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## INFORMATION BULLETIN

For Immediate Release  
2008AG0034-001197  
Aug. 1, 2008

Ministry of Attorney General  
and Minister responsible for Multiculturalism

### **GOVERNMENT SETS STAGE FOR VOTE ON ELECTORAL REFORM**

VICTORIA – A public consultation on the proposed distribution of funding for registered groups who support or oppose the single transferable vote (STV) electoral system is underway, Attorney General Wally Oppal announced today.

Government has committed \$1 million for groups who support or oppose the STV system. The Province will make \$500,000 available to each side of the STV debate to provide information and educational material about their positions. Government will also fund a neutral referendum information office, as it did in 2005.

British Columbians will vote on whether to adopt the STV or keep the current, first-past-the-post system during a referendum to be held in conjunction with the May 12, 2009 general election. This is the second time British Columbians will have the opportunity to vote on the STV system. The threshold for success will be the same as it was in 2005 – with at least 60 per cent of the provincewide popular vote needed, along with majority support in at least 60 per cent of the province's electoral districts.

The consultation is aimed at individuals and organizations on both sides of the debate who may be interested in applying for funding. The consultation paper is available for viewing at:  
[http://www.ag.gov.bc.ca/public/spl/Referendum\\_Group\\_Consultation\\_Paper.pdf](http://www.ag.gov.bc.ca/public/spl/Referendum_Group_Consultation_Paper.pdf)

The document includes information on the proposed application and registration process, duties and responsibilities of groups and their financial agents and permitted uses of funds. Groups and individuals have until Sept. 5 to give their feedback on distribution of the funds. Funding is scheduled to be distributed in January 2009.

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