

PRESENTATION SUMMARY

KAMLOOPS PUBLIC HEARING
DATED 17 JUNE 2004 AT
THE COAST CANADIAN 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.

Valoree Baker

DESCRIPTION OF PRESENTATION

I also believe we must address the issue of financing elections if we are to hope for a remotely level playing field. Also the role the media plays in allotting coverage.

KEY THEMES

Valoree Baker discussed campaign funding and proposed that all federal campaign candidates should receive equal public funding and equal media coverage. She argued that this would free candidates from having to follow the party line as they would not be dependent on parties or private donors for campaign funding. Ms Baker also proposed that MLAs elect the Premier and the Cabinet to reduce the adversarial division between political parties and promote cooperation and compromise. She argued that private corporations have become more powerful than governments and are able to buy the top leaders of whichever party is in power. She urged the Assembly to address these issues in addition to their focus on electoral reform.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Valoree Baker recommended campaign funding reform to abolish private funding for candidates.

She also recommended that the Members of the Legislative Assembly elect the Premier and the Cabinet.

Quote: "Everyone would have to cooperate and compromise rather than the confrontational, dictatorial system we are suffering under today with no reprieve between elections."

QUESTIONS, ANSWERS AND COMMENTS FROM THE PANEL

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

Q	Most of the problems you've addressed in your paper are outside our mandate, but what do you think would be the best electoral system to address these issues?
A	I hope that you realize that all of these issues are inter-related, and if we don't try to clean up the whole picture rather than just one aspect of the picture then we'll just be spinning our wheels.

Comment from panel

There were no comments from the panel.

QUESTIONS, ANSWERS AND COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

Following this presentation one member of the audience had a question.

Q	As I understand it, you're proposing a system where there would be no type of party system. This would be similar to the system that we currently use for municipal government – is that what you're thinking of?
A	I think the most important thing is to consider the funding of candidates, it is absolutely crucial that people are on an equal playing field.

Comment: There were no comments from the audience.

SUBMISSION: NO