

# PRESENTATION SUMMARY

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DUNCAN PUBLIC HEARING DATED  
8 JUNE 2004 AT THE TRAVELODGE  
SILVER BRIDGE

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.

# Warren Chapman

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## DESCRIPTION OF PRESENTATION

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I am in favour of proportional representation similar to the one that the Green Party was promoting.

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## KEY THEMES

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Warren Chapman told the hearing that he had been part of the Proportional Representation Initiative in 2002. He explained that his vote has not counted toward electing an MLA for the past fifteen years. He supported the Mixed Member Proportional (MMP) system because this system would make his vote count. Mr Chapman argued that MMP would give small party voters representation in the legislature and eliminate the need for strategic voting. He discussed the mechanics of the Single Transferable Vote (STV) system and argued that people would still need to vote strategically in an STV system. Mr Chapman opposed the introduction of an STV system because he believed that it would not be very representative and would be too cumbersome and complicated for people to use.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

Warren Chapman recommended the introduction of MMP in British Columbia.

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## QUESTIONS, ANSWERS AND COMMENTS FROM THE PANEL

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There were no questions or comments from members of the panel.

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## QUESTIONS, ANSWERS AND COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

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

Q	It seems to me that we're all ignoring the elephant in the room which is the commitment to the party system. There's an option open to any one of us here to withdraw our support from the party system and then it will collapse.
A	As I understand it, a mixed system would still allow independent candidates to run in the constituency.
Q	If parties are allowed a proportion of the top up seats, how would an independent get access to those seats?
A	They wouldn't. They would only be able to be elected in

	the constituencies.
Q	Could you go into more explanation about your objections to strategic voting?
A	The information I have from the Free Your Vote Pro-Rep society describes the voting system in Ireland and Malta and you're generally electing 5 people in each constituency. With an STV system I probably wouldn't have any people that I like in the legislature, but with MMP if the Greens won 12 per cent of the votes they would get 12 per cent of the seats.

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

**SUBMISSION: NO**