

# PRESENTATION SUMMARY

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VICTORIA PUBLIC HEARING DATED  
10 JUNE 2004 AT THE WESTERN BALLROOM,  
HARBOUR TOWERS

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.

# Jim McDermott

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## DESCRIPTION OF PRESENTATION

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I would like to share my views on electoral reform and how I feel it could effect positive changes toward the avenue of direct democracy.

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## KEY THEMES

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Jim McDermott told the Assembly that he was an advocate for Special Needs Children. He described his experience with BC's Recall and Initiative Act, and has written a report on BC's Initiative Process making several recommendations in an effort to create a legislative process to proud of. He argued that the current political system is too divisive, and that people and their representatives need to be brought closer together through direct democracy. He supported proportional representation to give minority groups, such as children and adults with special needs, a stronger voice in the legislature.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

Jim McDermott recommended the introduction of proportional representation in British Columbia.

*Quote: "I feel a solid democracy needs a workable vehicle for direct democracy and I happen to think that one way of achieving this goal is to change the electoral process to a proportional representation model."*

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## QUESTIONS, ANSWERS AND COMMENTS FROM THE PANEL

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

Q	How much PR do you support? A completely proportional legislature or a blend with a bit of proportionality?
A	I think a mixed system would probably be better but I'm putting my faith in the Assembly to come up with the exact proposal for the system.
Q	How important is your local representative to you?
A	I really want to have a local representative.

**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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There were no questions or comments from the audience.

**SUBMISSION: NO**