

PRESENTATION SUMMARY

PRINCE RUPERT PUBLIC HEARING
DATED 9 JUNE 2004
AT THE CREST HOTEL

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.

Lorraine Bugera

DESCRIPTION OF PRESENTATION

A presentation in support of proportional representation.

KEY THEMES

Ms. Bugera discussed her struggle against despair, and disenfranchisement as a result of her experience of 36 years in the health-care industry. The presenter stated the view that her beliefs are not attended to unless they fit within party lines. Ms. Bugera argued that the rapid swings in policy from administration to administration, creates great uncertainty in the workplace and too much energy is expended trying to catch up with the changes. Ms. Bugera argued that this process becomes exhausting.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Ms. Bugera supported the introduction of MMP as the current system is not working and consumes too much energy and too much time. The presenter expressed her disappointment that the Citizens' Assembly was restricted to reforms that fall within the Westminster framework, as she supported the random selection of members to serve in the government. Ms. Bugera expressed the opinion that there exists a fundamental need to reform the current FPTP system.

QUESTIONS, ANSWERS AND COMMENTS FROM THE PANEL

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| Q | What is your opinion of the importance of local representation? |
| A | That is why I support MMP as it provides a balance of both local representation and proportionality. If the party list members are required to be involved in the community then I think this system is workable and sometimes, frankly, our system of local representation is embarrassing. |
| Q | MMP usually operates with a closed list of candidates picked by the parties; are you comfortable with that? |
| A | If there are guidelines, and those lists are published, and we have an opportunity to know ahead of time who is going to be on the list before I cast my party vote then I would be fine with that. We could define |

the requirements for who is on the list.

QUESTIONS, ANSWERS AND COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

Comment

I think that our society has to be experimental, and I think that we have to have the attitude that whatever change we make, that that reform can also be changed in the future. We need not think that we are stuck with the electoral system that we choose.