

PRESENTATION SUMMARY

SALT SPRING ISLAND PUBLIC HEARING
DATED 19 JUNE 2004 AT LIONS' 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 BY CLICKING ON "GET INVOLVED". IF SUCH A SUBMISSION IS AVAILABLE, IT WILL BE NOTED AT THE END OF THIS REPORT.

Marg Simons

Salt Spring Raging Grannies

DESCRIPTION OF PRESENTATION

A musical presentation supporting Proportional Representation.

KEY THEMES

Marg Simons spoke to the hearing on behalf of the Salt Spring Raging Grannies and explained that they were very aware of the shortcomings of the current system. She argued that people who support small parties are forced to reluctantly cast a strategic vote for one of the major parties. The Salt Spring Raging Grannies supported the introduction of a Mixed Member Proportional representation system combining single member electoral districts with a party list. Mrs Simons argued that the principles underlying any electoral reform in BC should include: proportionality, more flexible party discipline, local representation, rural representation and more representation for diverse social groups. She also recommended that graphics be used to indicate the special interests of each candidate on a party list. The Raging Grannies then sang a song supporting proportional representation.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Salt Spring Raging Grannies recommended the introduction of MMP in British Columbia.

Quote: "Citizens tend to abandon their true voice, seeing it as a lost vote, while feeling very strongly that they don't want one of the two big parties to get in, so they vote reluctantly for the other big party."

QUESTIONS, ANSWERS AND COMMENTS FROM THE PANEL

There were no questions or comments from the panel.

QUESTIONS, ANSWERS AND COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

There were no questions or comments from the audience.

SUBMISSION: NO