

PRESENTATION SUMMARY

NEW WESTMINSTER PUBLIC HEARING
DATED 6 MAY 2004
AT THE INN AT WESTMINSTER QUAY

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.

Harold Daykin

DESCRIPTION OF PRESENTATION

MMP for BC via 18 regional compensation seats without the use of party lists.

KEY THEMES

The presenter expressed the need for the introduction of a limited amount of proportionality into the electoral system. Mr. Daykin displayed a simulation of the results of the BC election of 1996 on the basis of fifty-seven single-member districts and eighteen compensation seats. The presenter argued that this system would enable voters to split their votes and enable the representation of significant third parties.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr. Daykin recommended a change to a limited form of MMP, utilizing a single vote with the compensation seats being awarded to the party's "top losers" in the constituency contests.

QUESTIONS, ANSWERS AND COMMENTS FROM THE PANEL

- Q Do you think that under a different electoral system the voters might vote differently than they did under your simulation of the election of 1996? Is it fair to use those results with a different system?
- A I did that because that's what ticket splitting is all about. I think most people are interested in knowing how the results would have turned out differently if people had voted the same under different systems.
- Q One of the values that this Assembly had identified is the importance of a local representative, under this system my local representative would be located 500km away. Are you saying that local representation is not an important value under your system?
- A Mostly, no. I'm saying that three quarters of members should still be elected as they are now. Only one-quarter would be elected by PR.

QUESTIONS, ANSWERS AND COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

Q Do you have an open list for the PR seats?

A I think that the party list method is always a ranked thing, and I'm proposing a "top-loser" method to avoid the use of the ranked party list.

SUBMISSION: YES SUBMISSION ID# DAYKIN-0190