

Marcella Simpson
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Campbell River, BC V9H 1C6
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Citizens Assembly on Electoral Reform
2288-555 West Hastings
Box 12118
Vancouver BC V6B 4N6

Dear Citizens:

Prior to attending the Citizens Assembly meeting in Courtenay, I favored a proportional representation electoral system. (In fact, I had signed a petition about this two or three years ago.)

After hearing the excellent presentations at the meeting, this feeling was re-enforced.

The presentations gave me a clear understanding of various electoral processes and re-enforced my favouring of a proportional electoral system - in particular the Mixed Member Proportional System.

In the current First-to-the Post System, a voter has no representation unless he/she votes for the winning candidate. In a MMP System a voter always gets represented, even if it is only one seat.

I feel the M.M.P System would encourage people to vote because they know their vote will count. However, the electoral process is not the only reason why people don't vote. A Campbell River newspaper editorial summed things up by saying party leaders are "... nothing more than the same old bunch of liars of whom we're all sick and tired."

Political candidates should be held responsible for their campaign promises.

In closing, I feel the Citizens Assembly is the most truly democratic action that has ever happened in politics & it is unique to the world. And yet the news media gives it little or no coverage. I hope that when the referendum occurs in May 2005, that public is properly informed and it is given full news coverage.

Sincerely
 Paucella Simpson