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# Liberal leader vote may lack pizzazz: de Jong

*Last Updated: Thursday, December 23, 2010 | 8:05 PM PT*  
The Canadian Press



*B.C. Liberal leadership candidate Mike de Jong, seen above at his campaign launch, is concerned about the new convention style adopted by the party. (CBC)* B.C. Liberal leadership candidate Mike de Jong is concerned that the party may sacrifice too much of the traditional spectacle and suspense of past leadership conventions in an attempt to make the leadership vote more accessible to more members.

The Liberals are doing away with polling stations for the Feb. 26 leadership vote and are switching to an online and phone voting system.

They're gambling that that wider base of enthusiasm will bring the B.C. Liberals the same kind of excitement as leadership conventions in the past have.

But in a statement Thursday, de Jong urged the party executive to ensure party members have a chance to celebrate the leadership results.

"While the voting system does not lend itself to a traditional leadership convention, we should still organize an event where we can meet old friends, have a snack, a refreshment or two, and share the excitement as the results come in," he said.

**'We feel this voting method builds excitement within our party.'**

—B.C. Liberals executive director Chad Pederson

The party executive is defending the changes.

"We feel this voting method builds excitement within our party," said B.C. Liberals executive director Chad Pederson. "It gives everyone the opportunity to vote wherever they are. They need not travel hundreds of kilometres to a central voting location to cast a ballot."

### More can participate

That means fewer people will be present at the convention, Pederson said, but that needs to be weighed against more people participating in the process.

Earlier this month, party executives approved replacing the first-past-the-post system with one that lets voters rank their candidates on the ballot sheet.

To achieve this, the party hopes to replace the one-member-one-vote for a complex point system that weighs every vote differently. Pederson said it is designed to ensure more populous riding don't discount smaller ridings. The candidate with more than 50 per cent of the points becomes the next party leader.

Despite the nostalgia some might have about the drama of old-style leadership conventions, pollster Greg Lyle said the changes the B.C. Liberals are proposing simply represent politics catching up with the real world.



Mike de Jong says conventions need hoopla, as at this B.C. Liberal convention in 2008. (B.C. Liberals/YouTube)"What this does is it takes the focus away from trying to win in multicultural communities in the Lower Mainland and refocuses the efforts on more rural seats," said Lyle, of Innovative Research.

He said the new system will be irrelevant to the leadership outcome.

"It's just the details," Lyle said. "What really matters is to what degree do the leadership contenders say things that people think are interesting."

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**Bill Gates wrote:**Posted 2010/12/27

at 3:55 AM ETHotter wrote: Nothing of interest.

It is most likely de Jong and the liberals will wind up the same as the social credit party.

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**Hotter wrote:**Posted 2010/12/27

at 2:47 AM ET@widman

Now you being in the government in one form or the other for 40 years by your own admission. And me being a businessman. This will be next to impossible for you to understand.

With the offloading of responsibilities to businesses from the NDP and the libs. such as worksafe. and the most recent example being the ruling that businesses are responsible for their mental health. You cant have both this and high taxes to businesses. We are already past the point of no return on this. This is something the NDP can never understand but this government does. Now we have went down the trail of taxing business hard and having unreal expectations for them, it didn't work.

Unfortunately we won't be done with the Non performing tax sucking No Drive Party until the die harders are gone. But they are thinning out. Old dinosaur thinking.

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**widman wrote:**Posted 2010/12/27

at 12:56 AM ETHotter wrote:Posted 2010/12/26

at 8:26 PM ET@Widman

"All of us liberal supporters will make sure the commie pinkos never run this province again. We learned what splitting the vote did to us last time. So you better make sure that your party doesn't split the vote with the greenie party."

Another post accurately defining the mentality, maturity, and modernism of the BC LIB Party and its supporters.

Better watch out there Hotter, there's a Red under every Bed in your world. We might sneak out some night and brainwash you into caring about the human beings in this province instead of just your bank account! We might hypnotize you into thinking people should matter more than corporations! We might seduce you into thinking it is in fact wrong to use taxpayers money to pay off convicted Fraud artists legal bills! We might use our hocus pocus to convince you there is something seriously wrong with introducing a new tax before consulting the people of the province about it! We may even drug your mind until it starts to think: Hey, there's something wrong with BC Ferries guys making so much money for cutting back services, or raising hydro rates 30% when times are hard, or selling off our most treasured assets at bargain basement prices! Maybe we'll make you go to meetings until you become convinced there's something wrong with a political party when it makes a practice of lying, or attacking people, and of using tax payer dollars to fight the people!

One things if for sure, its going to take some extra effort to change your mind because you've obviously had a serious over dose of Campbell Cola and your brain just can't make out the obvious anymore!

And what is the obvious pray tell?

The Obvious is, no one but you BC LIBs believes a word you have to say any more!

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**Bill Gates wrote:**Posted 2010/12/26

at 9:29 PM ETI didnt think one off the wall liberal supporter would claim to speak for them all. After reading some of the rants for the last few days, nothing would surprise me.

One would think that there would be at least one or two out there willing to convince the public that de Jong should lead the party or become premier, instead off attacking fellow commenters or the NDP party.

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**Hotter wrote:**Posted 2010/12/26

at 8:26 PM ET@Widman

All of us liberal supporters will make sure the commie pinkos never run this province again. We learned what splitting the vote did to us last time. So you better make sure that your party doesn't split the vote with the greenie party.

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