

# PRESENTATION SUMMARY

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PRINCE GEORGE PUBLIC HEARING DATED  
10 MAY 2004 AT THE PRINCE GEORGE  
CIVIC 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.

# John Alderliesten

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## DESCRIPTION OF PRESENTATION

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John Alderliesten spoke of the need for better rural representation and supported the introduction of MMP.

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## KEY THEMES

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John Alderliesten explained that he has not voted in the last few elections because he feels as though his vote would have been wasted under the current system. He argued that while local representation is important, ideological representation is important as well. Voters who have ideological beliefs that are not represented by the two major parties do not have any voice in the current legislature. Mr Alderliesten spoke of the need for an electoral system to better represent rural BC in the legislature and to prevent any more wild swings in policy. He supported the introduction of MMP in BC and thanked Adrienne Carr, leader of the Green Party, for initiating the Free Your Vote campaign in the province.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

John Alderliesten recommended the adoption of an MMP system in British Columbia.

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## QUESTIONS, ANSWERS AND COMMENTS FROM THE PANEL

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There were three members of the panel who sought clarification on elements of the presentation.

Q	How important is it to you to have local representation?
A	Very important, but I also believe that ideological representation is just as important as local representation. I live in a small town and our voice needs to be represented. Under MMP I could go to my local MLA or to my party MLA.

**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 the presentation two members of the audience had questions.

Q	How would you get the youth out to vote?
A	I have an 18 year old son and I think that it's up to each of us to show our kids how much voting means. We have to go out there and do it ourselves and show some leadership. I'm pretty sure my son will step up to the plate.
Q	How would an MMP system get rid of wild swings from the left to the right? The problem in New Zealand is that you get some of the smaller parties switching sides. Do you think a 5 per cent threshold would be enough to make sure we don't have wild swings?
A	I think the 5 per cent threshold is a good one. There might be a few parties with 5 per cent or 8 per cent of the vote and those people still deserve a voice. Coalition building is good for people because it helps to build consensus and include people rather than alienating them.

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

**SUBMISSION: NO**