

# PRESENTATION SUMMARY

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VERNON PUBLIC HEARING  
DATED 21 JUNE 2004  
AT THE PRESTIGE INN VERNON SALON

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.

# Bruce Gurnsey

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## DESCRIPTION OF PRESENTATION

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A presentation advocating the improvement of our deteriorating, outdated, party dominated electoral system.

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## KEY THEMES

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Mr. Gurnsey argued that the current FPTP electoral system is outdated and in need of reform.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

The presenter recommended the establishment of a bottom-to-top democratic, grassroots, riding based, electoral system. This system would double the size of the government and the candidate receiving the most grassroots votes would become the riding's representative, and the candidate receiving the second most grassroots votes would become the riding's opposition. The riding representatives would gather together to form the government, electing from within their ranks their leader and cabinet. The opposition members would also select their leaders to form the official opposition. Under this system, the members' main offices are to be located in the ridings, and the votes of local members should reflect the direction they receive from their constituents. Mr. Gurnsey also advocated reducing the pay of MLAs to the provincial/national average in order to bring them closer in-line with the grassroots majority that they are supposed to be serving. The presenter also recommended that all revenue collected from particular ridings be earmarked for return to those ridings in order to prevent the abusive, excessive, misused, spending of government funds. Finally, Mr. Gurnsey advocated the introduction of a fixed election date which would be proclaimed as a statutory holiday.

*Quote: This system could/should/would have the bigwig, backroom-orchestrated, power-crazy, top-down manipulated, political party machinery mercifully, desperately begging for any other option.*

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## QUESTIONS, ANSWERS AND COMMENTS FROM THE PANEL

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Q Are you advocating the introduction of a new statutory holiday or that the election be held on an

existing holiday?

A Creating one for it. The majority are always looking for another holiday.