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MAY 17, 2004

THE CITIZENS' ASSEMBLY,
555 WEST HASTINGS ST.,
P.O. BOX 12118,
VANCOUVER, B.C., V6B 4NG

Dear Sir:

On May 4, 2004, I received what resembles a small newspaper, from the Pro Rep Society (based in Gibsons, B.C.), telling about your function. The paper stresses the importance of electoral systems, and that this could be a once only chance to institute a needed change.

During Adriane Carr's commendable "initiative to establish a Pro Rep electoral system in B.C." campaign, from May 13 to August 12, 2002, I helped by collecting signatures. The single member plurality system that we are cursed with at present, simply does not work fairly once there are more than two parties. Of the few dozen citizens who I spoke to when canvassing, a few had become disheartened, with a feeling of hopelessness with the electoral system, and politicians in general. One who refused to sign the petition, expressed the disgusting, defeatist attitude that it would not make any difference which party was at the helm of this ship of state, that "nothing will change anyway."

I think that Adriane is on the right track on this subject, that she is courageous, energetic, intelligent, and is deserving of much credit for getting the ball rolling to try to bring in much-needed electoral reform. To have 42.5% of the electorate only being represented by 2.5% of the seats

in the legislature, is a serious and unstable situation. This is telling tens of thousands of we British Columbia voters that something is amiss with the system. The altered plan of the Pro Rep Society to keep 79 M.L.A. seats, instead of dropping the number to 68, should help to assuage the fears of those rural voters who fear reduced local representation.

The Law Commission of Canada has concluded that there would be benefits to reforming the current electoral system for the nation, and recommends that Canada adopt a Mixed Member Proportional electoral system. Let us do the same for B.C.

At present, I feel unrepresented in the B.C. legislature, and therefore view the Citizens' Assembly as being like a welcome breath of fresh air. It is my heartfelt hope that your assemblage will recommend switching to M.M.P., when presenting your decision on December 15, 2004. I do not for a moment think it would work perfectly, but then I doubt if a system could be devised that would run faultlessly; it would surely more fairly reflect the overall wishes of the B.C. electorate.

In submitting this letter, is there any need for me to also give a talk at the hearing at Cranbrook on June 21, 2004? If the answer is affirmative, please register me for a spot, and let me know in advance.

Thank you.

Yours truly,
Lloyd Hodge

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