

PRESENTATION SUMMARY

NEW WESTMINSTER PUBLIC HEARING
DATED 6 MAY 2004
AT THE INN AT WESTMINSTER QUAY

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.

David Lane

T. Buck Suzuki Environmental Foundation

DESCRIPTION OF PRESENTATION

Environmental concerns of the electorate are not being properly represented.

KEY THEMES

The presenter felt that majority views of the province are not being heard in government. Mr. Lane used the example of the environment to exemplify this point. The presenter felt that the current electoral system did not provide accountability of MLA's to voters and that citizen apathy was fostered by an unresponsive government.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The presenter recommended a change to a MMP system in order to protect local representation while enhancing the representativeness of the legislature. Mr. Lane also proposed the introduction of more institutions of deliberative democracy; the introduction of measures to ensure that elections are fair; the reform of voting procedures within the legislature requiring a larger number of members (perhaps a two-thirds majority) to enable the passage of legislation; and finally the implementation of an electoral audit commission on the fulfillment of policy platforms.

QUESTIONS, ANSWERS AND COMMENTS FROM THE PANEL

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| Q | Are you looking for MMP, or do you just want to avoid majority governments? |
| A | No, we feel it is important to be able to vote for party platforms, while allowing local representation to continue. |
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QUESTIONS, ANSWERS AND COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

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| Q | In your MMP system did you have a threshold in mind? |
| A | As an organization we haven't taken a position on that, based on the literature I've read I would say that five per cent appears reasonable. |

