

# PRESENTATION SUMMARY

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KELOWNA PUBLIC HEARING  
DATED 24 JUNE 2004  
AT THE COAST CAPRI HOTEL

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.

# Kevin Ade

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## DESCRIPTION OF PRESENTATION

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A presentation in support of the introduction of proportional representation.

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## KEY THEMES

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Mr. Ade discussed the implications of the adoption of proportional representation. The presenter stated that the introduction of PR would enable the representation of all groups in society, giving an ear for everyone, thereby encouraging voter interest and participation in the political process. Mr. Ade argued that PR increases transparency in the political process and makes it more difficult for those vying for office to misrepresent themselves or their interests, to make promises they never fulfill, or to fail to be accountable to their electorate. According to Mr. Ade, varied representation in the legislature tempers the dominance of governments and prevents them from passing “top-to-bottom” legislation without seriously jeopardizing their position and their future as a political influence. The presenter argued that proportional representation makes it worthwhile for governments to address the causes rather than the symptoms of problems as it enables the planning of long-term solutions. Mr. Ade stated that the introduction of PR would increase both voter involvement and the representation of women. In addition, PR may potentially lead to increased economic wealth as it increases understanding between people and may even have a positive effect on criminal, educational, and health issues.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr. Ade advocated the introduction of a system of proportional representation under which nothing would need to change at the ballot box. Under this system of PR parties gain representation in the legislature, proportionate to votes cast in the electorate. If, however, a party does not win a riding, then seats will be given to them according to the best return they earned out of all the province’s ridings. It will not be a matter of the party choosing their representatives. This would also guide the choice of the winning candidate in any riding. Thus if a candidate wins by only 2% of the vote then they are more likely to lose their riding to the second place finisher than the candidate who wins by 35% of the vote. Therefore, under this system, candidates that win the seat under FPTP may have that seat taken away from them.

*Quote: Proportional representation may well prove to be the most important step forward in our fight for democracy and freedom since the invention of the printing press.*