

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.

Powell River Raging Grannies

DESCRIPTION OF PRESENTATION

Change our voting system to a proportional representation system that represents the interests and desires of the people of this province.

KEY THEMES

The Powell River Raging Grannies argued that the last three years had demonstrated the devastating effects of FPP in British Columbia. They expressed concern with increasing voter disenchantment and declining voter turnout. The Raging Grannies advocated a proportional electoral system but explained that they would leave the actual format of the proportional voting system to their fellow citizens on the Assembly.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Powell River Raging Grannies recommended “changing our voting system to a proportional system that represents the interests and desires of the people of this province.”

The Powell River Raging Grannies then sang the ‘Pro-Rep Song’ to the tune of Clementine.

“Do you feel unrepresented
When the vote count is complete,
And your party lost by inches
And is left without a seat?

Try a new way, for the old way
Doesn’t give an equal voice
To the voters disenfranchised
Who have made a different choice.

If the seats were in proportion
To percentage of the vote,
There would be an opposition
And the winners couldn’t gloat.

All would have to work together
On the passage of each bill
No more trampling of opinion,
Build a democratic will.

In proportion, in proportion,
In proportion to the vote,

We would all be represented,
Keep democracy afloat.”

(Written by Doreen Cameron, Powell River Raging Grannies)

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