

February 1, 2004

To the Citizens' Assembly of B.C.

for consideration in plenary and break-out sessions of Weekend # 3, February 7&8, 2004:

Proposition: BETTER GOVERNMENT WITHOUT PARTIES

Recommendations: For the next by-election,
the Chief Electoral Officer
is encouraged by the Lt. Governor to use
an experimental ballot form,
as he is empowered to do,
with None-of-the-Above/NOTA
as an option, with results counted and released.
If this demonstrates more registered voters,
it should be considered a success
and adopted in the very next provincial election.

If a majority of voters choose NOTA,
then a pool of NOTA Voters is created.
A man and a woman are selected randomly
from the pool to represent the riding
in a constituent assembly which would
replace the adversarial party alternative,
toward expressing the priorities
for the well-being of the people and land
of the riding and all B.C.

A willingness to serve would be voluntary
and would rely on the integrity of the individual .
The man and the woman serve consensually,
interdependently, and interchangeably
in the assembly and in their riding.

In addition, in each riding, a man and a woman are also
randomly selected from Meti & First Nations people.

In any event, all people carrying
Social Insurance Numbers,
also young people from the age of 12
should be eligible to vote.

A Caretaker Government is formed
when enough ridings have a majority voting NOTA
in preference to party candidates or independents.

A Caretaker Government deliberates initially
in a men's council and a women's council,
speaking in turn around an open circle,
until consensus is reached.

The the councils meet together
to prepare appropriate changes in legislation
for plebiscites and referenda to ensure
the authority of the people at large.

The Priorities Council deliberates in real time,
in person, in public, face-to-face,
with input supplemented where necessary
by guest speakers.

Current legislation would always be
looked at in the context of
individual and collective well-being.

Meetings open with the drop of a feather,
and are divided into quadrants,
north/south/east/west, reflecting
geographic relationships of ridings.

Agendas are decided in assembly.

Guiding roles are held briefly
and change as topics change.

Roles for each gathering
are selected by nomination,
self-nomination, and random selection,
and are chosen rather quickly,
as the roles require attention
in the present rather than
previous experience.

Regular official polls for public opinion

and individual initiatives coming from
the broad mass of the people would
be given serious and timely consideration.

The Assembly would work
in a cooperative fashion with
and be responsible for,
all the maintenance, structure,
and effectiveness of the civil service,
with the express purpose of reducing
the workload of the people of the province,
towards a harmonious leisure state for all.

Group deliberations clarify principles and
lines of reasoning around improvements
in well-being of the people and land
of the riding, of B.C., of Canada
and the whole Earth.

Submitted by
John Allen West
and Virginia Ayers