

PRESENTATION SUMMARY

COQUITLAM PUBLIC HEARING DATED
1 JUNE 2004 AT THE EXECUTIVE PLAZA 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.

Korky Day

DESCRIPTION OF PRESENTATION

I support either MMP or STV in British Columbia. I would also like to provide five suggestions to improve the voting process that could be included as supplementary recommendations in the Assembly's final report.

KEY THEMES

Korky Day supported the introduction of either MMP or STV in British Columbia. He also requested that the assembly make supplementary recommendations to improve other elements of the election process and gave five suggestions.

- 1) Rather than the current format for candidate debates, British Columbia should use a system of debate tournaments, where candidates are paired to debate each other in a number of rounds, with an eventual winner for each tournament.
- 2) Voters should be provided with voter booklets before each election. These would be based on the Californian voter booklets, in which every candidate writes two or three paragraphs and is also given the chance to rebut other candidates.
- 3) British Columbians need an incentive to increase voter turnout. Rather than fining citizens who do not vote, citizens could be offered the incentive of a \$50 tax rebate if they vote. This system could be funded by raising taxes by \$50 per person.
- 4) British Columbia needs a formal written constitution that cannot be easily repealed by the government of the day. Amendments should require a popular referendum.
- 5) Candidates and parties should be required to register all campaign promises, enabling citizens to bring a class action suit against any candidate or party that breaks their election promises. In this way promises would become a legally binding contract. Promises could be withdrawn, but only before the election.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Korky Day recommended the introduction of MMP or STV in British Columbia.

He also recommended the introduction of candidate debate tournaments, voter booklets, a tax incentive for voting, a formal British Columbian constitution, and a campaign promise registry.

QUESTIONS, ANSWERS AND COMMENTS FROM THE PANEL

There were no questions from members of the panel.

Comment from panel: “I really like your presentation and you have given me some food for thought because those suggestions have not been brought up during our learning process.”

QUESTIONS, ANSWERS AND COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

Following this presentation quite a few members of the audience had questions.

Q	Is there anyone else where there is a written contract for campaign promises?
A	Someone told me last night that there has been a recent Supreme Court of Canada decision to force a Maritime politician to carry out a campaign promise.
Q	What about having the promises written out and then signed?
A	All promises would be registered.
Q	I believe they have a registration system in California and the outcome is that no-one promises anything. How would you deal with that?
A	Well at least that's better than them lying to us.

Comment: “I think we need a government system where major issues are addressed by the population, so we could have citizens’ assemblies on other major issues such a youth voting.”

SUBMISSION: DAY-1390