A Under MMP you can have local representation but have the overall representation in the house as reflective of the popular vote. The principle of proportionality is something that has to be there.

Q Aren't you overlooking the large volume of people that feel that no candidate is worthy of their vote?

A Change in the electoral system may not mitigate everyone's feeling of disenfranchisement, however, changing to a fairer system may be likely to reinvigorate significant numbers of voters. The problem of declining voter turnout and participation is a problem in this country and many others, to a certain degree people that are reacting in that way are "crazy like a fox" they know that on a certain level the current system disenfranchises them to such an extent that they don't see the point in voting. As a result fewer and fewer people are turning out to vote.