

PUBLIC NOTICE

RECALL AND INITIATIVE ACT

This Notice is published pursuant to the *Recall and Initiative Act*. Approval in principle has been given to an Application for an Initiative Petition. The petition will be issued on May 13, 2002. The title of the initiative is: Initiative to Establish a Proportional Representation Electoral System.

The following is a summary of the initiative:

The initiative draft Bill establishes a mixed proportional representation electoral system in British Columbia. Political representation in the Legislature would reflect, as closely as possible, the share of votes received by each political party. The Bill reduces the number of Members of the Legislative Assembly from 79 to 68. Half the number of MLAs would be elected on an electoral district basis using the existing electoral method. The other 34 seats would be held by party MLAs based on each political party's share of valid votes on a party ballot. A party must receive at least 5 percent of the popular vote or elect one constituency MLA to hold party seats.

Provincial electoral district boundaries would be the same as federal electoral boundaries. At a general election, voters would cast two ballots, one for a constituency MLA to represent their electoral district, the other for the political party of their choice. The party MLAs would be selected from ranked party lists submitted by registered political parties. Party lists would be posted at voting places. By-elections would be held to fill vacant constituency seats; party seats vacated between elections would be filled using the party's ranked list from the previous election.

Opponent Registration:

Individuals or organizations who intend to incur expenses in opposing this initiative must register with the Chief Electoral Officer by Monday, April 15, 2002.

For More Information:

The initiative application and draft Bill are available for public inspection at Elections BC and Government Agent offices throughout the Province.

Registration applications for opponents and advertising sponsors may be obtained from Elections BC.

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