

# PRESENTATION SUMMARY

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REVELSTOKE PUBLIC HEARING  
DATED 22 JUNE 2004  
AT THE COAST HILLCREST HOTEL

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.

# Antoinette Halberstadt

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## DESCRIPTION OF PRESENTATION

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A presentation in support of mixed member proportional representation.

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## KEY THEMES

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Ms. Halberstadt discussed a number of problems with the current FPTP system including the problem of negative voting and the promotion of adversarial politics.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

The presenter advocated the adoption of MMP. Under this system seats won in the legislature would reflect votes cast in the electorate while enabling the continuation of a system of local representation. Ms. Halberstadt argued against further eroding the voting power of rural BC by enlarging the size of rural ridings on the grounds that is difficult enough for MLAs to represent their geographically large electorates. The presenter advocated increasing the number of seats in the legislature in order to prevent the dominance of urban voices in the political system. Ms. Halberstadt recommended that party list candidates be chosen via democratic means, not by parachuting in candidates preferred by the party elite.

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## QUESTIONS, ANSWERS AND COMMENTS FROM THE PANEL

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- Q            Although you do not wish to see increased riding size we have not sensed a great public appetite for increasing the number of MLAs, due mainly to financial concerns. What is your view on that?
- A            You could increase the size of urban ridings and leave ours as they stand. Urban members are able to get to any of their constituents in half an hour if they chose to and here we can't.
- Q            We examined the possibility of having multi-member districts in urban areas and single member districts in rural areas, thereby leaving rural ridings as they are but also achieving some proportionality. What are your views on that?
- A            If you had that system how do the rural people then choose the party of their choice? I still want to be able to vote for the party of my choice and the candidate. That is not enough of a change for me.

