

PRESENTATION SUMMARY

NELSON PUBLIC HEARING
DATED 11 MAY 2004
AT THE PRESTIGE LAKESIDE RESORT

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.

Clayton Knapp

DESCRIPTION OF PRESENTATION

A presentation in support of a fairer system of representation where all voters have a voice. I believe that a huge government majority is not a good government.

KEY THEMES

Mr. Knapp outlined the lack of representation that he experienced living in Alberta and the dominance of the governing party under the current FPTP system. The presenter went on to note the problem with disproportionality under FPTP and the production of artificial and exaggerated majorities.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr. Knapp recommended a system of proportional representation.

Quote: I think electoral reform is a very important thing, and the most important thing is to get out and talk to your neighbours.

QUESTIONS, ANSWERS AND COMMENTS FROM THE PANEL

Q You're advocating greater proportionality but would you prefer more proportional representation or are you keen to have a local member representing you?

A In some instances in farm communities it is as if you are favoured because you know the local MLA in a small community. But, I don't want to be favoured I want to be treated fair.