

# PRESENTATION SUMMARY

---

PENTICTON PUBLIC HEARING  
DATED 23 JUNE 2004  
AT PENTICTON 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](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.

# Brigid Kemp

Central Okanagan Club of the Communist Party of British Columbia

---

## DESCRIPTION OF PRESENTATION

---

My presentation will be based on proportional representation.

---

## KEY THEMES

---

Ms. Kemp stated that the Communist Party of Canada and the Communist Party of BC believe that the introduction of proportional representation is crucial in order to prevent the occurrence of wrong winners, as occurred in 1996, and exaggerated majorities, as occurred in 2001.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

The presenter advocated the introduction of MMP, combining the election of an individual MLA in each of fifty constituencies, with fifty others to be elected at large via proportional representation, for a total of 100 MLAs. According to Ms. Kemp, PR politically values every vote and gives any party that can garner at least 2% of the vote at least one member in the legislature, allowing for a much wider range of political outlooks. The presenter also recommended that BC returns to a system of complete enumeration of voters for each election. Ms. Kemp argued that this would improve the current situation in which a large number of eligible voters (particularly students, renters, and individuals with low-incomes) are left off the permanent voters list. The presenter also called for lowering the voting age to sixteen on the grounds that growing numbers of young people are employed, highly literate, and often as engaged in politics as their parents. Ms. Kemp also argued for lowering the limits on campaign spending and for the introduction of mandatory media access for all candidates and parties in order to combat the dominance of major parties in the political system. Finally, Ms. Kemp advocated the reduction of the salaries of MLAs in order to bring them into line with the average income of a full-time employee in BC.

*Quote: The Communist Party of Canada and the Communist Party of BC believe the most crucial change would be a switch to proportional representation.*

---

## QUESTIONS, ANSWERS AND COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

---

Q Are there any existing communist party governments

in the world that use PR?

A I cannot answer that at this point, but if you supply me with your details I will find that out for you.