

474 Old Scott Rd.,
Salt Spring Island,
B.C., V8K 2L7,
June 6, 2004

The Citizens' Assembly,
555 West Hastings St.,
P.O. Box 12118,
Vancouver, B.C., V6B 4N6.

Dear Sir et Mesdames,

It is embarrassing that Canada and our provinces still use a 19th century form of election designed for a 2-party system.

Judging by the number of provinces investigating other voting systems, it seems obvious that change is coming. But how quickly?

I urge you to nudge the process along by recommending a change and a referendum for B.C.

My preference is a system which
① allows voters to choose their local representatives because I believe that our first-hand appraisals of their qualities are more valuable than second-hand appraisals based on media reports;
and ② allows voters to also select a

a party for its over-all policies. If these policies differ somewhat from the local candidate's views, he/she can be true to his/her beliefs while we the voters can be true to our beliefs as well as to our evaluations of the candidate's qualities.

Hence, it seems I prefer a mixed member proportional rep. system.

I understand that this system often produces minority governments. I really like the idea that M.L.A.s (and M.P.s) are then forced to co-operate for the good of their province or country. It really is time that our governments outgrew the childish idea of adversarial politics, and set better examples for our youth.

I also like the idea of B.C. leading the way for the rest of the provinces and for Canada.

Please accept my admiration and thanks for the difficult job your committee has been doing on our behalf. It must be fascinating and frustrating. You should be very proud.

Yours sincerely,
Lois J. Sprague