

# Electoral Reform and BC-STV

**Date of Adoption:** April 15, 2005

**Date of Expiration:** April 15, 2008

**Preamble:** Whereas the current political system, commonly referred to as the "first past the post system" allows government officials to be elected with less than the majority of the popular vote; *and*

Whereas the "first past the post system" allows majority governments to be formed with less than half the popular vote, termed a false majority government; *and*

Whereas when majority governments are formed they assume a mandate consistent with their platform which is not necessarily supported by a majority of the people; *and*

Whereas when a false majority government's mandate is used to make decisions contrary to public opinion it becomes 'justified' because they form government, in this way political parties rule over the public as tyrants; *and*

Whereas the system described above has lead MLAs and MPs to become representatives of their party or government to their constituents, as opposed to being their constituent's representatives to government in a particular party; *and*

Whereas a system of government in which political parties control public policy is not a democracy but instead a kind of dictatorship; *and*

Whereas no country of peoples should live in a dictatorship; *and*

Whereas the current electoral system allows political parties to gain all or none of the political or legal power in any election, and very rarely a portion of the power, *and*

Whereas the Citizens Assembly on Electoral Reform (formed in 2004) recognizes all of the above stated problems with the current electoral system and have made a recommendation to change the electoral system in BC to a special form of the single transferable vote system called BC-STV or BC Single Transferable Vote; *and*

Whereas the Citizens Assembly's proposed electoral system would take power away from political parties and place it back into the hands of the public, by creating an electoral system that forces political parties to share power unless it is truly the will of the public, thus forcing them to be more responsive to the public.

**Resolution:** Therefore be it resolved that the Kwantlen University College Student Association supports adopting BC-STV as the electoral system in BC,

Be it further resolved that the Kwantlen University College Student Association supports changing BC's and Canada's electoral system to a proportional system.

OFFICIAL POLICY

