

# PRESENTATION SUMMARY

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VALEMOUNT PUBLIC HEARING DATED  
7 MAY 2004 AT THE HOLIDAY INN,  
VALEMOUNT

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.

# Frank Kiyooka

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## DESCRIPTION OF PRESENTATION

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The electoral system needs to be simple and make people feel as though their vote counts. Electoral reform is an opportunity to give a voice to the voiceless.

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## KEY THEMES

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Mr Kiyooka spoke to the hearing on behalf of ‘John Doe’ voter because he felt it is important to give a voice to the voiceless. He explained that an increasing number of people turn off from politics and do not vote because there seems to be no point in casting a ballot. He argued that democracy should be by the people and for the people, but when the majority of eligible citizens do not vote, the political system is not very democratic.

Mr Kiyooka spoke in favour of proportional representation and argued in favour of a mixed system for BC. He argued that an electoral system needs to be simple and to give people the sense that their vote counts.

Mr Kiyooka stated that when governments are elected with a minority of the vote, this creates conflict within the province because a majority of the population does not support the government’s legislation. This causes resentment, which increases until the next election.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr Kiyooka recommended the adoption of a Mixed Member Proportional system in British Columbia.

*Quote: “We need an electoral system that will give a voice to the voiceless.”*

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## QUESTIONS, ANSWERS AND COMMENTS FROM THE PANEL

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There were three members of the panel who sought clarification on elements of the presentation.

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| Q | Most people my age are not interested in politics. Do you have suggestions to bring people back into the world of voting?  |
| A | I think we need to give a voice for the voiceless. People need to feel heard and feel that there is something being done to represent their concerns. That will motivate them to vote, but until that time that will not happen. |
| Q | Do you find that with email and faxes and letter writing that the person representing you needs to be in the same town as you?   |

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| A | I've sent a lot of email but I don't think they read them all. Too many phone calls or emails, and they don't listen any more. I think face to face is better – isn't that the way we work as friends and neighbours? |
| Q | Would you prefer a majoritarian system where the MLA has to win 50 per cent plus one of the vote to win a seat, and that if you don't win a majority you can't be elected?  |
| A | I think that is an interesting consideration.   |

### Comment from panel

There were no comments from the panel.

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### QUESTIONS, ANSWERS AND COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

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Following this presentation there was a question from the audience.

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| Q | How would you feel we should vote so that we don't waste our vote? Do you vote for the person you prefer or do you vote for the party affiliation that you have?   |
| A | I agree that the party is of foremost importance but I also believe in personal contact. I want to be able to phone up my MLA because that motivates me to be involved. Choosing the best of both worlds can be difficult, but where possible we need to try to vote for both. |

**Comments:** “I couldn't have said it better myself”

“People who are already disenfranchised from the political system also don't have access to email or to any of the technology that you need to contact your MLA so they're even more disadvantaged.”

**SUBMISSION: NO**