

# PRESENTATION SUMMARY

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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](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.

# Carol Patton

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## DESCRIPTION OF PRESENTATION

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A short presentation on reasons for voting reform in BC with a few recommendations.

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## KEY THEMES

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Carol Patton spoke as a member of the British Columbia Nurses' Union. She referred members to the BCNU presentation in May and endorsed recommendations made by the Union. Ms Patton argued that the present system is outdated and is not giving fair or balanced representation to the will of the people, which results in voters feeling devalued. She criticized the crazy pendulum of BC politics and explained that people aren't really voting for a party but are voting the government out. Ms Patton hoped that the Assembly would come up with a system that would moderate policy swings. She also spoke about the importance of educating the public on electoral reform. Ms Patton discussed the under-representation of women and ethnic minorities in the legislature. She argued that the government needs to be more accountable, and that proportional representation will ensure a stronger opposition that will be able to hold the government to account.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

Carol Patton recommended the introduction of proportional representation in BC.

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## QUESTIONS, ANSWERS AND COMMENTS FROM THE PANEL

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

Q	Would you describe yourself as being in the middle politically? Do your friends and neighbours hold strict views on one side or other of the spectrum?
A	I don't think that is what this process is about. It doesn't matter what side of the spectrum I'm on, I think that with proportional representation all views will be fairly represented.
Q	Do you think voters would be more valued by more parties and having more diverse views represented in the legislature?
A	That would probably make a difference. I haven't really got an idea in my mind of what would be the ideal situation.
Q	Would you like to see more choices on the ballot?
A	Yes, I think that would be good. I think that what is most important to me is the popular vote – you see

	governments being elected that don't actually have the support of the popular vote.
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**Comment from panel**      There were no comments from the panel.

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**QUESTIONS, ANSWERS AND COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE**

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There were no questions or comments from the audience.

**SUBMISSION: NO**