

List of Abstracts of Published Submissions Received by the Citizens' Assembly

The list of submission abstracts is to assist members of the Citizens' Assembly and the general public to navigate the large number of submissions made to the Assembly. The abstracts are copies of the abstracts shown on the 'View submissions' page of the Citizens' Assembly website (<http://www.citizensassembly.bc.ca>), go to 'Get involved', 'View submissions') and are limited to 250 characters in length (including spaces). While the abstracts are no substitute for looking at individual submissions, studying the abstracts will aid in an appreciation of the issues relating to electoral reform which have concerned those members of the public who have made submissions from British Columbia and elsewhere.

This list of submission abstracts can be used in conjunction with the submissions listed on the Citizens' Assembly website and the search function of the website. The list of abstracts is also available on the website as a downloadable Excel file and as an Adobe Acrobat (PDF) file.

The submission abstracts

Only the abstracts of published submissions received by the Citizens' Assembly are shown in the list. Published, in this sense, means that the submissions were received by 4.00 pm on 27 September 2004 and have fulfilled the formal requirements for submissions to be posted on the public website of the Citizens' Assembly. While the automatic numbering system on the website appears to show that there are 1669 submissions, only 1603 have been published. Those excluded comprise duplicate submissions sent by the same person, submissions sent by mistake, submissions with no content, or with inadequate identification of the person making the submission, and a few which have been withdrawn by the person making the submission.

The number in square brackets at the end of each abstract is a rough indication of the length of the full submission; it shows the number of pages which would be used if the whole submission was printed. Note that [1 page] can indicate a submission of a whole page or just a few words.

Submission ID

The left column of the list is the identification code (ID) of the submission. Each submission has its own code made up of the family name of the person making the submission and a four digit number allocated by the website as soon as the submission is entered. Some people have made more than one submission, and there are submissions from different people with the same family name. You will need to access the Citizens' Assembly website to be sure of the identity of the person making the submission.

Finding submissions on the Citizens' Assembly website can be time consuming given the size to which the body of submissions has grown. Here is a shortcut to find a particular submission:

- Type the four digit number code of the submission into the search box at the top right-hand corner of the Citizens' Assembly header (you **must** put in four digits including all the leading zeros if the search is to be effective, that is 0024, not 24)
- Then click 'Go', and then click on the icon with the name you are searching for. This will bring you directly to the full submission.

Submission Type

The column headed 'Type' in the list shows the way in which the submissions can be viewed:

- Online — this indicates that the full submission can be seen directly by your internet browser on the Citizens' Assembly website. These submissions were entered online on the Citizens' Assembly website, or entered from emails, or occasionally, from scanned documents. A few handwritten documents have been typed by Citizens' Assembly staff, scanned, and entered online (see Scanned below).
- Link — the full submission is attached as a linked file and can be viewed on the website as a Microsoft Word or PDF (Adobe Acrobat) document or, occasionally, as a link to another website. These submissions were usually sent as attachments to emails or were given to the Assembly on disc.
- Scanned – these submissions were submitted by mail or hand as documents and letters which have been scanned by the Citizens' Assembly staff. They include some handwritten submissions which can be viewed as PDF (Adobe Acrobat) files.
- Not online — there are a very few documents which have not yet been scanned or are in a form which makes it difficult to display them on the website. These submissions can be viewed at the Citizens' Assembly office.

Submission Category

This heading indicates, in abbreviated form, the broad issues raised in the submission (submissions can fall into more than one category):

- CA process — the submission discusses some aspect of the Citizens' Assembly process
- Change — the submission argues for electoral system change in British Columbia
- Elections — the submission is concerned with broad issues affecting elections and the electoral process which may fall outside the Citizens' Assembly mandate.
- Govt. — the submission is concerned with broad issues affecting democratic government which may fall outside the Citizens' Assembly mandate.
- Minorities — the submission raises issues about minority representation including the representation of women and native peoples.
- No change — the submission argues against substantial change to the electoral system in British Columbia
- Other — the submission raises issues which may fall outside the Citizens' Assembly mandate.
- Region — the submission raises issues about regional representation.