

# PRESENTATION SUMMARY

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VALEMOUNT PUBLIC HEARING DATED  
7 MAY 2004 AT THE HOLIDAY INN,  
VALEMOUNT

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 Grogan

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## DESCRIPTION OF PRESENTATION

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People are members of a number of communities, not just their local geographical community. We need an electoral system that allows communities of interests to form their own political parties.

The Assembly should also consider the role of independent candidates, a none of the above option, and minimum voter turnout.

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## KEY THEMES

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Mr Grogan expressed his concern with “bipolar governance” in BC, which has seen extreme swings in policy between governments.

He argued that although the current system groups voters into geographical communities, that all voters have many communities of interests. He suggested that we need an electoral system where these communities of interests could be represented. For example, First Nations people could have a voice in the legislature if BC had an electoral system which could sustain a First Nations political party. Groups could form parties to represent their interests and this would make people feel less alienated from the political system.

Mr Grogan advised the Assembly to consider whether the electoral systems they were considering would allow independent candidates to be elected.

He also recommended that the Assembly consider a ‘none of the above’ option where people who don’t want to vote for any candidate or party have the opportunity to express their opinion. This would enable more people to participate in the political system

Mr Grogan also asked whether the Assembly had considered the issue of minimum voter turnout, or the possibility of introducing an electoral rule where a minimum level of voter turnout is set for the election to be valid.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr Grogan recommended that the Assembly consider a number of issues in their deliberation over electoral systems, including the election of independent candidates, a none of the above option, and setting a minimum level of voter turnout for a valid election.

*Quote: “I think it is essential that, whatever system we adopt, we need to keep in mind all the voices in the choir, all the instruments in the orchestra.”*

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**QUESTIONS, ANSWERS AND COMMENTS FROM THE PANEL**

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There were no questions or comments from the panel.

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**QUESTIONS, ANSWERS AND COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE**

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There were no questions or comments from the audience.

**SUBMISSION: NO**