

From: Richard Lung

Sent: Wednesday, January 26, 2022 3:51 PM

Subject: Former submitter to Citizens Assemblies

Dear Yukon Special Committee on Electoral Reform,

I am a British Citizen, 16 of us submitted to the British Columbia Citizens Assembly. I also submitted to the Ontario CA.

My experiences of these events are recorded in my first e-book on electoral reform, Peace-making Power-sharing.

I have written perhaps a dozen e-books on the subject (one booklet is in French).

The original and best or most diligent reform enterprise was the BC CA. The first referendum achieved 57.7% votes for the Single Transferable Vote. BC only does not now use STV because of a 60% threshold making votes for first past the post count one and a half times those for STV. The first referendum only allowed truthful information (tho receiving little funding). The second referendum allowed partisan passion to successfully deceive the electorate into keeping fptp. Australians call STV the quota-preferential method. It is a preferential reform of the vote, as well as a proportional count. Voters give their order of choice, 1,2,3, etc so they elect their favorite candidates to three or more seats. Voters are not stuck with an illiterate x-vote, which cannot prefer one candidate over another.

I would not be frightened by the opponents of reform, who usually claim that districts have to be as small as possible single districts, in the vast Canadian wildernesses, like BC and the Yukon.

Single districts monopolise representation, often by a minority candidate. STV shares representation by voters personal preferences, independent of control by party lists.

Generally, in multi-member constituencies, voters have a better choice of candidates, and the main social groups are all represented. What is less appreciated is that candidates have more choice of the communities they will cultivate support from. The vastness of the multimember district can be an asset to candidates, who know how to use it, not an obstacle.

I have studied electoral reform and research, all my life (am now an old man) and welcome questions. My profile page of over 30 books contains a dozen or so books on elections, all free from Smashwords:

<https://www.smashwords.com/profile/view/democracyscience>

Regards,
Richard Lung.