

# PRESENTATION SUMMARY

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SIDNEY/VICTORIA PUBLIC HEARING  
DATED 15 MAY 2004  
AT THE HOLIDAY INN VICTORIA

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 Dauncey

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## DESCRIPTION OF PRESENTATION

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Democracy is not something you either have or don't have. It is an evolving process, and as citizens become more informed and involved, we need better systems of representation. The current "first past the post" system encourages two-party antagonism.

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## KEY THEMES

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Mr. Dauncey discussed the desirability of gradual reform by drawing on the historical evolution of democratic processes. The presenter went on to note that the current FPTP arrangement favours a two-party system resulting in high levels of strategic voting. Mr. Dauncey expressed the need to reform the current system in order to prevent the problems of FPTP such as artificial and exaggerated majorities, and wrong winners. Proportional representation was viewed as a desirable solution as it enables sincere voting; the accurate translation of votes into seats; and encourages a consensus style of government.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr. Dauncey recommended the adoption of MMP (with a 5% threshold) for ten reasons:

10. More people vote
9. Twice as many women become MPs
8. More people from minorities become MPs
7. More young people register to vote
6. There is no longer any need to vote strategically
5. There are no more governments that are opposed by 60% of the voters
4. Political parties show less antagonism towards each other, and develop legislation more cooperatively
3. It encourages more participation, and better media coverage
2. It reduces public cynicism about politics and politicians
1. It's fair. Everyone's vote counts