TO: Chair and Members   June 16, 2004
        Citizens Assembly on Electoral Reform
        2288-555 W. Hastings Street
        PO Box 12118
        Vancouver, BC.   V6B 4N6

FROM: Earl A. Jenson   604-736-6067
        3259 West 28 Avenue   EarlJenson@telus.net
        Vancouver, BC.   V6L 1X6

ISSUE:
    Manner by which voters' ballots are translated into seats in the Legislative
    Assembly, while maintaining the democratic principle of "one-person/one-vote".

BACKGROUND:
    British Columbia is perceived to be plagued by governments run by ideologues
    and special interest groups (almost devoid of statespersons) through sham public
    caucus meetings, public double-speak, and ineffective legislature due to an
    inadequate opposition which has an inadequate Legislative Research Budget.
    The BC public is generally disaffected by failure of the Legislature to hold
    politicians accountable for: keeping promises and contracts; ineffective
    government reorganizations that achieve only appearance and do not remedy
    basic problems; transparency of government; inappropriate funding of party
    members or friends, and; general openness and identification and action about
    what is in the public interest.

PROPOSAL:
    Attached.

DISCUSSION:
    This initiative, The BC Citizen's Assembly on Electoral Reform, is one positive
    step, through public awareness and understanding, toward developing a better
    British Columbia. A legislature which reflects the needs, goals, constraints,
    efficiencies, income-distribution and priorities (including environmental
    stewardship goals and priorities) of a representative spectrum of British
    Columbians will have a higher probability of enabling an environmentally and
    socially and economically sustainable society.   Thank You for your efforts. I
    may comment further after I have taken time to review the work you have
    already done.

REQUEST:
    (1) Please consider this proposal. It has many advantages.
    (2) Please request any clarification or comment on this or other matter you may
        consider helpful.

RULES:

(1) Constituency boundaries will be revised at ten year intervals so that there are an "equal" number of eligible voters in each constituency. The first revision will be in effect on January 1, 2008. Boundary revisions will be fair, reasonable and consider watersheds while meeting the condition of having an equal number of eligible voters.

(2) There may be one [but not more than one] candidate from each political party and independent candidates in each constituency. Candidates must be full-time residents in the constituency in which they are running (full-time residency requires clarification).

(3) To be eligible as a political party, a political party must have candidates in all constituencies. Any Party that obtained at least five percent of the popular vote in the previous election shall have the legal right to be included in any public or private Leaders Debate in which they wish to be included.

(4) The winning candidate (candidate receiving the most votes) in each constituency becomes an MLA.

(5) In addition to the winning candidate, there are additional seats in the Provincial Legislature allocated proportionately as presented in Table One.

(6) MLAs elected through Proportional Representation are elected on the basis of the highest number of valid votes cast for them. For example, in Table One Scenario Five, Party A has 62 MLAs of whom 39 were directly elected. The other 23 are the 23 Party A candidates who received the most valid votes irrespective of the constituency in which they ran. There is no discretion in this process.

(7) Legislative Research Funds for MLAs will be administered by party based upon percentage of provincial popular vote; however, funds for any party receiving less than five percent of the provincial vote and for independent MLAs will be pooled and administered jointly with consensus decisions by those MLAs. MLAs who change political affiliation during their term will not affect these calculations or processes and these MLAs will not have direct access to Legislative Research Funds.

(8) There are no bye-elections. Within 60 days of the loss of an MLA for any reason except recall, Elections BC would determine the highest ranking candidate from within the specific party (specific party or Other as discussed in Table One) in the previous election, based upon the number of valid votes received irrespective of the constituency, and make one or more subsequent offers as necessary until the vacated MLA position is filled. If there is no eligible candidate based upon this criterion then the affected Party may select another candidate who is a full-time resident in that constituency and that candidate will be installed as an MLA without an election and in a timely manner.

(9) In the case of successful recall, the subject party loses the constituency seat. Within 60 days, Elections BC would determine the highest ranking unelected candidate from outside the specific party in the previous election, based upon the number of valid votes received irrespective of the constituency, and make one or more subsequent offers as necessary until the vacated MLA position is filled.

(10) The Speaker of the House will be chosen through consensus of parties representing at least eighty percent of Popular Provincial Vote.

Table One: Proposed British Columbia Election Mixed Voting System Using Constituency Winners And Proportional Representation; Five Scenarios.

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Political PARTY [1]	Percent of PROVINCIAL Popular VOTE	Constituency Winners (100 Constituencies) [2]	Proportional Representation (62 Runners-up)[3] [4][5]	Total MLAs [(3)+(4)]
Scenario One (T1)				
A	60	100	0	100
B	20	0	31	31
C	10	0	15.5	15
D	5	0	7.75	8
O	5	0	7.75	8
Total	100	100	62.00	162
Scenario Two (T1)				
A	70	90	10.0	100
B	29	9	50.27	59
C	0	0	0	0
D	0	0	0	0
O	1	1	1.73	3
Total	100	100	62	162
Scenario Three (T1)				
A	57.62	96	4.0	100
B	21.56	4	29.51	33
C	12.39	0	16.96	17
D	0	0	0	0
O	8.43	0	11.54	12
Total	100.00	100	62.00	162

Table continued ……………

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Political PARTY [1]	Percent of PROVINCIAL Popular VOTE	Constituency Winners (100 Constituencies) [2]	Proportional Representation (62 Runners-up)[3] [4][5]	Total MLAs [(3)+(4)]
Scenario Four (T1)				
A	47.62	97	3	100
B	24.56	3	27.66	31
C	15.39	0	17.34	17
D	5.23	0	5.89	6
O	7.20	0	8.11	8
Total	100.00	100	62	162
Scenario Five (T1)				
A	34.00	39	21.08	60
B	38.00	35	23.56	59
C	15.00	20	9.3	29
D	5.00	1	3.1	4
O	8.00	5	4.96	10
Total	100.00	100	62.00	162

[1] *Scenario One* assumes four parties, A through D, each receiving at least five percent of the popular vote. All other Parties and Independent Candidates are aggregated into O (Other).

[2] Assume 100 constituencies for ease of presentation. See Table Two or Table Three which has fewer constituencies. Assume 62 MLAs to be selected on the basis of proportional representation. The ratio of 1:0.618 is used to determine the ratio of seats for directly elected candidates to proportionately elected candidates. This ratio is used throughout this paper.

The winning candidate (candidate receiving the most votes) in each constituency becomes an MLA.

Footnotes to table continued ....

[3] The allocation of seats in the provincial legislature determined by proportional representation is:

(a) (Percent Popular Vote)((Total number of Legislative Seats) minus (Constituency Winners)); and

(b) No party can elect more candidates than the number of constituencies. When this constraint is reached the remaining unallocated seats are allocated to the remaining parties in proportion to Percent Popular Vote.

[4] The allocation of seats in Table One, Scenario Four, requires application of **[3]**(b) from above. The calculation of the Proportional Representation is shown below.

Political PARTY	Percent of PROVINCIAL Popular VOTE	Proportional Representation (62 Runners-up) *	MLAs by Proportional Representation
A		3	3
B	24.56	(24.56/52.38)(59) = 27.66	28
C	15.39	(15.39/52.38)(59) = 17.34	17
D	5.23	(5.23/52.38)(59) = 5.89	6
O	7.20	(7.20/52.38)(59) = 8.11	8
Total	52.38	62.00	62

* After 3 positions are attributed to A based upon proportional representation, there are 59 positions left for allocation.

[5] MLAs elected through Proportional Representation are elected on the basis of the highest number of valid votes cast for them. For example, in Scenario Five, Party A has 62 MLAs of whom 39 were directly elected. The other 23 are the 23 Party A candidates who received the most valid votes irrespective of the constituency in which they ran. There is no discretion in this process.

Table Two: **Proposed British Columbia Election Mixed Voting System Using Constituency Winners And Proportional Representation; Assuming 49 Constituencies Electing 79 MLAs.**

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Political PARTY	Percent of PROVINCIAL Popular VOTE	Constituency Winners (49 Constituencies)	Proportional Representation (30 Runners-up)	Total MLAs
Scenario Three (T2)				
A	57.62	48	1.0	49
B	21.56	1	14.75	16
C	12.39	0	8.48	8
D	0	0	0	0
O	8.43	0	5.77	6
Total	100.00	49	30.00	79

Table Three: **Proposed British Columbia Election Mixed Voting System Using Constituency Winners And Proportional Representation; Assuming 79 Constituencies Electing 128 MLAs.**

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Political PARTY	Percent of PROVINCIAL Popular VOTE	Constituency Winners (79 Constituencies)	Proportional Representation (49 Runners-up)	Total MLAs
Scenario Three (T3)				
A	57.62	77	2.0	79
B	21.56	2	23.91	26
C	12.39	0	13.74	14
D	0	0	0	0
O	8.43	0	9.35	9
Total	100.00	79	49.00	128