

# PRESENTATION SUMMARY

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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](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.

# Kathryn Kleinsteuber

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## DESCRIPTION OF PRESENTATION

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Concerns with voting process of the STV system.

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## KEY THEMES

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Kathryn Kleinsteuber spoke in support of the MMP electoral system, arguing that MMP would reduce dramatic pendulum swings in government policies and address voter apathy by making people feel that their votes count. She expressed concerns with the STV electoral system, particularly the use of a computer system to tally the vote rather than scrutineers. Ms Kleinsteuber also suggested changing the electoral boundaries to group areas with similar interests together, explaining that this has been a problem for the people of the Sunshine Coast whose voices have been overpowered by the voters of West Vancouver. She argued that the increase in the size of the ridings under MMP need not be dramatic if only one third of seats were allocated to party lists.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

Kathryn Kleinsteuber recommended the introduction of MMP in British Columbia.

*Quote: "MMP could address voter apathy because people would actually feel represented and that their votes count."*

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## QUESTIONS, ANSWERS AND COMMENTS FROM THE PANEL

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A member of the panel sought clarification on elements of the presentation.

Q	Do you think the public will have any difficulty with casting two votes instead of one?
A	In regional district votes people don't seem to have a problem with casting more votes on a ballot paper.

**Comment from panel:** There were no comments from the panel.

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**QUESTIONS, ANSWERS AND COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE**

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

Q	For constituency representatives under MMP, do you think it would be possible to elect them using a run-off system rather than first-past-the-post?
A	I think that would make the system more complicated, and you would risk losing even more people from the voting process.
Q	Do you think with the problem of the ridings increasing, that we could group ridings so that we could be placed with areas with more similarities?
A	I'm sure that something like that could happen.
Q	Do you think we could double the number of MLAs for half the salary?
A	I think that we wouldn't even need to double the MLAs under the current system. I think it is important that politicians be paid good salaries but I don't see a problem with reducing their salaries.

**Comment:** There were no further comments from the audience.

**SUBMISSION: NO**