

PRESENTATION SUMMARY

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

David Piney

DESCRIPTION OF PRESENTATION

I propose a contractual mandate electoral system, where candidates are legally bound by the mandate they petition the electorate with – subject to jury review – in order to empower the collective conscience as the determinant of social direction. Thus replacing the vulnerability of individual representatives to powerfully coercive forces – especially during those energy crisis times – with that of the entire public who become the sole determinant of the general direction of the ship of state.

KEY THEMES

David Piney expressed concern that the introduction of a proportional representation (PR) electoral system would ensure that future governments would not be able to win the majority necessary to reverse the subordination of BC to the New World Order agenda. He proposed a contractual mandate system where candidates would not be elected on the basis of their personality but on the merits of the contractual mandate that they put forward to the public for voter ratification. Contracts presented by candidates would be sufficiently broad to allow MLAs sufficient day-to-day latitude to accommodate unforeseen contingencies. Any legislation or policy supported by candidates that violated the terms of their mandate would be subject to review by a representative board randomly selected from constituents. In this way, Mr Piney argued that representatives would be subject to the public's collective conscience. Complaints against MLAs who have violated their mandate would initially only be presented to a hearing of constituents. Eventually, complaints would be adjudicated by a randomly selected investigative board, with the power to expel an MLA and call a by-election. Mr Piney also proposed that the media be recognized as an integral part of the governing process and that a public board be formed with representatives from each medium to ensure that the culture's values and norms are not simply the dictates of dominant groups.

RECOMMENDATIONS

David Piney recommended the introduction of a contractual mandate system.

Quote: "This structure redefines the conventional manner by which voters' ballots are translated into elected members in order to fully utilize the public's collective attributes, to prevent runaway governments, among other things, which is of course and increasingly serious problem nowadays."

QUESTIONS, ANSWERS AND COMMENTS FROM THE PANEL

One member of the panel sought clarification on elements of the presentation.

Q	David is there an example of another country that has introduced this system?
A	No, the elite would never let that happen.

Comment from panel There were no comments from the panel.

QUESTIONS, ANSWERS AND COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

Following this presentation quite a few members of the audience had questions.

Q	What do you mean by collective conscience?
A	Psychologists recognize that humanity is dependable and that all cultures in the world have the same fundamental values but we have allowed the elites to run rampant.
Q	Are the elite not part of the collective conscience?
A	They rally around their vested interests instead of their collective conscience, so are dismissive of the little people and do not incorporate the same dimension of humanitarian concerns.

Comment: There were no comments from the audience.

SUBMISSION: NO