

# 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.

# John A. West

## Caretaker Movement C.O.U

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### DESCRIPTION OF PRESENTATION

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Simple solution to the complexity of party dirty tricks by providing a none of the above (NOTA) option on the ballot enabling the random selection of citizens to sit in the legislature. It fits all templates of the Citizens' Assembly requirements and established constitutional standards.

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### KEY THEMES

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The presenter expressed the belief that the political system has become corrupt as elected officials are no longer representative of the people. Mr. West proposed an alternative system where voters who do not like any of the parties or any of the candidates could register a protest vote by casting a ballot for 'None of the Above.' This system will promote participatory democracy.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

The presenter recommended adapting the ballot paper to include a 'None of the Above' option. Additional MLAs could be randomly selected from a pool of all people who have voted for None of the Above.

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### QUESTIONS, ANSWERS AND COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

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- Q            How would you propose that this would have any positive impact on a legislative assembly of 79 when you are looking at possibly two or three members being elected via the NOTA option?
- A            The people I have talked to told me that they have been waiting for this for twenty years and that they believed there would be a landslide. I feel what you say is a bit of political propaganda. I believe that in addition to a man and a woman we should have a clan mother with a veto option.

Q If you are proposing that the randomly selected members be drawn from the pool who voted NOTA, how would you do this with the secret ballot?

A Voting numbers can be put onto the ballot and that way the individuals who voted in the NOTA box can be selected.

SUBMISSION: YES SUBMISSION ID# WEST-0010; WEST-0066