

PRESENTATION SUMMARY

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 BY CLICKING ON "GET INVOLVED". IF SUCH A SUBMISSION IS AVAILABLE, IT WILL BE NOTED AT THE END OF THIS REPORT.

Joyce MacDonald

DESCRIPTION OF PRESENTATION

Increasing accountability and participation.

KEY THEMES

Ms. MacDonald stated the need to change the system so that citizens feel that there is some accountability on the part of politicians between elections in order to address pervasive problems such as declining voter turnout and political participation

RECOMMENDATIONS

A system of voting for MLAs that includes preset budgets being presented to the public prior to the election, forcing politicians to present the policies they truly believe in thereby reinvigorating citizen interest, trust, and participation.

QUESTIONS, ANSWERS AND COMMENTS FROM THE PANEL

Q We are all concerned with declining voter turnout; do you have any suggestions as to how to get young people to vote?

A My experience in the recall campaign was based on attempting to get young people involved, I have no idea how many young people joined, but the campaign I was involved in had many young people join.

Q What happens if after the election a situation occurs that causes a logical change to the budget?

A I think people can use common sense. If it is an impossible situation then neither the opposition or the government would work against it, they would know that this is what the majority of citizens wanted. It would take a major event to change the direction of the budget.