

Letter from Doris Anderson, President of Fair Vote Canada re Error in Presentation before the Citizens' Assembly September 11.

Dr. Jack Blaney Chair
Citizens= Assembly on Electoral Reform
#2288B555 West Hastings Street
P.O. Box 12118
Vancouver, B.C. V6B 4N6

Dear Dr. Blaney,

I was very impressed with the Citizens= Assembly when I attended it in Vancouver on September 11. But I am writing to you now to correct an error made in the presentation by Fair Vote Canada.

I had hoped, as president of Fair Vote Canada, to speak to the assembly myself along with Bruce Hallsor. When that was not possible, our presentation became the work of the entire board of Fair Vote Canada, as Bruce explained in his opening statement.

However, he left out, through error or omission, one very important fact in our submission, which I believe could be very misleading to the assembly. In his discussion of Single Transferable Vote which he supports, he omitted to include the fact that, to date STV has not helped elect women in the very few countries where it is actually used. As well in the question period when he was asked directly whether STV helped elect women the fact that it does not was not made clear.

Henry Milner is the leading expert in Canada on the subject of Proportional Representation. He lectures on the subject all over the world and is quite definite on this matter:

STV has not helped women.

In fact, Ireland, which is the only country using STV with a similar party system to Canada, has only 10% women in its Dail one of the lowest in over 100 modern democracies.

I am sure you will agree with me that it is very important to make sure the assembly has all the facts as they begin their historic deliberations and I would ask you, as chair, to make them aware of this omission in our presentation as soon as possible,

Sincerely,

Doris Anderson C.C