

# PRESENTATION SUMMARY

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NELSON PUBLIC HEARING  
DATED 11 MAY 2004  
AT THE PRESTIGE LAKESIDE RESORT

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.

# Colleen Driscoll

## BC Nurses Union

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### DESCRIPTION OF PRESENTATION

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A presentation in favour of proportional representation.

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### KEY THEMES

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Ms. Driscoll commented upon the outdated nature of the current FPTP system in BC. The presenter referred to the problems of exaggerated and artificial majorities, wrong winners, and wasted votes as leading to voter apathy and declining voter turnout. Ms. Driscoll further noted the absence of minority voices in the legislature and the need for electoral reform to create a system that is more reflective of the views in the population.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

Ms. Driscoll recommended a move to a PR system in order to improve the representation of women and minorities; to make every vote count to improve voter turnout; to promote a consensus style of policy making in the legislature; and to heighten the accountability of MLAs between elections. Ms. Driscoll expressed her support for the submission made to the Citizens' Assembly by the BC Nurses Union. In particular, MMP was proposed as the type of proportional representation viewed as most desirable for BC with a reasonable threshold, a fixed number of constituency seats, and a majoritarian electoral formula using the alternative vote (AV) for the election of local MLAs.

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### QUESTIONS, ANSWERS AND COMMENTS FROM THE PANEL

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- Q Did you have a sense of the percentage of local seats you would like to see?
- A I think it is the same as we have now as I would hate to see us lose any seats out here because of our population. There are only 500 nurses in this region and in BC there is more than 2000 in one hospital so we wouldn't want to see representation by population.