

# PRESENTATION SUMMARY

---

SECHELT PUBLIC HEARING DATED  
5 JUNE 2004 AT THE DRIFTWOOD INN

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.

# Denise Lagasse

---

## DESCRIPTION OF PRESENTATION

---

Short presentation, excited to participate in this democratic process.

---

## KEY THEMES

---

Denise Lagasse spoke about her experience as a teacher and drew connections with the need for electoral reform in BC. She described an exercise that she currently undertook with her Grade Five, Six and Seven class where the class was divided into groups of governments, and then required to prioritise a list of twenty governmental tasks, such as the provision of clean water or education or nutritious food. Ms Lagasse described the difference in leadership styles and group dynamics as being considerable and observed that the cooperative groups were more effective than groups where one student took over the decision making process. She argued that this exercise demonstrates the importance for a diverse range of views to be heard in the political decision-making process, and predicted that this would be the case under a proportional representation electoral system. Ms Lagasse explained that people elected under a proportional representation system would be required to have new skills such as mediation and consensus-building, and that the decision making process would involve synergy, where the total effect of the cooperative action of different agencies is greater than the sum of the effects taken independently.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

Denise Lagasse recommended the introduction of a proportional representation electoral system in British Columbia.

*Quote: "We would embark upon a whole new path of decision making where the ideas and goals set would reflect a wider range of perspectives and a higher degree of creativity. People elected would have strong skills in mediation, consensus building and active listening."*

---

## QUESTIONS, ANSWERS AND COMMENTS FROM THE PANEL

---

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

Q	I just want to clarify that you're speaking in favour of proportional representation.
A	Yes I am.

**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 your students think of the fact that any change that will occur under this process will not come into effect for a considerable amount of time?
A	I think young people are creative and dynamic and will find ways to participate and help the process along.
Q	What skills do you think are required for the new political animal, and do men qualify?
A	I would say strong mediation skills, consensus-building and active listening. As for whether men have these skills, it remains to be seen!

***Comment:*** There were no comments from the audience.

**SUBMISSION: NO**