

PRESENTATION SUMMARY

UCLUELET PUBLIC HEARING
MAY 15, 2004 AT SEAPLANE BASE
RECREATION CENTRE

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 BY CLICKING ON "GET INVOLVED". IF SUCH A SUBMISSION IS AVAILABLE, IT WILL BE NOTED AT THE END OF THIS REPORT.

GREG BLANCHETTE

DESCRIPTION OF PRESENTATION

We need some form of PR, with a rep whom we can call to answer to us.

KEY THEMES

The presenter thinks PR would put a lot more balance in the legislature. Some kind of PR will allow people to vote the way they feel. Some kind of list of representatives system is not what we need in BC. Our voice is so small, out here we are far from the centre of power. If we do have PR, we need a representative whom we can call to answer to us. If not, we will have no voice and no clout in the legislature. I would like to see mandatory voting.

RECOMMENDATIONS

If we do have PR, we need a representative who can answer to his local area.

Quotes: "We generally bear the brunt of the damage of the yo-yo policy swings." "I think PR would put a lot more balance in the legislature. Sure a lot less would get done but that would be a good thing in BC. No big swings but small swings in the right direction."

QUESTIONS, ANSWERS AND COMMENTS FROM THE PANEL

Three members of the panel sought clarification on elements of the presentation.

Q Do you have a specific system of PR list in mind?

A I have not worked out the details yet.

Q Do you have a preference for proportionality locally or province-wide?

A It should be a more local proportional system.

Q What would be your opinion about having minority governments with PR?

A It bothers me a little bit, but now I find the situation unforgivable. Even if the government is less efficient for a while, I don't see it as being as ruinous as policy swings.

QUESTIONS, ANSWERS AND COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

Comment: I worked for Adrienne Carr, I don't feel like I am represented by this government.

SUBMISSION: NO