

Box 1251 Fruitvale

BC V09 140

25th June 2004

Dear Assembly,

In response to your request for written submission on electoral reform, I wish to relay my opinion for review after almost two months since attending the Grand Forks assembly session in May.

My selection of voting system is Mixed Proportional Representation.

I favour this (a) because it would allow minority voices to be heard and represented (given the threshold obtained) and (b) because of the option of support for party and candidate and (c) the freedom of voter choice in listing the candidates in accordance with suitability, (d) Pro Rep would seem to encourage coalitions. I think today we need to learn how to work cooperatively to overcome the polarisation of current top heavy parties. (e) Pro Rep would invite more openness and accountability in government - I would think.

In comparison, the STV system would appear more limited and less voter friendly, too wide a choice for ranking individuals requires familiarity for effectiveness, general voters will not

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be familiar enough with everyone. Also in the selection only of individuals there is uncertainty with party allegiance, principles and platforms might be jeopardised. Parties need to be enduring to achieve anything, and to be given a chance to be heard from their perspective and attract those who recognise the core values and represent the issues in the riding at large.

Mixed pro rep. is my choice because it's democratic in this time of diminishing control over government corporate capitalism, and I think pro rep would encourage more votership. (being able to see a vote count more visibly)

It works in New Zealand, I heard Rod Donald M.P. speak on its practical effects, he feels it makes a government more legitimate, when wasted votes drop considerably compared with before with first past the post - a much greater number of people were unrepresented then.

Yours very sincerely
Paul Bowler.