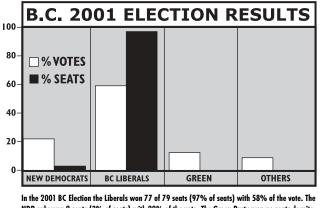
INTERVOUR

A Citizen's Initiative to Establish a Proportional Representation Electoral System in BC

It's time to MAKE OUR voting system FAIR 58% of the vote should mean 58%—not 97%—of the seats in the Legislature!

BC's election results prove beyond a doubt that major electoral reform is needed for British Columbians to be fairly represented in the BC Legislature.

In May of 2001, the Liberals got 58 percent of the vote, but 97 percent of the seats in our Legislature. The 42 percent who voted for parties other than the Liberals got little or no representation-just 2 out of 79 seats.



NDP only won 2 seats (3% of seats) with 22% of the vote. The Green Party won no seats despite getting 12.4% of the vote.

In the 1996 election, the Liberals got 42 percent of the vote compared to the NDP's 39 percent. Yet the NDP got 6 more seats and formed a "majority" government. This unfairness may well have contributed to the big swing to the Liberals in the last election.

Something is clearly wrong with our first-pastthe-post system. It consistently gives us unfair results.

Canada chose our "first past the post" system in 1867, following the tradition of Westminster. It worked well in Britain, when there were only two parties-the Whigs and Tories.

But times have changed. Now in Canada and BC we have a much broader spectrum of people with differing political views. To have a healthy democracy they must be fairly represented. In fact the key to stability in a diverse society is inclusion.

Our electoral system is not cast in stone. At first only men with property could vote; then men of the proper ethnic background without property; then women; then Asian Canadians and then First Nations. Clearly democracy is an institution that must be improved as times, society and our ideas about what is right and fair change.

Now we need to improve our democracy with proportional representation (Pro Rep), so that voters' wishes are fairly represented in the Legislature. Under Pro Rep, political parties receive a share of seats in parliament in proportion to their share of the popular vote. If a party gets 58 per cent of the vote, it will get 58 per cent of the seats.

Over 70 democracies, including three-quarters of Western Europe, New Zealand, and most of the new democracies in Soviet Eurasia, Africa and Latin America, have chosen to use some form of proportional representation. In Great Britain, home of our firstpast-the-post system, Ireland, Scotland and Wales have moved to Pro Rep.

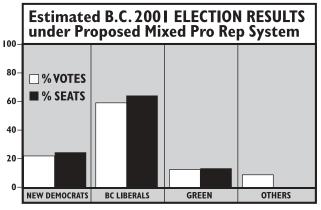
There are a variety of methods to achieve proportional representation. The one being forwarded by Adriane Carr under BC's Initiative and Recall Act, is a Mixed Proportional Representation system like that used in New Zealand and Germany, in which voters have both geographical representation and proportional election results.

Under Mixed Pro Rep, voters have two votes, one for their local constituency representative who is chosen using the "first-past-the-post" system, and one for the party of their choice. Party seats are drawn from ranked party lists. Public and media scrutiny of the lists means that the parties balance urban and rural, male and female, and ethnic and other minority candidates on their lists.

When the results are tallied and if a party's seats are less than its fair share, constituency MLAs are added from the top of the party's

list to balance the representation. This ensures the inclusion of smaller parties that get at least 5 percent of the popular vote.

If British Columbia had used this system in the last election and if people had voted the same way, in the slightly smaller propsed 68seat Legislature there would be 43 Liberal, 16 NDP and 9 Green Party MLAs sitting in the Legislature today. This would be a much fairer representation of what British Columbians actually voted for.



Under the proposed mixed Pro Rep system with a 5% threshold for party seats, the Liberals would have won 43 seats, the NDP 16 seats and the Green Party 9 seats (assumi ng people would have voted the same).

A successful Initiative Petition is going to take the widespread support of people from all walks of life and all parts of BC. It is a monumental task. With the help of volunteer canvassers, at least 10 percent of the registered voters in every riding must sign the petition sheets-more than 225,000 signatures in total. All the signatures have to be collected in a 90 day period-from May 13 to August 12, 2002. But it is not impossible. A 2001 poll by the Canada West Foundation found that over 75 percent of British Columbians favour the introduction of an electoral system based on Pro Rep. A successful petition will begin that process-for the government must respond by tabling the bill in the Legislature or taking it to a province-wide vote.

To succeed, lots of volunteer canvassers (signature-collectors) are needed in every riding. Register as a volunteer canvasser now and find out where you can sign the Pro Rep petition by checking out the Pro Rep Initiative website www.freeyourvote.bc.ca

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ver 70 countries chosen ProRep?

- More people vote voter turnout increases to 80 to 85%.
- 2 More young people register to vote and vote!
- 3 It reduces "strategically" voting for a party you don't like to stop a party you like even less from getting elected. People feel free to vote with their conscience because they know their vote will count!
- 4) There are no more governments that are opposed by 60% of the voters.
- **5** It is more representative of the general society. More women and more people from minorities are elected.

- 6 Political parties are more cooperative and less adversarial with better legislation being crafted and passed.
- **7** There are fewer wild swings between parties on the left and right.
- **8** There is better media coverage of a wider range of political viewpoints.
- 9 It reduces public cynicism about politics.
- (1) It is fairer. Most people's votes count in determining the election outcome.





Real Democracy



What's WRONG with our System?

1. It's unfair to voters.

In our First-Past-the-Post (FPP) system, if you don't vote for the winner, your vote doesn't really count. Often 40% or more of votes are "wasted" in FPP elections (i.e. the votes make no difference to the outcome). People often feel forced to vote strategically—to vote for a party they may not like because it's got the best chance of defeating a party they dislike even more—to avoid "wasting" their vote. Any system that discourages people from voting with their true intentions is not democratic or fair.

2. It distorts power.

Our current system exaggerates wins and defeats. In the 2001 BC election, the Liberals won 58 percent of the vote but got 97 percent of the seats in the Legislative Assembly. In 1996, despite the Liberals winning 42% of the vote, the NDP won more seats and formed a majority government with 39% of the vote. Too often, governments with less than 50% of the vote act with total power.

3. It results in wild swings in government.

Our First-Past-the-Post system was made for two parties (historically one on the left and one on the right). When voters get fed up with one, they swing to another. With each swing, government departments are restructured and legislation is scrapped and revamped. Long range planning is impossible. Civil servants are fired and their know-how is lost. This is a waste of human effort, time and resources.

4. It encourages adversarial politics.

Our "winner-takes-all" system encourages parties to campaign negatively against each other—to fear-monger and discredit the other parties so people will vote for them by default rather than to campaign positively by telling the public what they will honestly do when they form a government.

5. Voter turnout declines.

Because people feel their vote doesn't matter, voter turnout is on the decline. Voter turnout in federal elections in Canada has dropped from 75% in 1988 to 61% in 2002. In BC voter turnout has dropped 6.5 % (to 71%) since the 1980s. Many youth don't even bother to register to vote. People are getting cynical about polities and losing faith in our democracy.



HOW does a Mixed Pro Rep System FIX IT?

1. It's fairer.

In our First-Past-the-Post (FPP) system, if you don't vote for the winner, your vote doesn't really count. Often 40% or more of votes are "wasted" in FPP elections (i.e. the votes make no dif-

2. Power is proportional to voter support.

Pro Rep delivers a fair share of seats and power into the hands of the winning parties. If a party gets 58% of the vote, it will get 58% of the seats. Parties won't form majority governments unless they have the majority of the vote. When a winning party gets less than 50% of the vote, it must negotiate with other parties to form a coalition government and pass legislation. This reflects what voters want!

3. Government institutions are more stable.

The experience in western Europe is that Pro Rep countries are more stable and enjoy better decisionmaking, long-term planning, national development and economic performance (see www.aceproject.org). This is because Pro Rep avoids regular switches in government between two ideologically polarized parties each of which tends to tear down what the opposing party built up during its tenure in power.

4. It encourages more cooperative politics & shared power.

Pro Rep results in more shared power and more cooperative politics. Coalition and minority governments are amongst the most effective governments Canada has had. Power sharing is more visible and transparent in the debate over legislation and ultimately leads to better laws being passed. Canada's universal health care and pension plans are the result of federal Liberal-NDP coalition governments.

5. Voter turnout increases

Because peoples' votes make a difference in the electoral outcomes, voter turnout goes up and more youth register to vote. In New Zealand, voter turnout went up to 88% in their first MMP election in 1996. In 1999, more New Zealand youth registered to vote. Typically voter turnouts average 80 to 85% in Pro Rep countries, compared to 70% in FPP countries.

6. It results in a true "house of representatives".

Minority parties, ethnic groups and women are better represented in Pro Rep governments. More fair and diverse representation is achieved through members elected from the party lists. This is because party lists are normally well balanced in terms of rural-urban representation, gender, ethnicity, age and back-ground of candidates in order for the party to appeal to the widest possible voter audience. Inclusion is crucial to stability in divided societies and it has benefits for decision-making in all democracies.

7. It reduces the power & influence of the big corporations.

The power that big corporations currently have in our political system is greatly reduced because they are not as easily able to influence the smaller parties and coalition governments. This tempers the big corporate money lobby that traditionally has unduly influenced the major parties' majority governments. This is why the big corporations do not generally favor the change to a Pro Rep electoral system and spent millions trying to prevent the change in New Zealand.

8. It results in better-informed public debate.

Under Pro Rep, parties spend money and explain their platforms throughout the whole province including electoral districts that are "safe" seats for other parties during election time to try to increase their party vote. Media are obligated to, and more thoroughly, cover the different parties elected and their diverse points of view.

New Zealand did it—BC can, too!

In 1993, in a binding national referendum, New Zealanders adopted a Mixed Member Proportional (MMP) electoral system very similar to the Mixed Pro Rep system being proposed for BC. New Zealanders voted for MMP for various reasons including frustration with the policies and undue influence of big business in both major parties (National and Labour) and the unfair election

results delivered by their traditional First-Past-the-Post system (the same system we use in BC).

After two election results in which the New Zealand National Party formed a majority government despite getting less of the popular vote than the runner-up Labour Party, the next Labour Government struck a Royal Commission to investigate ways to improve their electoral system. The Commission used ten criteria-including voter turnout, effective representation of minorities and women, effective government and effective representation of voters-to compare various systems and concluded, in 1988, that "for New Zealand MMP is clearly superior." MMP is the system used in Germany and 6 other countries that combines the traditional system of geographic voter representation (constituencies) with a proportional system where representatives are elected from party lists based on each party's share of popular vote.



ment to put the issue to referendum. In 1992, New Zealanders voted 84% in favour of changing their system to a form of Pro Rep, and 70% specifically in favour of the MMP system. In 1993, they voted 54% in favour of MMP over their traditional First-Past-the-Post System, despite a \$2 million big-industry-funded "anti-MMP" ad campaign. But, as Rod Donald, a sitting MP who from

1989 to 1993 was the national spokesperson for the citizens electoral reform coalition said on his recent tour of BC with Pro Rep Initiative Proponent Adriane Carr, "in the end, people power won".

When Adriane Carr visited New Zealand in January of this year to check out how Pro Rep is working there, she found that New Zealanders like their new system. "They like knowing their vote counts, they like their more diverse parliament, they like their less adversarial politics and they like having two votes," says Carr. In fact, 35 percent of New Zealanders split their vote, voting for a person from one party because they think they'll do the best job as their local representative and a different party on the party list because they like that party's platform better. They feel free to vote the way they want to, knowing their vote counts.

Despite the 1988 Royal Commission recommendation, the New Zealand fight for Pro Rep wasn't easy. It took a citizens' coalition four years of campaigning to get govern-

Adapted from a cartoon that appeared in New Zealand just before the 1993 binding national referendum that adopted Pro Rep.

Rod Donald joined Adriane Carr on a tour of BC April 2-12, 2002. They gave 14 public presentations in communities across BC. In total, over 1000 people came to their talks, 500 signed up to help collect signatures on the Pro Rep Initiative petition and \$10,000 was raised. *Thank you Rod Donald!*

How the Proposed Mixed ProRep System Would Work in B.C. **2 Votes are Better than 1**

Under the Mixed Member Proportional system proposed, each voter would have two votes — a Constituency Vote and a Party Vote. With your Constituency vote, you vote for the candidate you want as the MLA for your electoral district. With your Party vote, you vote for the party you want to see represented in the Legislature. The proposed system is similar to the ones in use in New Zealand and Germany.

2 The Legislative Assembly would have 68 seats instead of 79. There would be 34 constituency seats (using BC's current 34 federal riding boundaries) and 34 Party seats, making administration easier and reducing the cost of running the Legislature. When the number of federal seats increases, the seats in the BC Legislature would increase by double that amount because the number of party seats increases to match the constituency seats.

3 The Party MLAs are chosen from a ranked list of candidates that each party submits before the election, prepared in whatever way a party chooses. Usually the party leader and the party's most respected constituency candidates would head the party lists. The lists would be well advertised and subject to public and media scrutiny. Based on experience elsewhere, parties try to balance their lists in terms of gender, rural-urban representation, minority group representation, age and skills of candidates. Candidates can run for both Constituency and Party Seats.

FREE YOUR VOTE

4 The Party List is used to create the proportional representation. After the votes in a general election are counted, the Chief Electoral Officer determines the proportion of the province wide popular vote that each party won on the Party ballot and each party's fair share of seats. If this fair share of seats exceeds the number of Constituency seats won by the party, the party is allocated Party seats which are filled from its party list starting at the top and excluding any candidates who already won a constituency seat. For example if a party won 18% of the Party vote, they would be entitled to 18% of the 68 seats (12 MLAs). If they won 3 Constituency MLA seats, they would be "topped up" with 9 Party seats from their Party list. Party MLAs also represent their constituents, and have offices in their home constituencies. There is no distinction between the duties and privileges of Constituency and Party MLAs in the Legislative Assembly.

b If a party wins more Constituency seat than warranted by its share of the Party vote, it keeps the seats it won, and the other parties receive a smaller number of Party seats than their percentage of the popular vote..

6 Parties must win 5% of the Party vote, or win one Constituency seat, and run candidates in at least 4 of the 34 constituencies to be eligible for Party seats.

Between elections, Party lists can not be added to. The person at the top of that Party's list who will accept the seat will fill a party seat that becomes vacant between elections. If a list from the previous election is exhausted and there is no one to fill a vacant Party seat, it will remain vacant until the next election.

This official summary

of the Initiative to Establish a Proportional Representation Electoral System proposed Bill appears on every petition cover sheet:

The initiative draft Bill establishes a mixed proportional representation electoral system in British Columbia. Political representation in the Legislature would reflect, as closely as possible, the share of votes received by each political party. The Bill reduces the number of Members of the Legislative Assembly from 79 to 68. Half the number of MLAs would be elected on an electoral district basis using the existing electoral method. The other 34 seats would be held by party MLAs based on each political party's share of valid votes on a party ballot. A party must receive at least 5 percent of the popular vote or elect one constituency MLA to hold party seats.

Provincial electoral district boundaries would be the same as federal electoral boundaries. At a general election, voters would cast two ballots, one for a constituency MLA to represent their electoral district, the other for the political party of their choice. The party MLAs would be selected from ranked party lists submitted by registered political parties. Party lists would be posted at voting places. By-elections would be held to fill vacant constituency seats; party seats vacated between elections would be filled using the party's ranked list from the previous election.

Ten Most Common Questions & Answers

Q. Our current system works just fine. Isn't this just a "sore losers" campaign?

A. The real losers in our first-past-the-post system are the voters—often times the majority—whose votes don't count. Among the losers are the 42% of people who didn't vote for the Liberals in 2001, or the 61% of people that didn't vote for the NDP in 1996 when the Clark government took power with only 39 percent of the popular vote.

Democracies evolve when they don't work well. At one time, only wealthy landowners could vote. Women, First Nations and Canadians of Asian heritage all had to fight for the right to vote in Canada. Now it's time to change our voting system so that voters' choices truly count and a political party's share of seats as closely as possible equals its share of the vote.

Q. Doesn't Pro Rep lead to unstable, ineffective minority or coalition governments?

A. Governments with Proportional Representation, like Germany, Scandinavia and most of Europe, have effective, decisive governments with strong economies. In years past some of Canada's best governments have been minority or coalition governments. In the 1960s the Liberals formed minority governments with an NDP balance of power that resulted in legislation for universal Medicare and the Canadian pension plan. A governing party should have to listen to and incorporate other parties' good ideas, so there's more balanced and stable legislation. Many people from major political parties who argue against Pro Rep like the idea of having all of the power some of the time

Q. The proposed Mixed Pro Rep system is based on federal riding boundaries. Doesn't this mean that rural BC will get less representation?

A. The reason the proposed system is based on the larger federal riding boundaries is because party list seats must be added to the legislature to achieve Pro Rep and few people want to increase the number of MLAs from our current 79. People who argue that fewer constituency seats means less representation usually don't understand how lists work and what list MLAs would do. In New Zealand, party lists are balanced for rural-urban representation and rural representation has stayed virtually the same under Pro Rep. Rural list MPs have opened offices in their home towns where they offer voters the choice of seeking support from a party representative that they feel akin to. Rural voters and urban voters alike can also turn to list MPs who specialize in serving their "constituency of interest".

Q. Isn't this just a Green Party initiative?

A. No, only an individual can undertake an initiative under BC's Recall and Initiative Act, so it's the initiative of Adriane Carr acting as an individual citizen. Anyone else could have done this. Although the Green Party was the first endorsing group and is putting a lot of effort into the initiative, there are five other political parties now in support (the BC Action Party, BC Marijuana Party, Canadian Action Party, Community Party of Canada-Marxist Leninist, Green Party of BC, Unity Party of BC) as well as citizens groups (such as Youbou TimberLess Society—a group of unemployed millworkers on Vancouver Island and Lysistrata—a Victoria-based womens' group), businesses (e.g., Common Ground, SPUD and the Cranbrook Downtown Business Association), labour groups (such as the Nanaimo and District Teachers' Association and the BC Nurses Union), and lots of individuals. The diverse list of supporters grows daily.

rather than sharing power most of the time.

Q. Isn't it true that Pro Rep put too much power in the hands of minority parties?

A. Our First-Past-the-Post system often puts an unfairly large amount of power and seats in the hands of the winning party, while third parties and minority groups get less representation and power than they fairly deserve. Pro Rep ensures that minority parties get fairer representation. The "pizza parliament" problem of too many small parties getting elected in countries like Italy and Israel is overcome by requiring a threshold a party must gain 5% of the vote in order to get seats. This is the case in Germany and New Zealand and it's being recommended in this Pro Rep Initiative for BC.

Q. Won't Pro Rep provide a platform for extremist parties of the left or the right?

A. Extremist views are in our society now. If they achieve a significant amount of voter support—5%—it's better to have them exposed and their radical ideas debated in the Legislature than be suppressed and allowed to covertly influence opinion and decisions. Fear of these ideas won't make them go away. Only exposure and reasoned argument will.

Q. Shouldn't a proposal for changing our voting system come out of a general discussion by BC voters, or through a public process like the Liberals' proposed Citizens Assembly"?

A. In New Zealand, people advocating for a more fair electoral system found they needed to present a concrete model to make the idea of electoral reform real. BC's Recall and Initiative Act requires that the proponent put forward a specific model in a workable piece of legislation. This initiative proposes a Mixed Pro Rep system that actually is working well in other countries. It's testing voter support for the idea here in BC. A successful initiative means enough people support Pro Rep so that the government has to deal with the idea. *The Proponent is advocating that government ultimately put this proposal for a Mixed Proportional Representation electoral system to a public process where it can be compared to other systems, potentially improved and then voted on in a province wide binding referendum.*

Continued on PAGE 4 ♦

FREE YOUR VOTE

What is the Free Your Vote Campaign?

It is a citizen's initiative, using BC's Recall and Initiative Act, to petition the government to establish a Proportional Representation Electoral System in BC like that in New Zealand and Germany. It is supported by many political parties, citizens groups, labour groups, businesses and individuals. During a 90 day petition period-May 13 to August 12, 2002-thousands of volunteer canvassers will gather the signatures of at least 10% of the registered voters in every electoral district in BC. A successful petition means that the BC Government has to either introduce the proposed legislation or put it to an initiative vote. The Free Your Vote Campaign will recommend that Government introduce the legislation into the legislature, refer it to a public process for consideration and comparison with other alternatives and put the final legislation to a binding referendum.

MARCH 14	APRIL 15	MAY 13	AUGUST 12
Proposed Pro Rep legislation "accepted in principle" by Chief Electoral Officer	Deadline for Initiative opponents to register. (none did).	90-day Petition signature gathering period begins.	Petition signature gathering period ends at 4pm, August 12 The proponent must turn in all signed petitions in one batch tr Elections BC Victoria Office.

GG I am writing on behalf of the Cranbrook Downtown Business Association in Common Ground appears to be a lucid, logical approach to democracy in the current (and probably increasingly) fractured political climate. It is a timely change, and well worth the effort."

Chairperson, Cranbrook Downtown Business Ass'n

The BCNU (BC Nurses Union) Council is supporting this initiative and recommending to BCNU stewards and members that they get involved...Council see this initiative as a means of educating the public about reforming the provincial election process and allowing members of the public and union members to sign the petition for proportional representation and register their protest about the way the provincial government is abusing their majority in the legislature."

Letter to BCNU Stewards

Written & Produced by the Volunteer Pro Rep Team. Design & layout by EyeSoar Graphics.

Authorized by Paul George, Financial Agent for Proponent Adriane Carr, Box 130 Gibsons, BC VON 1VO 604-886-9520 or toll-free 1-866-776-7379

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A special thanks to Guy Dauncey of EcoNews, Joseph Roberts of Common Ground Magazine, Rod Donald, New Zealand MP, who came to BC in April 2002 to explain how the Mixed Proportional Electoral System is making a fairer democracy in his country, the Youbou TimberLess Society for being the first citizen's group to endorse the Pro Rep Initiative, all the endorsing groups and local organizing teams and the thousands of people who have volunteered to help organize and gather signatures.

Sign the Pro Rep petition

- 1. Become a volunteer Pro Rep petition signature gatherer. You will receive a petition in the mail which you can sign (and collect a few more signatures on), witness and send back to the Proponent at P.O. Box 130, Gibsons BC VON 1V0.
- 2. To find out where in your community you can sign the Pro Rep petition, check out our website: www.freeyourvote.bc.ca

Continued from PAGE 4

Q. How do you know who you're voting for on the party lists? Aren't party lists just filled with party hacks and those who get elected off these lists the "losers" that don't win their constituency seats?

A. Party lists must be submitted by the closing date for constituency candidates nominations and the lists are subject to intense public and media scrutiny. Most of the candidates are actually constituency candidates, ranked logically to reflect responsibility (e.g., party leader at top), experience and diversity. Parties would be heavily criticized if their lists were unbalanced (e.g., with lots of white middle class men at the top). Lists are usually balanced for rural-urban representation, gender, ethnic and minority group representation, age and skills. It's the party's "winning team" that shows that the party has talent and understands the make-up of their country. Sometimes candidates very high on party lists don't get elected in their constituencies-either because their party is a "third" party, or because their local constituency race is between very good candidates.

Q. Why should I get involved when the rules of BC's Recall and Initiative Act make this initiative so difficult?

A. Fear of failure is a poor excuse for sitting on the sidelines. There are good reasons why this initiative is likely to succeed. More than 2,000 canvassers were signed up 2 weeks before the May 13th - August 12th petition period even started! That's 600 more than the most successful petition to date (that got 90,000 signatures with 1,400 canvassers). Because of unfair election results and dissatisfaction with recent governments, electoral reform has huge public appeal. It's the right issue at the right time. The public education, increased profile and province-wide collaborative effort mean this initiative-whatever the outcome-is already a success.

Q. No government in power wants proportional representation, so what chance have we got?

A. We certainly won't get electoral reform if we don't try. It took public pressure and a binding referendum, but they got it in New Zealand. In Prince Edward Island, where the government received 58% of the vote and all but one seat, the government is now investigating Pro Rep. The BC Liberals, who publicly declared their support for Pro Rep in 1996, have committed to a citizens' assembly on electoral reform, including Pro Rep. The Ontario Liberals, Ontario NDP, Federal NDP and BC NDP have all passed resolutions of support for Proportional Representation. In 2001 76% of British Columbians polled in support of reforming our electoral system to include Pro Rep. Any government that ignores broad public support for an issue and fails to act, does so at its own peril.

Be a volunteer Pro Rep petition signature-gatherer

- 1. You don't have to go door-to-door to gather signatures. Collect even a few from your family and friends.
- 2. You must have lived in BC for 6 months and either be, or become, a registered voter.
- 3. Fill in an application form you can download this from the www.freeyourvote.bc.ca website or call toll-free 1-866-776-7379 and have one sent to you in the mail.
- 4. Mail your filled-in form to PO Box 130, Gibsons BC V0N 1V0
- 5. The Initiative Proponent, Adriane Carr, must sign each application form and forward it to Elections BC for approval.
- 6. After being approved, you will receive in the mail from the

- 7. You can canvas anywhere in BC but the signatures must be on the petition sheet for the electoral district in which the person signing lives (79 different petitions!)
- 8. Using a password, registered canvassers can download petition sheets for various electoral districts from our website www.freeyourvote.bc.ca
- 9. Everyone can follow the progress of the gathering of the 225,000+ signatures and learn more about Pro Rep by regularly checking the website: www.freeyourvote.bc.ca

Note: after July, it will be too late to sign up as a canvasser because of the time-consuming bureaucratic approval system and the fact that the Proponent must take in all signed petitions at one time on or





3. If you're not on the internet, try accessing the internet at your local library or call our toll-free line 1-866-776-7379.

Proponent an official canvasser card, petition forms and educational information.

before 4 PM on Monday August 12 to Election BC Main Office in Victoria.

Please sign up NOW!

225,000 signatures in 90 days – Together we can do it!

YES! I want to help establish a Better Democracy in BC.

- I want to help collect signatures on the Pro Rep Initiative Petition. Please send me a canvasser application form.
- □ I want to help financially support this citizens' campaign.

I know that money is needed for telephone, paper, envelopes, postage and printing.

Here is: \square \$100 \square \$50 \square \$25 \square \$10 \square Other Donation.

I understand that this donation is not tax deductible. (Make cheques out to Pro Rep Initiative)

NAME (please	print)
ADDRESS	
CITY	POSTAL CODE
	Please return to:
	Pro Rep Initiative P.O. 130, Gibsons BC V0N 1V0