

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.

Edward K. Scott

DESCRIPTION OF PRESENTATION

A presentation in favour of the secret ballot, one vote per person, a majoritarian electoral system and term limits.

KEY THEMES

Edward Scott asked the Citizens' Assembly to confirm their commitment to the secret ballot and the principle of one vote per person. He argued that a successful MLA should represent the majority of voters in a riding, and should therefore only be elected with at least 50 per cent plus one votes in the riding, either through a transferable vote system or a run-off election. He expressed concern with proportional representation, particularly that party list MLAs that are not directly elected, and suggested that if the Assembly recommends a PR electoral system, this should be accompanied by a condition that list MLAs may only serve two terms in the legislature and should not qualify for pensions.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Edward Scott recommended the introduction of a majoritarian electoral system in BC, using either the run-off system or a preferential ballot.

Quote: "The rationale for a run-off or transferable ballot system is that the elected person can honestly say that he or she represents the majority in that riding."

QUESTIONS, ANSWERS AND COMMENTS FROM THE PANEL

There were no questions or comments from the panel.

QUESTIONS, ANSWERS AND COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

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

Q	I'm interested in your suggestion that a candidate should win a majority of the votes. Are you suggesting that people would come out to vote for a second run-off election?
A	I'm not concerned with the mechanics, you could have a transferable ballot instead.
Q	Do you favour term limits for all politicians or only for list MLAs?

A	No, only for list MLAs. If people want to elect a local candidate for more terms they should be entitled to do so.
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Comment: There were no comments from the audience.

SUBMISSION: NO