

September 9, 2004

41 The Equal Resources Electoral System

The following letter was mailed to all the members and to the Chairman of the Citizens' Assembly. It is a continuation of the writer's effort to a) prevent the citizens' assembly concept from being "proven" an exercise in futility to be avoided in the future and, b) to take advantage of the great opportunity this CA has to democratize the political system.

The former will happen if the CA cannot do better than pick something out of the "Political Science 101- Elections" which is what was taught at the CA Boot Camp. The citizens' assembly concept is doomed, if all it can do is that.

The latter is perhaps even more important than the former. I fear the CA may let a great opportunity to democratize our political system go to waste, as was done with another one we had, that of Recall and Initiative which the politicians killed with that formidable weapon they often deploy against the people known as "cosmetic reform".

The "Equal Resources" electoral system is not the best we can do or need do to elevate the governance of the society to the democracy level. It comes up short of that. However, it is a leap forward and, hopefully, difficult for the politicians to reverse so as to regain control of the electoral process again and to preserve "elected tyranny".

Because of the need to make this presentation short, the letter merely outlines the Equal Resources system. Discussion is due therefore, and this will follow shortly through this venue.

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Dr. A. N. Thomas Varzeliotis, P. Eng.

September 7, 2004

Dear Mr _____

As a member of the Citizens' Assembly you are custodians of a rare opportunity to democratize our political system and that of societies who will follow an impressive outcome of your enterprise. It will be lamentable if this great opportunity for meaningful change is lost.

The Citizens' Assembly, being a "first" worldwide, will betray its mission if it does not break new ground, if it comes up with a rehash of old systems. Your calling is to take elections beyond what politicians have devised for their convenience in times past.

I propose the Equal **Resources** electoral system. The backbone of it is the provision of equal opportunity to all candidates to present themselves to the electorate. It is feasible because the defenders of the status quo would find it hard to fight. It is adequate for it takes us on to a democratic platform from where we can reach toward better systems.

Following is a list of the elements of the **Equal Resources** electoral system, all of them supported by democracy and reason:

1. **Provide Equal Resources to all candidates to present themselves to the constituency.** This satisfies the Canadian Constitution and the cause of justice.
2. **Communicate to constituents the Incumbent's Service Record (legislation initiated, voting history, attendance record and junkets log).** This would compensate for the exposure incumbents have relative to "new blood".
3. **Embed into the electoral system a renewal mechanism.** It is the people who determine how to elect their representatives to parliament.
4. **Local representatives, elected by a majority of their constituents.** People need know their representatives.

For an explanation of the system, please read "The Equal Resources Electoral System" at www.alcyonenews.ca or email me at alcyone3@telus.net - I shall answer your queries promptly.

Wishing you wisdom,

Tom Varzeliotis.