

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.

Clancy Cross

DESCRIPTION OF PRESENTATION

Electoral reform.

KEY THEMES

Clancy Cross spoke in favour of the MMP electoral system. He explained that he had had trouble convincing his son about the importance of voting under the current system and argued that anything we can do to make people feel that their vote counts for something is an improvement. He also advised that the Assembly should make sure that any new electoral system is simple because the public does not pay a lot of attention to these types of issues. Mr Cross also suggested that the Assembly's report note the limitations of the mandate.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Clancy Cross recommended the introduction of MMP in British Columbia.

He also recommended that the Assembly comment on the limitation of its mandate in its final report.

QUESTIONS, ANSWERS AND COMMENTS FROM THE PANEL

There were no questions or comments from the panel.

QUESTIONS, ANSWERS AND COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

Following this presentation quite a few members of the audience had questions.

Q	I would like to comment on youth voting. Our friends from NZ aren't politics majors but they know so much about electoral system, far more than I know about mine. I think it's really important for young people to be involved in a system.
A	I agree. I think that before we can change people's attitudes they need to be involved with political system first.
Q	How did you encourage your son to vote?

A	I just didn't let up, and now his wife votes as well.
Q	Do you think that people are apathetic, not because their vote doesn't represent them, but because the people who are elected, whoever they are, don't manage our resources for the benefit of all?
A	My son now realizes, as he's working, that politicians have a real impact on our lives.
Q	I think if we change something, people might be more willing to get involved.
A	I also wonder how many people learned anything about voting in high school.
Q	Do you think that the accessibility of voting is a problem for young people? Don't you think that people should be able to vote from their homes using the internet?
A	No. I think it's really important to have a paper ballot to avoid the problems that they had down in the US.

Comment: There were no comments from the audience.

SUBMISSION: NO