

# PRESENTATION SUMMARY

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KAMLOOPS PUBLIC HEARING DATED  
17 JUNE 2004 AT THE COAST CANADIAN

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.

# Robin Torpes

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## DESCRIPTION OF PRESENTATION

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1. I will present my idea for Proportional Representation.
  2. I will present a sample ballot to show alternatives to the current ballot.
  3. I will also present the change that would be required in our electoral districts and legislature.
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## KEY THEMES

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Robin Torpes recommended the introduction of a mixed system in which each riding is allocated two seats. He explained that the ballot would have an upper section with a choice of candidates and a lower section with a choice of political parties. Voters would have a choice of voting once for a candidate in the upper section or once for a party in the lower section, or casting two votes, either one vote for both a candidate and a party or casting two candidate votes. The first seat in each riding would be won by the candidate with the most votes, in exactly the same way as occurs under First Past the Post. The second seat would be allocated either to the candidate with the second highest number of votes in the upper section of the ballot or, depending on the proportion of voters across the province who choose to cast a party vote in the lower half of the ballot, to a candidate from a party list. For every two per cent of provincial voters who choose to cast a party vote, one seat is allocated to party list candidates. For example, in a hypothetical example of a legislature with 100 seats divided between 50 ridings, if 60 per cent of voters cast a party vote on the lower section of the ballot, 30 seats would be allocated proportionally to parties and filled by list candidates. Fifty seats would be won by the highest placed candidate in each of the fifty ridings, and twenty seats would be won by the twenty highest second place finishers in the ridings. Mr Torpes advised that this system could be adjusted to fit the current riding boundaries by doubling the number of MLAs, or alternatively, the current number of MLAs could remain in half the number of ridings.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

Robin Torpes recommended a mixed electoral system with two seats allocated to each riding.

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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	I'm looking at the election ballot you've provided here, where the candidates and parties are listed alphabetically. Do you think that would unfairly advantage the candidate at the top of the ballot?
A	No, I would like to think that people don't vote on that basis.
Q	Would the public accept the additional cost?
A	That is one of the biggest drawbacks of the system. Instead we could change the side of the ridings and make

	them larger, with two members in each riding.
Q	Could you explain why there's a choice as to how you allocate the fifty additional seats?
A	You have the option of either voting once in the upper half of the ballot and once in the lower half, or instead casting two votes for the candidates you prefer. When you vote in the lower section you're voting across the province as a whole, and when you vote in the upper section you're voting in your riding.

**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**