

PRESENTATION SUMMARY

VERNON PUBLIC HEARING
DATED 21 JUNE 2004
AT THE PRESTIGE INN VERNON SALON

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.

Robert Dubois

DESCRIPTION OF PRESENTATION

I wish to present the None-of-the-Above (NOTA) voter option for all ballots. NOTA is catching on in the USA, Australia, and others.

KEY THEMES

Mr. Dubois discussed his interest and experience following the establishment and progress of the Citizens' Assembly. The presenter stated that he has been researching electoral systems in North America for several years as a result of his unhappiness with the limited choices provided to citizens. Mr. Dubois argued that there exists a better way to elect our public servants.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The presenter recommended the introduction of the NOTA option on the ballot and an element of proportional representation. Under this system, if the NOTA option should win eligible citizens would be selected at random to fill the seat. Mr. Dubois argued that the rationale for this system is the same as that which underpins the method of jury selection. The presenter stated that there needs to be more information on the NOTA option and the need to enable voter consent laws to preserve democracy in government. Mr. Dubois also offered his support for proportional representation on the grounds that it allows all votes to count toward the final result. The presenter argued that money now determines electoral success rather than the will of the citizens.

Quote: The introduction of the NOTA option, voter consent laws, and proportional representation will bring us all closer to a better way to elect our public officials and representatives.

QUESTIONS, ANSWERS AND COMMENTS FROM THE PANEL

- Q How do you define the sovereign individual?
- A A sovereign individual is the rights of us as individuals to govern our bodies and minds and the labour we produce with that body. And to be able to voice our opinions and fight for our rights on a

continuous basis.

Q If the NOTA option wins the election how do you choose the MLA?

A Precisely the same way as you were selected for the Citizens' Assembly. As long as you were qualified, similar to jury duty, you could be selected at any time. You may demonstrate that you could not do the job but I do not believe that any of us are incapable of performing this task. There would be a lot of urging for you to do it as a duty. This system would make parties have to work to make sure that citizens do not select NOTA. It makes sure that parties please the people and holds them accountable.

SUBMISSION: YES SUBMISSION ID# 0029