

PRESENTATION SUMMARY

SIDNEY/VICTORIA PUBLIC HEARING
DATED 15 MAY 2004
AT THE HOLIDAY INN VICTORIA

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.

Harold Daykin

DESCRIPTION OF PRESENTATION

MMP for BC via eighteen regional compensation seats without use of party lists.

KEY THEMES

The presenter expressed the need for the introduction of a limited amount of proportionality into the electoral system. Mr. Daykin displayed a simulation of the results of the BC election of 1996 on the basis of fifty-seven single-member districts and eighteen compensation seats. The presenter argued that this system would enable voters to split their votes and enable the representation of significant third parties.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr. Daykin recommended a change to a limited form of MMP, utilizing a single vote with the compensation seats being awarded to the party's "top losers" in the constituency contests. The presenter proposed that almost one-quarter (approximately eighteen) of our MLA's be elected by proportional representation. The list proportion of the system would be organized on the basis of three regions and the translation of votes to seats would be calculated using the modified Sainte-Lague divisor.

According to Mr. Daykin, the adoption of this system would result in greater fairness for parties deprived of seats at the constituency level; substantial improvement in the matter of voices in caucus within each region; modest improvement of small party representation; and avoidance of ranked party lists.

QUESTIONS, ANSWERS AND COMMENTS FROM THE PANEL

Q What was it that made the 1996 election so important?

A To draft and test a remedy based on the last election is child's play, but I will do it and there will be something up on the website in a month. If you follow my eighteen seat prescription they will go to any party but the one that just got 77 seats, so the question is really how many will go to the major parties and how many will go to the minor parties.

QUESTIONS, ANSWERS AND COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

Q How do you feel as an individual about the process we are discussing here, do you feel that it addresses public concerns about accountability and the media?

A I think that the Premier, and the core group that run his government, are going to have to sit up and listen more within a coalition. I think the chances of the Premier and his group being accountable (because he can be brought down as he doesn't enjoy a majority in his own government) are far greater under this system of PR.

SUBMISSION: YES SUBMISSION ID# DAYKIN-0190