

# **Working Groups & Advisory Committees**

**Sept 30, 2006**

# Objectives

- To discuss Chair's proposal for working groups and advisory committees  
(TAB "Assembly Procedures", items 6 & 7)
- To agree on which groups and committees to establish

# Introduction

- Working groups look at *content* issues related to electoral systems
- Advisory committees look at aspects of the Assembly's *process*
- Participation is optional, volunteer basis

# Purpose of Working Groups

- Members-driven process
- Explore key issues a bit more:
  - Look at what research says on a topic
  - Discuss how research findings relate to Assembly's task
  - Decide on issues for discussion by full Assembly
  - Report back to Assembly

# Four Proposed Topics

- Women & other under-represented groups
  - What impacts do different electoral systems have on the representation of women and other under-represented groups in the legislature?
- Geographic representation
  - What is the impact of different electoral systems on geographic representation?

# ...Working Group Topics

- Political parties
  - How do different electoral systems affect the role of political parties in elections?
- Stable government
  - What is stable government and how stable are governments under different electoral systems?

# Working Group Facilitator

- Ailsa Henderson, political scientist and researcher, will:
  - Provide research summaries and articles
  - Facilitate working group meetings
  - Act as a resource to working group members between meetings
  - Bring in other experts as required
  - Offer advice on working group reports
- Group members may select Chairs

# Working Group Process

- Confirm topics today
- Information table & sign-up tonight
- Summary of issue & articles before first meeting (from Ailsa)
- 3 meetings of each working group
  - On Fri or Sat nights (Weekends 3, 4, 5)
- Report to full Assembly (Weekend 6)

# Purpose of Advisory Committees

- Ensure a strong voice for members on important aspects of Assembly process

# Four Proposed Topics

- Evaluation
  - Review reports from our evaluators to improve as we go
  - Discuss monitoring & evaluation issues, e.g. survey process
- Consultation submissions
  - Comment on summaries of submissions and reports on consultation findings
  - Point out notable submissions

# ...Committee Topics

- Deliberation phase planning
  - Help the Chair develop a plan on how to conduct the deliberation phase
- Final report
  - Review and comment on design and content of final report before full Assembly reviews and approves
  - Review and comment on detailed background report to document the Assembly process

# Committee Process

- Confirm topics today
- Information table and sign-up tonight
- Work on informal basis; stay in touch through phone and email
- Secretariat provides coordination and support
- Committee members may select chairs

# Review of Topics

- Working Group topics
  - Women & other under-represented groups
  - Geographic representation
  - Political parties
  - Stable government
- Committee topics
  - Evaluation
  - Consultation submissions
  - Deliberation phase planning
  - Final report