

2000 Citizen's Assembly, MAY 27/04
THANK-YOU FOR YOUR IMPORTANT WORK
OF TAKING A LOOK AT OUR DEMOCRATIC
SYSTEM AND CONSIDERING WAYS TO IMPROVE
THIS. PERSONALLY, I WOULD LIKE TO SEE
THE MMP (NEW ZEALAND SYSTEM) INTRODUCED
TO B.C. HERE ARE MY REASONS:

1) I AM INTERESTED IN PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION. I WANT TO HEAR THE VOICES, & CONCERNS OF A DIVERSITY OF PEOPLES, AS THIS, TO ME, IS DEMOCRACY. THE CURRENT SYSTEM, WHERE ^{MANY} PEOPLE HAVE NO VOICE, IT SEEMS, EXCEPT DURING ELECTION TIME, MAKES A GOVERNMENT THAT DOES NOT REPRESENT MANY OF THE PEOPLE. I BELIEVE BETTER POLICIES, LEGISLATION, ETC. WOULD BE MADE IF THE DIALOGUE PROCESS MUST OCCUR, AS THERE WOULD ALWAYS BE THE DIVERSITY OF INTERESTS REPRESENTED, & FACTORED IN. AS I'VE WATCHED THE CURRENT MAJORITY GOVERNMENT, I'VE REALIZED THAT I AM VERY UNCOMFORTABLE, WHEN THE CONCERNS OF MANY, IN B.C., ARE NO LONGER, EVEN, LISTENED TO, AS THIS CREATES AN UNHAPPY, & UNBALANCED VIEW. I DO NOT WANT TO SEE A LARGE PERCENTAGE OF PEOPLE IN B.C. FEELING AS IF THEY HAVE NO VOICE, IN A DEMOCRACY, AS THIS TELLS ME THAT SOMETHING IS WRONG.

2) IT IS VERY IMPORTANT, TO ME, THAT ALL LEGISLATION IS NEGOTIATED, RATHER THAN JUST RUSHED THROUGH, DUE TO A MAJORITY GOVT. I BELIEVE BETTER SOLUTIONS HAPPEN, WHEN NEGOTIATION MUST HAPPEN.

(2)

With A MMP system Negotiation is a given, AS the many parties must LEARN how to Dialogue & Negotiate.

3) I Am very interested in the smaller parties, & I'd like these to have A voice in govt. because I have experienced how frustrating it is to feel like my vote can not count, AS it is not, perhaps, for A large Political Party. I believe the more "AVERAGE citizen" could Afford to RUN for Election, if there WAS more parties included, & so people could feel more included in Democracy. MMP could do this.

4) The current polarized political climate is very hard on vulnerable people, who need programs, & services because they are caught in the middle of ~~political~~ Political Rhetoric, & see their services cut, changed, etc. based on this. I want protection for the vulnerable, in this society, even when ^{new} political parties come into power in govt. I believe, the MMP would keep political parties honoring standards, Ethics, etc. more than any other system, AS the many voices would Always be included, even when govts. changed.

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