

The Citizens Assembly
555 West Hastings St.
P.O. Box 121118
Vancouver, B.C., V6B 4N6

Dear Assembly Members,

I had really wanted to attend the Assembly's public hearings. Unfortunately we have made plans to travel through parts of our beautiful province and will be away on the dates the hearings will be held. And the dates for hearings in the locations we will be traveling to, do not coincide with the dates we'll be at those locations. So because of this I'm writing this submission to express my views.

First I'll make some comments about our present electoral system which I feel is very faulty. First in almost every election the party that is able to form a Majority government gets considerably less than 50% of the popular vote. And in fact in some cases get a lower percentage than another party. Certainly this is not fair because usually over 50% of the voters don't get proper representation. And because of this it ~~discourages~~ discourages many from even voting. The other problem is negative voting. By that I mean voting against a party rather than for one. In other words the lesser of two evils. But the end result is still an evil, a lesser evil. Also quite often people may have a very strong candidate that would be a great representative for their constituency but is not a member of the party of their choice. And this is how quite often the so called dead beats get elected. As well the present system is much more open to the influences of some powerful entities. Which we in B.C. have been exposed to with the present as well as the past governments.

And these influences are usually not in the best interest of the general public.

Certainly by now you would have guessed that I'm not in favour of keeping our present system. I'm very much in favour of a "Mixed Member Proportional" system. Similar to the New Zealand's system.

I know that there will be people, especially politicians and some of those powerful entities that will be against the MMP system. Simply because it will be very difficult to win a one party majority under this system. And this will make much more difficult for those powerful entities to influence party policies for their benefit. ~~Also~~ Also party loyalty would diminish in favour to the electorate. Also it will force the parties to work together for the benefit of the people rather than the party. And the end result is a stronger voice by the people and better representation. Under the present system a large percentage, and its growing, of people feel that they are ignored by the government.

So I strongly urge the Assembly to adopt a Mixed Member Proportional (M.M.P.) system that will be suitable to our province. I have confidence that ^{the} Assembly will do this and the referendum will be successful.

Sincerely
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