

PRESENTATION SUMMARY

POWELL RIVER PUBLIC HEARING DATED
15 MAY 2004 AT THE CEDAR ROOM, POWELL
RIVER RECREATION CENTRE

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.

Pat Christie

DESCRIPTION OF PRESENTATION

I always vote but as I enter middle age I realize that only once has someone I voted for actually been elected. I am beginning to feel that our democracy is a sham – we get a ballot but our vote doesn't give us a voice, it just legitimizes a terrible fraud.

KEY THEMES

Pat Christie spoke in support of the MMP electoral system, but added that she had heard good arguments at the hearing about giving more power to the individual voter and thought that other systems might be worth consideration. She argued that MMP seems acceptable to many because it appears that it may prevent some of the worst excesses of the FPP system and because young people seem interested and enthusiastic about MMP. Ms Christie also emphasized the need for the Assembly to ensure that whatever system they recommend does not further disenfranchise rural areas. She argued that ideas and attitudes have changed considerably over the last 100 years, and it is important for the electoral system to evolve also. Ms Christie argued that electoral system change is necessary to prevent further political disenchantment among voters.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Pat Christie recommended the introduction of MMP in British Columbia.

Quote: "I always vote, but I am becoming increasingly disenchanted with our present electoral democracy, as resulting policies and laws seem to benefit wealth and power at the expense of the many and the world itself."

QUESTIONS, ANSWERS AND COMMENTS FROM THE PANEL

There were no questions or comments from the panel.

QUESTIONS, ANSWERS AND COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

There were no questions or comments from the audience.

SUBMISSION: NO