

Citizens Assembly,

Enclosed is a fine-tuning of the definition of regions under the proposal for 'Regional Members At Large' which was submitted in January. To understand this proposal it is necessary to refer to submission #45 and the generic description of this proposal (submission #199).

The salient features of this proposal are:

- 1) The most serious deficiencies of our system are remedied with a minimal disruption to existing riding structure. A reduction of ridings from 79 to 73 is recommended.
- 2) With the recommended option, majority government is still retained as the likely outcome but now with assurance of a viable opposition and minor-party representation.
- 3) Independent candidates have the same opportunity as parties to be elected on either a riding plurality basis or regional percentage-vote basis.
- 4) Voters make a single simple vote but with enhanced choice. Employing a second vote for a party included in some systems is a redundant vote; may be used in a contradictory fashion; and will likely be used by voters to define the opposition rather than the governing party .this will give undue weight to secondary parties.
- 5) It is expected that 10-is additional 'regional members' would be elected with the option recommended. This would be about 15% of the assembly. To go to a system where 30% or more of members are proportionally elected would saddle us with a permanent minority government. This would be a serious mistake .at least now we can get rid of a government we don't like.
- 6) Because the number of additional regional members is not fixed, regionally-based seats are awarded according to voter support without the need of complicated proportional vote calculations after the votes are tallied. If a handful more members than expected are elected in a given election this only reflects voters' wishes and won't break the bank. Fixing the number of additional members would result in eliminating deserving candidates or parties or in other cases adding members whose party is already well represented.

May 20, 2004

R. M. Giza

**REGIONAL MEMBERS AT LARGE
PROPOSAL FOR ELECTORAL REFORM**

<u>REGION</u>	<u># RIDING</u>	<u>THRESHOLD LEVELS</u>	<u>THRESHOLD PERCENTAGES</u>			
Island	14	3	6%	12%	24%	
Interior	15	3	6%	12%	24%	
North	9	2	6%	18%		
Vancouver	19	4	6%	12%	18%	24%
Fraser	16	3	6%	12%	24%	
Total	73					

TOTAL MEMBERS ELECTED

73 Riding Representatives and about 10-15 'Regional Members At Large' would be elected under this option.

The number of 'Regional Members At Large' could range from none to a maximum of about twenty to compensate for poor proportionality of riding seats awarded. This would represent up to 22% of the legislature.

Majority government would be anticipated when the leading party wins about 60% or more of riding based seats.

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Island

Alberni-Qualicum
Comox valley
Cowichan-Ladysmith
Esquimalt-Metchosin
Malahat-Juan de Fuca
Nanaimo
Nanaimo-Parksville
North Island
Oak Bay-Gordon Head
Powell-River .Sunshine Coast
Saanich North and the Islands
Sannich South
Victoria-Beacon Hill

Average # Registered
Voters Per Riding*

Total Current Ridings : 14	30.4k
Proposed # Ridings : 14	30.4k

Victoria-Hillside

- numbers from Elections BC 1999 enumeration.

Interior

Chilliwack-Kent		
Chilliwack-Sumas		
Columbia River-Revelstoke		
East Kootenay		
Kamloops		
Kamloops-North Thompson		
Kelowna-Lake Country		Average # Registered
Kelowna-Mission		<u>Voters Per Riding</u>
Nelson-Creston		
Okanagan-Vernon	Total Current Ridings: 16	26.2k
Okanagan-Westside		
Penticton-Okanagan Valley	Proposed # Ridings : 15	27.9k
Shuswap		
West Kootenay-Boundary		
West Vancouver~Garibaldi*		
Yale-Lillooet		

- Portion from Lions Bay and south including West Van. moves to Vancouver Region. Remainder expands to include Lillooet, Goldbridge area.

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North

Bulkley Valley-Stikine		
Cariboo North		Average # Registered
Cariboo South*		<u>Voters Per Riding</u>
North Coast		
Peace River North	Total Current Ridings : 10	17.2k
Peace River South		
Prince George-Mount Robson	Proposed # Ridings : 9	19.1k
Prince George North		
Prince George-Omineca		
Skeena		

* Portion from 70 Mile House and south including Clinton, Cache Creek, moves to Interior Region.

Vancouver

Burnaby-Edmonds
 Burnaby North
 Burnaby-Willington
 Burquitlam
 New Westminster
 North Vancouver-Lonsdale
 North Vancouver-Seymour
 Port Moody~Westwood*
 Richmond-Centre
 Richmond East
 Richmond.-Steveston
 Vancouver-Burrard
 Vancouver-Fairview
 Vancouver-Fraserview
 Vancouver-Hastings
 Vancouver-Kensington
 Vancouver-Kingsway
 Vancouver-Langara
 Vancouver-Mount Pleasant
 Vancouver-Point Grey
 Vancouver-Quilchena
 West Vancouver-Capilano

Average # Registered
Voters Per Riding

Total Current Ridings : 22 24.6k

Proposed # Ridings : 19 28.5k

* Coquitlam portion (Westwood) moves to Fraser Region

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Fraser

Abbotsford-Clayburn
 Abbotsford-Mount Lehman
 Coquitlam-Maillardville
 Delta North
 Delta South
 Fort Langley-Aldergrove
 Langley
 Maple Ridge-Mission
 Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows

Average # Registered
Voters Per Riding

Port Coquitlam-Burke Mountain
Surrey-Cloverdale
Surrey-Green Timbers
Surrey-Newton
Surrey-Panorama Ridge
Surrey-Tynehead
Surrey-Whalley
Surrey-White Rock

Total Curent Ridings : 17 27.0k

Proposed # Ridings : 16 28.7k