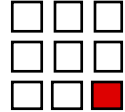


Frits de Vries Architect Ltd.

Architecture Urban Planning Interior Design



June 12th 2004

The Citizens' Assembly
555 West Hastings Street
PO Box 12118, Vancouver, BC
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submissions@citizensassembly.bc.ca

Dear Members of the Assembly

I hope that you will recommend changes to make our current electoral system "democratic".

The key reasons for changing to a popular vote type system are:

- It is essential that people can vote for what they truly believe in. How else would the elected members know what their mandate is?
- It is essential that the electoral system facilitates the creation of new parties. New parties bring new ideas forward and will re-energize the political system.
- It is essential that the electorate has choice and that people from all ages and backgrounds will be interested in the elections.
- It is essential that a government can only be formed when members in power represent more than 50 % of all the votes counted in the province.
- It is essential that every British Columbian feels represented by an elected member, and that nobody considers their vote "wasted".

Why?

How can somebody represent me if he or she does not share my values? Why vote if your vote will never elect a member? Why start a new party if it is virtually impossible to get anybody elected? How many votes to you need to form a majority government?

In the streets of Canada daily life is still remarkable democratic, notwithstanding our absurd electoral system. Canada is a free country. Let's shake off an outdated system of our colonial past.

Thank you all for spending so much of your time on the future of our province.

Frits de Vries MAIBC MRAIC

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