

# 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](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.

# Guy Duperreault

---

## DESCRIPTION OF PRESENTATION

---

The best reformation of the electoral process is to replace it with a jury-duty system of choosing governors. A presentation on the Self-Corrupting Nature of Elections and a Democratic Alternative.

---

## KEY THEMES

---

The presenter expressed the belief that the problem with elections is the elections themselves. Mr. Duperreault detailed the problems caused by money and the media in campaigning and party financing; the difficulty of expediency in politics; and the unfortunate nature of many of the people drawn to run for public office.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

The presenter recommended the abolition of electioneering and its replacement with a lottery process similar in principle to the jury selection scheme. According to Mr. Duperreault this process would be democratic; enable free house votes; negate the influence of money in campaigning; and bring government back to the people.

*Quote: Since governing is an odious task, it is not insignificant that, like jury duty, the task of governing be aligned with that fact, and not with glamour, prestige and Barnum and Bailey-like showmanship.*

---

## QUESTIONS, ANSWERS AND COMMENTS FROM THE PANEL

---

- Q            So you could still have "career politicians" under your system?
- A            That is a concern of mine, and lobbying to be on the list of top members would result in disbarment.

---

## QUESTIONS, ANSWERS AND COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

---

- Q            You said that the people to be selected would have certain criteria? What sort of criteria would you be looking at?

- A That would be up to us to decide, similar to the process performed for selection to the Citizens' Assembly.
- Q How long would their term be?
- A I've suggested a term of about 7 years or so. A list of the top members may be made and they would be returned for a second or third term.
- Q Does the “none of the above” produce the kinds of result you're looking for?
- A You are looking for an option within the system of elections. I'm actually looking at doing away with elections all together, it is just an idea I'm putting out there.
- Q I have the impression that this is the form of governance appropriate at the municipal level, but I don't hear a process in your scheme that would prepare governments for dealing with crises that do arise?
- A The people elected currently are poorly equipped to deal with crisis. We are currently a society in crisis and I do not see anyone investing themselves in these issues in any serious way. The electoral process gets the wrong people into power, there are exceptions, but there are not many great people in government at the present time.