

A citizens concerns about Independent Candidates in British Columbia: April 1, 2024

Sent: April 1, 2024 10:17 AM

To:

Subject: Fwd: FYI Independence...Independent

Hi Peter, Rick and Patricia

Some thoughts and concerns

Hi again, I offer this information so you are not caught off-guard and better informed about the limitations of "Independent" MLAs.

We are aware that British Columbians, like Canadians, are not learned or particularly sophisticated in matters of political inner-workings, thus the on-going confusion around MLA v MP...Federal Conservative Party v Provincial Conservative...the NDP spralling both federal and provincial etc..

So with all the talk around independent candidates please know that some confusion may ensue between [Independent BC - A new Way to Vote](#) and another provincial party called the [BC Independence Party](#)

There is a very small board attached to the BC Independence Party, their communication director is listed as Marcus Ray. This is troubling and could be confusing for many-



Marcus Ray

Communications Officer

I would also suggest that you understand that without a cohesive party affiliation there is very little that can be done, under the current rules, as an Independent, in the legislature. For more information on being an "independent" go [here](#)

Some thoughts for consideration -

"An Independent Member is not bound by [party discipline](#) and may raise issues that party members may not. **However, they do not receive the same benefits as those MLAs who belong to a party with official status. They do not necessarily receive priority recognition during [Question Period](#), funding for research support, or the right to reply to ministerial statements.**"

Under the current rules of the legislature it would be difficult to affect any meaningful change or representation for an Independent's constituency. This only changes if there is a minority party that needs the Independent vote, and that vote gives the minority party a majority (this would be a rare occurrence) on the matter being voted on in the legislature. In this rare circumstance an independent can be highly effective and make all kinds of deals for financial aid/support for research staff etc. with the requesting party.

It is important for those considering running as Independents to have a game plan, be aware of the rules and be a tough negotiator.