

PRESENTATION SUMMARY

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 BY CLICKING ON "GET INVOLVED". IF SUCH A SUBMISSION IS AVAILABLE, IT WILL BE NOTED AT THE END OF THIS REPORT.

Joan Chess-Woollacott

DESCRIPTION OF PRESENTATION

Proposal to create an electoral system for the province like that found in local government, where residents would vote for a number of candidates in their area or region.

KEY THEMES

Joan Chess-Woollacott argued that the current electoral system should be dropped in favour of a system similar to that of local government, with no political parties. Residents would vote for a number of candidates for their area or region, depending on geographical area and population size. She also recommended a separate vote for the premier. This system would ensure that a greater variety of perspectives were represented in the legislature and would remove any party discipline. Without political parties, representatives would have to work together to develop policy solutions.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Joan Chess-Woollacott recommended introducing a provincial electoral system that is similar to the system used for local government, with multi-member districts and no political parties.

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