

# PRESENTATION SUMMARY

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SURREY-SOUTH PUBLIC HEARING  
DATED 8 MAY 2004  
AT THE ASTON PACIFIC INN

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS A BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE PRESENTATION TO THE CITIZENS' ASSEMBLY ON ELECTORAL REFORM. IT ATTEMPTS TO CAPTURE THE KEY ISSUES AND ARGUMENTS THAT WERE PRESENTED AND DISCUSSED DURING THE PUBLIC HEARING. IN SOME INSTANCES, THE PRESENTER HAS ALSO MADE A SUBMISSION TO THE ASSEMBLY AND THIS IS ACCESSIBLE VIA THE WEBSITE AT [WWW.CITIZENSASSEMBLY.BC.CA](http://WWW.CITIZENSASSEMBLY.BC.CA) BY CLICKING ON "GET INVOLVED". IF SUCH A SUBMISSION IS AVAILABLE, IT WILL BE NOTED AT THE END OF THIS REPORT.

# Carmela Clare

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## DESCRIPTION OF PRESENTATION

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Our present system of electing political representatives very often discourages people from voting for their real first choice of candidate. I believe that a mixed member proportional (MMP) system, as New Zealand has, would give fairer results and encourage people to vote more honestly.

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## KEY THEMES

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The presenter discussed the need for electoral reform in order to prevent exaggerated majorities, wrong winners, and wasted votes. Ms. Clare also expressed the need for the fair representation of parties in the legislature in accordance with votes cast in order to reinvigorate citizen involvement in the political process.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

Ms. Clare recommended a change to a MMP system. Under this proposal the voter would have two votes, a constituency vote and a party vote. The electoral formula for the election of local members would remain the simple plurality and the list members would be elected via a list PR system. Ms. Clare suggested a 50-50 split between the proportion of list and constituency seats.

*Quote: I feel that MMP will solve many of the problems we have, every vote will count and voting will be honest.*

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## QUESTIONS, ANSWERS AND COMMENTS FROM THE PANEL

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- Q Do you have any suggestions for increasing voter turnout among young people?
- A Yes, a new voting system under which they know their vote will count. Young people are interested in new things, and they are interested in minor parties. I think that a change, in which people's votes count, will bring people out to vote.
- Q Is your system a corrective system to make the entire house proportional or is only the fifty percent of seats proportional? So it's not MMP it's MMM?

- A It is two separate ballots.
- Q Would you have an open or closed list, for the party vote?
- A I think to keep it simple I would favour just one choice. English is not many people's first language so we should keep it simple and have one choice on each ballot.

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QUESTIONS, ANSWERS AND COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

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- Q Do you think candidates should be stopped from running on both ballots?
- A I could certainly consider that, and go that way.
- Q Did you look at the data on turnout and particularly youth turnout in New Zealand following the change to their electoral system?
- A No, I didn't look into that.
- Q Has any consideration been given to doing away with parties and running the province like a business?
- A I suppose people could run as independents, but parties provide a vehicle to let you get your message out.

SUBMISSION: YES SUBMISSION ID# CLARE-0293