

PRESENTATION SUMMARY

WHISTLER PUBLIC HEARING
DATED 3 JUNE 2004
AT TELUS WHISTLER CONVENTION CENTRE

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 BY CLICKING ON "GET INVOLVED". IF SUCH A SUBMISSION IS AVAILABLE, IT WILL BE NOTED AT THE END OF THIS REPORT.

Myson Effa

DESCRIPTION OF PRESENTATION

A presentation arguing the need for greater citizen participation to shape the political system.

KEY THEMES

Mr. Effa discussed the problem of getting voters to participate in the political system. The presenter argued that the Soviet Union was brought down in large part via the backlash of voters defacing their ballots. Mr. Effa expressed the view that the citizenry has power to change the system and that many changes have stemmed from actions of the people. The presenter expressed his concern over the fact that much of the information that the Assembly is using and distributing is incorrect. Mr. Effa argued that BC has the most fascist legislation in all of Canada and there exists a need for citizens to be able to use plebiscites enabling them to prevent unjust government action.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The presenter recommended that the Assembly consult expert historians and political scientists from other countries in order to increase the accuracy of their information. In addition, Mr. Effa recommended that polling stations should be regulated more closely to prevent booths being closed before the stated time. The presenter also argued the need for media reform to prevent polls being manipulated in order to produce a false impression. Mr. Effa expressed the opinion that the media is effectively the “Town Crier” and it avoids the representation of minor party interests.

QUESTIONS, ANSWERS AND COMMENTS FROM THE PANEL

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| Q | Do you see NOTA as an ongoing option? And if the NOTA option wins who will get on with the job of governing? |
| A | I would see it as an ongoing thing. We have the Lieutenant Governor and I would leave it to that person to decide what to do. |