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Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform
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RE: Submission to the Assembly Favouring the “Majority System”

Please have faith in your fellow British Columbia citizens and put forth a referendum choice of a majority electoral system versus our existing first past the post.

Do you think the Assembly, following your deliberations, could make a decision on which voting method to put forth in the referendum by allowing some form of proportional weighting of your individual votes? You could establish which members of the Assembly would represent our minorities. You would want to consider our political groups, especially those who are insecure or realistic and know they would never be able to form a government without a split vote. You might give some proportion of votes to those racial groups in BC who may have a right to demand a special position. You would want to develop a method of giving all other groups who insist they be given their appropriate proportional weight to make your final decision. If you think such a system would work, then put the proportional representation method on the referendum.

If you have your doubts, then consider this. If over half of those voting in a Provincial election agree on who should be their M.L.A. there is a substantial likelihood those voters will include people from the minorities. Once elected, the M.L.A. will realize he must represent over half of his constituents and he will have to do the right thing for his riding or he will not be re-elected. The M.L.A. now, for the most part only has to keep about one third of the voters happy to have a good chance to continue in government. The obvious example of this democratic deficiency is in our recent federal election where nearly two thirds of the voters disapproved of the Liberals, but they are still there.

We have accepted the idea that the BC citizens in the Assembly can make a democratic decision on what question to put in the pending referendum. I also have faith that the assembly members have the ability to see through the agenda of those who fear we ordinary citizens are incapable of making proper decisions. As I understand it, your decision will result from a democratic vote requiring over 50% agree. Please let us choose same democratic right to elect our M.L.A. by way of a simple majority.

D.J. McLeod