

# PRESENTATION SUMMARY

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SURREY-SOUTH PUBLIC HEARING  
DATED 8 MAY 2004  
AT THE ASTON PACIFIC INN

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS A BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE PRESENTATION TO THE CITIZENS' ASSEMBLY ON ELECTORAL REFORM. IT ATTEMPTS TO CAPTURE THE KEY ISSUES AND ARGUMENTS THAT WERE PRESENTED AND DISCUSSED DURING THE PUBLIC HEARING. IN SOME INSTANCES, THE PRESENTER HAS ALSO MADE A SUBMISSION TO THE ASSEMBLY AND THIS IS ACCESSIBLE VIA THE WEBSITE AT [WWW.CITIZENSASSEMBLY.BC.CA](http://WWW.CITIZENSASSEMBLY.BC.CA) BY CLICKING ON "GET INVOLVED". IF SUCH A SUBMISSION IS AVAILABLE, IT WILL BE NOTED AT THE END OF THIS REPORT.

# Keith Wallace

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## DESCRIPTION OF PRESENTATION

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I've lived and worked in democratic, communist and fascist societies and I'm quite clear that proportional representation offers real benefits.

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## KEY THEMES

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Mr. Wallace discussed his experience living under non-democratic regimes and stated the advantages of democracy in terms of economic success and human rights. The presenter stated the benefits that may accrue from moving to a PR system in terms of reducing wasted votes and increasing the fairness of representation.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

The presenter recommended a move to an MMP system in which two-thirds of the members would be elected from constituency seats and one-third from party lists.

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## QUESTIONS, ANSWERS AND COMMENTS FROM THE PANEL

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- Q Are you trying to achieve proportionality with only one-third of seats being elected by a list vote?
- A That is a very technical question that I believe is down to the panel for their consideration. One-third of the seats would be elected proportionally leading to much more empowerment.

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## QUESTIONS, ANSWERS AND COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

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- Q Are votes really ever wasted? How does this system account for wasted votes?
- A Under the system we are proposing each voter would have two votes, and while they may not get their candidate at the constituency level, it is likely that their second vote will contribute to the election of their party candidate.