

PRESENTATION SUMMARY

CRANBROOK PUBLIC HEARING DATED
21 JUNE 2004 AT THE PRESTIGE 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.

Lloyd Hodge

DESCRIPTION OF PRESENTATION

A discussion of the Pro-Rep Initiative in 2002 and a recommendation for MMP.

KEY THEMES

Lloyd Hodge described his experience as a canvasser for the Proportional Representation Initiative in 2002. He argued that British Columbia requires an electoral system that is not as disproportional as the current system. Mr Hodge told the hearing that during the Pro Rep campaign he had encountered a whole spectrum of political opinions, and that most people were not interested in politics or the electoral system. Many people were not registered to vote, or were happy with the First Past the Post (FPP) system. Mr Hodge argued that FPP only works with a two party system but does not work with three or more parties. He opposed the introduction of compulsory voting, because it deprived people of the decision not to vote when they do not like anyone on the ballot. He supported the introduction of MMP in British Columbia because it will be more effective at representing the entire electorate from one end of the province to the other.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Lloyd Hodge recommended the introduction of MMP in British Columbia.

Quote: "I don't feel represented at all, and something has to change."

QUESTIONS, ANSWERS AND COMMENTS FROM THE PANEL

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

Q	How do you feel about the option of None of the Above on the ballot?
A	Only if there was room to put down what you do want on the bottom of the ballot.
Q	Do you have a preference of how MMP should be introduced in BC?
A	At the time of the campaign we favoured a fifty-fifty split, but right now I think Adriane Carr prefers a two-third constituency to one-third list seats split.
Q	Do you support that even if it means larger ridings?
A	Yes I do. Originally we had proposed using the 36 federal ridings in BC at the provincial level and having 36 list

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

QUESTIONS, ANSWERS AND COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

There were no questions from the audience.

Comment: “The ‘none of the above’ option is actually available in federal elections if you hand your ballot to the returning officer without voting for any of the candidates. The number of blank ballots is officially recorded.”

“I like the idea of having mainly constituency seats, rather than party seats. I think constituency representation is very important. If you go proportional or use a preferential ballot then you can still have the majority take all. So I think we should have an elected Senate.”

“Every MLA has to follow the rules of the party. He can’t vote with his conscience.”

SUBMISSION: NO