

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

Jayun McDowell

DESCRIPTION OF PRESENTATION

Although personally favouring a pure-PR system, Jayun McDowell suggests that MMP is a more realistic first step for BC.

KEY THEMES

Jayun McDowell told the hearing that having never voted for a winning candidate, she believes that her vote no longer counts. She argued that the current electoral system must change and that she favours a pure-PR system such as the system used in the Netherlands, with no ridings and no thresholds. Although Ms McDowell believes that a list-PR system would be the fairest system but she explained that she does not believe that its time has come. As an alternative, she considered STV but opposed introducing such a system in BC because its complicated counting process makes the system less accountable to the voters and it only produces proportional results in the larger multi-member ridings. Ms McDowell concluded that MMP was the best system to start with in British Columbia because it retains ridings and the local representation that is familiar to voters as well as being more proportional than the current system.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Jayun McDowell recommended the introduction of MMP in British Columbia.

Quote: "We need a system that is fair, understandable and that people can be comfortable with, therefore MMP is the only choice."

QUESTIONS, ANSWERS AND COMMENTS FROM THE PANEL

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

Q	So do you prefer pure-PR or MMP?
A	Personally I prefer pure proportional representation but I believe MMP is a more realistic starting point in BC.

Comment from panel: There were no comments from the panel.

QUESTIONS, ANSWERS AND COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

There were no questions or comments from the panel.

SUBMISSION: NO