

# PRESENTATION SUMMARY

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RADIUM PUBLIC HEARING DATED  
22 JUNE 2004 AT THE COMMUNITY HALL

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.

# Roger Granville-Martin

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## DESCRIPTION OF PRESENTATION

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A short oral statement.

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## KEY THEMES

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Roger Granville-Martin argued that the current First Past the Post system is unfair, and pointed to the disproportional election results in 2001 and 1996 as an example. He described citizens who voted for parties other than the two major parties as having no representation at all. He expressed concern about the disappointment and disillusionment of young people in the province and argued that many feel that their votes are wasted when they vote if they do not vote for one of the two major parties. Mr Granville-Martin supported the introduction of some form of proportional representation. He argued that PR would ensure that all voters are represented in government, moderate wild policy swings from left to right, compel the major parties to listen to minor parties, lead to cooperation and consensus rather than confrontation, and encourage people to vote by making their vote count.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

Roger Granville-Martin recommended the introduction of some form of proportional representation in British Columbia.

*Quote: "I urge you to come forward next May with a recommendation for some form of proportional representation which will allow me to tell young people "yes, every vote counts," and to mean it."*

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## QUESTIONS, ANSWERS AND COMMENTS FROM THE PANEL

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There were three members of the panel who sought clarification on elements of the presentation.

Q	As you know, there are several different types of proportional representation. Is there one particular system that you favour?
A	I don't pretend to be an expert, but from the reading that I've done I prefer MMP where each voter has two votes, one for a local representative and one for a party list. For me, making sure that every vote counts is the most fundamental consideration. It's even more important than the size of the ridings.
Q	Do you think there needs to be a threshold of 3, 4 or 5 per cent?

A	Yes, it seems unreasonable to me that every party should have a seat. But if the Marijuana Party, for example, can actually convince 3 per cent of the population of BC that their views need to be heard, then they deserve to be represented in the legislature.
Q	How important is local representation to you?
A	I recognize that this is one of the fundamental challenges for MMP. But our ridings are already large, and at the moment I don't feel represented at all by my local representative. My views aren't worth a lick of spit to him. I don't believe that the local representatives we have at the moment have the capacity to travel to all four corners of the riding to find out what the issues are that are important to their constituents.

**Comment from panel**      There were no comments from the panel.

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**QUESTIONS, ANSWERS AND COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE**

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Following this presentation one member of the audience had a question.

Q	In theory every MLA or every MP represents all the people in their riding. How will this change under proportional representation? Even under PR, there will only be one person in each riding, every party will not be represented in every riding. Why do we have this pie in the sky idea that they will be any more interested in listening to me or you?
A	I can live with the fact that my local representative represents the views of the majority of the people in my riding that I don't agree with. But when that representative is in the House, I want to know that there is some representation for the views I support. For example, my children vote for the Greens and their views are not represented because there is not a single Green MLA in the legislature.

**Comment:**      There were no comments from the audience.

**SUBMISSION: NO**