

PRESENTATION SUMMARY

QUESNEL PUBLIC HEARING DATED
11 MAY 2004 AT THE SANDMAN INN

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.

Douglas Gook

DESCRIPTION OF PRESENTATION

I view PR as a key first step towards the greater democratization of our society.

KEY THEMES

Douglas Gook explained that PR is a major policy plank in the Green Party platform and the Greens have also been active in a referendum drive for PR. He views PR as a key first step towards the greater democratization of our society. Mr Gook recognized that the Assembly's mandate restricted it to considering only models of representative democracy, but suggested that the community consensual democracy model, as used at times in Denmark, Argentina, Libya and Cuba had a lot to offer BC. He emphasized the importance of citizen-oriented democratic processes.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Douglas Gook recommended the introduction of proportional representation in British Columbia.

QUESTIONS, ANSWERS AND COMMENTS FROM THE PANEL

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

Q	How would this community consensual model translate on a provincial level?
A	In Libya, the power is right back on the community level. You have a direct connection with the members, and then this level puts forward ideas to other levels of representation in the nation. But most of the power is concentrated in direct representation at the community level.

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

QUESTIONS, ANSWERS AND COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

Following this presentation a member of the audience had a question.

Q	I think you made a very good point at the role of corporate powers in BC government. But I think a better point you made is to look to countries that aren't labeled as democracies for models of
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	government. I think it's important that Western societies, such as in BC, should look at older societies in the Middle East and in Asia. They cherish the local level and I think it's important that we look at that.
A	We also have phenomenal traditions of sustainable societies in our own back yard with valuable models of governance. There is much to learn from the First Nations of this land.

SUBMISSION: NO