

PRESENTATION SUMMARY

NANAIMO PUBLIC HEARING DATED
27 MAY 2004 AT COAST BASTION 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 BY CLICKING ON "GET INVOLVED". IF SUCH A SUBMISSION IS AVAILABLE, IT WILL BE NOTED AT THE END OF THIS REPORT.

Hermine Hicks

DESCRIPTION OF PRESENTATION

I want to speak about proportional representation.

KEY THEMES

Hermine Hicks told the hearing that she has been voting for the last 42 years, but has felt that her voice as a voter has counted only twice during that time at a provincial level, and never at a federal level. She argued that most people agree that the current electoral system does not work. Ms Hicks was involved in the Proportional Representation petition campaign in 2002 and supports a mixed PR system. She felt that an electoral system should enable voters to vote *for* a party rather than to have to vote strategically *against* a party. Ms Hicks argued that MMP would bring more people into political process. She also recommended the introduction of an orientation and education process for newly elected MLAs.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Hermine Hicks recommended the introduction of MMP in British Columbia.

QUESTIONS, ANSWERS AND COMMENTS FROM THE PANEL

There were no questions from members of the panel.

Comment from panel: “I really appreciate your heart felt delivery. Those are sometimes some of the best presentations.”

QUESTIONS, ANSWERS AND COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

There were no questions from the audience.

Comment: “I just wanted to say thank you on behalf of all of us here this evening.”

SUBMISSION: NO