

# PRESENTATION SUMMARY

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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](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.

# Stephen McCarthy

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## DESCRIPTION OF PRESENTATION

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A proposal for multi-member district proportional representation.

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## KEY THEMES

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Stephen McCarthy explained that he is a Grade 11 student who has recently completed a school project on electoral reform. He commented on earlier presentations made by Robert Baker and Julian West and argued that Mr Baker's modification of FPP to include a 'no' vote could be used to vote out major parties, giving minor parties a greater differential between 'yes' and 'no' votes and therefore resulting in a greater number of minor party candidates being elected. Mr McCarthy challenged the conventional definition of local representation as based on geography, and argued that while regional and local representation are important, many voters feel that they are not represented locally if the party they voted for does not win in their riding. He proposed a proportional representation system using multi-member districts. Mr McCarthy told the hearing that, while his original proposal had recommended districts with a magnitude of ten, that he was also interested in Julian West's earlier recommendation in favour of multi-member districts with a magnitude of between three and five. MLAs would be elected according to the proportion of the vote received by each party in that region. Mr McCarthy argued that multi-member ridings would provide both regional representation and proportional representation, and said that he was open to the use of circuits within these ridings, as suggested by Dr West. He suggested that this system could also be used for federal elections, to ensure that the MLAs elected in each province reflected the proportion of votes won by each party across the province.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

Stephen McCarthy recommended the introduction of a PR electoral system in British Columbia with multi-member regional districts.

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## QUESTIONS, ANSWERS AND COMMENTS FROM THE PANEL

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There were no questions or comments from the panel.

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## QUESTIONS, ANSWERS AND COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

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There were no questions or comments from the audience.

**SUBMISSION: NO**