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Constitution of the Green Party of Canada

Adopted September 1988 and amended August 1996, August 1998, August 2000, August 2002, August 2004, August 2006, and February 2009 by the general membership of the Party.

Article 1 The Body Constituted

1.1 The body constituted is the Green Party of Canada, also known as the Canadian Greens. Hereafter in this document it is referred to as the Party.

Article 2 Scope of the Constitution and Bylaws

2.1 This Constitution and Bylaws shall govern the activities of the Party, all persons operating on behalf of the Party, and the rights, responsibilities and duties of its recognized Units, committees and membership.

2.2 The Constitution shall have precedence over the Bylaws, and any Bylaw that is inconsistent with the Constitution shall be null and void to the extent of the inconsistency.

2.3 The Constitution and Bylaws shall have precedence over any other decision of the membership, and any membership decision that is inconsistent with the Constitution or Bylaws shall be null and void to the extent of the inconsistency.

Article 3 Basis of Unity

3.1 To enhance the effectiveness of the Global Green Movement in creating a Green Society by providing an evolving social and political structure that embraces and supports Green Values and offers itself as a voice for the broader Green Movement.

3.2 To elevate and nurture caring and compassionate values among all peoples and all cultures which will provide the basis for sustaining, just, democratic, peaceful and diverse communities.

3.3 To commit ourselves, and encourage everyone, to promote enhanced and socially engaged caring and compassionate values through research, dialogue, and example, as well as through increasing awareness of our own capacities to be caring and compassionate for others, ourselves, and life's rich diversity.

Article 4 Purpose

4.1 It is the purpose of the Party to advance the Party's Platform, Positions, Policy, Values

and Basis of Unity, and to contribute to the welfare of Canada, Canadians and the community of life in Canada by:

4.1.1 Fielding and electing candidates in federal elections.

4.1.2 Debating and forming legislation in the Canadian Parliament and by participating in, or forming, the Government of Canada.

4.1.3 Developing Policy, Positions, and Platforms consistent with its Values and Basis of Unity.

4.1.4 Advancing the Party's Platform, Positions, Policy, Values and Basis of Unity outside of electoral periods.

4.1.5 Forming and maintaining Party organizations at the federal, provincial and electoral district levels.

4.1.6 Working in solidarity with green parties of other jurisdictions, and green parties globally.

Article 5 Principles

5.1 The policies of the Party, in agreement with the Charter of the Global Greens, are founded upon the Principles of:

5.1.1 Ecological Wisdom ^[1]

5.1.2 Social Justice ^[2]

5.1.3 Participatory Democracy ^[3]

5.1.4 Non-Violence ^[4]

5.1.5 Sustainability ^[5]

5.1.6 Respect for Diversity ^[6]

5.2 The above Principles are Values of the Party.

5.3 Activities, Policies, and statements made on behalf of the Party must be consistent with the Principles of the Party.

5.4 Appendix A ^[7] shows the Charter of the Global Greens.

Article 6 Accountability

6.1 All Units and individuals within the Party are accountable to:

6.1.1 the membership in General Meeting,

6.1.2

the Federal Council when the membership is not in General Meeting.

6.2 Decisions of the Members in General Meeting shall have precedence over decisions of Federal Council, and any Federal Council decision that is inconsistent with a decision of the Members in General Meeting shall be null and void to the extent of the inconsistency.

6.3 Filings, and appointments, of the Party required by the *Canada Elections Act*, or other statute or regulation, including the endorsement of a candidate during an election, are under the direction of the membership in General Meeting or Federal Council as per Articles 6.1 and 6.2 ^[8].

Article 7 Official Standing And Definitions

7.1 The following persons have official standing within the Party under this Constitution and the Bylaws:

7.1.1 Member: An individual who meets the Party's membership criteria.

7.1.2 Leader: the Member filed Leader pursuant to the *Canada Elections Act*.

7.2 The following Units have official standing within the Party under this Constitution and the Bylaws:

7.2.1 Electoral District Association: An association in which all Party Members residing within an electoral district, as defined by the *Canada Elections Act*, have voting rights.

7.2.2 Provincial/Territorial Organization: (1) An association of the Party in which all Party Members residing within a province or territory of Canada have membership and voting rights, or (2) a territorial or provincial division of the Party pursuant to the *Canada Elections Act*.

7.2.3 Regional Association: An association of the Party in which all of the Party Members residing within a group of contiguous electoral districts have membership and voting rights.

7.2.4 Federal Council: The council referred to in Article 9 ^[9] and are elected or appointed in accordance with the Bylaws.

7.2.5 Cabinet: (a) Those Members of the Party who are participating in or who comprise the government's cabinet of ministers or (b) an alternative cabinet to the government who shadow and provide critical opposition on policy matters to the government's position. This Cabinet is selected and appointed in accordance with the Bylaws.

7.2.6 Young Greens: An association of Members of the Party as specified by that Unit.

7.3 Unless the context otherwise requires, the following definitions apply in this Constitution and the Bylaws:

7.3.1 Caucus: Those Members of the Party who are Members of the House of Commons or the Senate of Canada.

7.3.2

Central Party: The hub of the Party that includes Federal Council but does not include any Electoral District Associations, Provincial, Territorial, Regional, or other Units where those Units have their own agent for financial operations.

7.3.3 Chief Agent: the corporation filed Chief Agent pursuant to the *Canada Elections Act*.

7.3.4 Constitutional: Pertaining to either the Party's Constitution or Bylaws.

7.3.5 Directive: A General Meeting motion or resolution that does not meet the definition of Policy or, if adopted, does not result in a change to the Constitution or Bylaws.

7.3.6 Federal Councillor: A Member of the Party who sits as a member of Federal Council.

7.3.7 Functionary: A person duly selected to hold office or perform a function on behalf of the Party.

7.3.8 Fund: The Green Party of Canada Fund.

7.3.9 General Meeting: A General Meeting of the entire membership of the Party.

7.3.10 Platform: The Position the Party takes on a wide range of election issues for any given election.

7.3.11 Policy: Are General Meeting motions or resolutions that, if adopted by the membership, articulate what the Party and Party Members would work toward if elected.

7.3.12 Position: Any statement from the Party that articulates what the Party and Party Members would work toward if elected. A Position may not contradict Policy, Values, or any other membership decision.

7.3.13 Youth Representative: A representative of the Young Greens who shall be selected in accordance with rules set out in the Young Green constitution and bylaws, as the case may be.

Article 8 General Meetings of the Entire Membership of the Party

8.1 General Meetings shall consist of:

8.1.1 individual Members in good standing who have one vote, and

8.1.2 delegates or Members carrying proxies, who are in good standing, and who have voting rights under one or more Bylaws that provide for voting by proxy. (Proviso: This clause shall not come into effect until the Members adopt such a Bylaw or Bylaws.)

8.2 A quorum shall be fifty (50) Members present at a General Meeting who are in good standing, representing at least two regions, as defined in the Bylaws.

8.3

General Meetings shall be held at least once every two years.

8.4 Sixty (60) days notice to Members is required to call a General Meeting.

8.5 General Meetings of Members shall be called in accordance with the Bylaws.

8.6 Special General Meetings of Members shall be called in accordance with the Bylaws.

Article 9 Federal Council

9.1 Composition of Federal Council The Federal Council shall be composed of:

9.1.1 A Chairperson.

9.1.2 The Leader.

9.1.3 One (1) representative from each Province of Canada.

9.1.4 One (1) representative representing the Territories of Canada.

9.1.5 Nine (9) Councillors at large.

9.1.6 The Executive Director.

9.1.7 A Youth Representative.

Article 10 Amendments to Constitution, Bylaws, and Policy

10.1 Constitution

10.1.1 Notice of amendments to the Constitution shall be included in the notice of meeting at which the amendments shall be considered.

10.1.2 Amendments shall be submitted by at least three Electoral District Associations or Provincial/Territory Organizations, by at least 15 individual Members who are in good standing, or by a Central Party Unit comprising of at least 15 Members in good standing.

10.1.3 Amendments shall be adopted by a majority of the votes cast by Members in good standing at a General Meeting, and shall only become effective upon Members in good standing passing an identically worded amendment by a vote of greater than 1/2 (50%) of the votes cast in a Members' vote conducted by mail-in ballot, with a ballot return date of no later than one-hundred-twenty (120) days following the General Meeting at which the amendment was passed.

10.1.4 Notwithstanding any other provision concerning an amendment of the present Constitution, all proposed amendments concerning Article 10 ^[10], Article 11 ^[11], or Bylaw 1.2.3 ^[12] will be adopted if:

10.1.4.1 more than 3/4 (75%) of the votes cast by Members in good standing at two

(2) consecutive General Meetings are in favour of an identically worded resolution to enact the amendment; and

10.1.4.2 an identically worded resolution to enact the amendment is passed by a vote of greater than 1/2 (50%) of the votes cast by Members in good standing in a Members' vote conducted by mail-in ballot, with a ballot return date of no later than one-hundred-twenty (120) days following the second General Meeting at which the amendment was passed.

10.1.5 After each General Meeting at which this Constitution is amended, the Constitution Committee and any legal advisers must oversee the publication of this Constitution as amended and may, in so doing, and subject to the ratification of the Federal Council:

10.1.5.1 Renumber the provisions of this Constitution to accommodate the changes that have been made.

10.1.5.2 Correct cross-references between provisions which are no longer accurate.

10.1.5.3 Correct typographical errors.

10.1.5.4 Correct spelling errors.

10.1.5.5 Replace gender biased language with gender neutral language.

10.1.5.6 Correct inconsistencies between the English and French versions of this Constitution.

10.2 Bylaws

10.2.1 Notice of amendments to the Bylaws shall be included in the notice of meeting at which the amendments shall be considered.

10.2.2 Amendments shall be submitted by at least 5 individual Members who are in good standing or by a Unit of the Party representing at least five Members in good standing.

10.2.3 Amendments shall be adopted by a majority of the votes cast by Members in good standing at a General Meeting.

10.3 Policy

10.3.1 Policy motions passed at a General Meeting shall only become effective upon Members in good standing passing an identically worded resolution by a vote of greater than 1/2 (50%) of the votes cast in a Members' vote conducted by mail-in ballot, with a ballot return date of no later than one-hundred-twenty (120) days following the General Meeting at which the Policy resolution was passed.

10.4 Constitution and Bylaws

10.4.1 After each General Meeting at which this Constitution or the Bylaws are amended, Federal Council shall ensure the publication of the amended Constitution and

Bylaws, and at that time may:

10.4.1.1 Renumber the provisions of this Constitution or the Bylaws to accommodate the changes that have been made.

10.4.1.2 Correct references between provisions which are no longer accurate.

10.4.1.3 Correct errors which are purely typographical, insofar as such changes will not change the meaning of any provision.

Article 11 Dissolution or Merger

11.1 Any resolution to dissolve the Party or to merge it with another party passed at a General Meeting shall only become effective upon Members in good standing passing an identically worded resolution by a vote of greater than ninety (90) percent of the votes cast in Members vote conducted by mail-in ballot, with a ballot return date of no later than one-hundred-twenty (120) days following the General Meeting at which the resolution to dissolve or merge the Party was passed.

11.2 No transfer of the Party's assets may be commenced or completed until such a mail-in ballot is passed with the required ninety (90) percent majority and the resolution to dissolve or merge the Party takes effect.

Article 12 The Green Party of Canada Fund

12.1 The Fund is the sole and exclusive agent for the financial operations of the Central Party.

12.2 The Fund will be responsible to *Elections Canada* as the Party's Chief Agent.

12.3 The Fund shall report its annual audited financial statements to the membership.

12.4 All members of Federal Council and only members of Federal Council are automatically, while members of that council, members of the Fund.

12.5 At least one director of the Fund shall be an elected member of Federal Council.

12.6 The Fund shall operate within the spirit, terms and constraints of the Party's Constitution and Bylaws.

12.7 The Bylaws and Letters Patent of the Fund shall be available to all Members of the Party.

Bylaws

Bylaw 1 Membership

1.1 Criteria for membership

Any citizen or permanent resident of Canada, who is at least fourteen (14) or older, is eligible for membership in the Party, with full voting rights, provided the person is not a member of any other political party.

1.1.2 Every Member shall uphold this Constitution and Bylaws.

1.1.3 A Member shall cease to be in good standing upon failure to pay the current annual membership fee or upon other conditions as set out by the Federal Council or in the Bylaws.

1.1.4 A person cannot be a Member of the Party if the person belongs to an organization whose actions are detrimental to the Party, as determined by Federal Council.

1.1.5 A person who is at least twelve (12) years of age but less than fourteen (14) years of age may be designated a Youth Member, without the right to vote.

1.2 Application for Membership

1.2.1 A person may apply for membership in the Party to:

1.2.1.1 Federal Council.

1.2.1.2 An Electoral District Association.

1.2.1.3 A Provincial/Territory Organization.

1.2.1.4 A Regional Association.

1.2.1.5 A designate of Federal Council that has been authorized to accept memberships.

1.2.2 The above mentioned bodies have the right to set the amount of their own membership fee insofar as:

1.2.2.1 It is the responsibility of the Federal Council to maintain a register of Members.

1.2.2.2 The Federal Council may require a membership fee from each body mandated to receive Members to cover the costs of servicing the Member.

1.2.2.3 The Federal Council shall ensure that Members are notified as their membership fees are due.

1.2.3 Applicants for membership and renewing Members shall pay the membership fee directly to the Party and not indirectly through an intermediary person.

1.3 Resignation and Removal of Member

1.3.1 A person shall cease to be a Member of the Party:

1.3.1.1 By delivering her/his resignation by mailing or delivering it to an address of the Party.

1 3 1 2

On her/his death.

1.3.1.3 On being expelled.

1.3.1.4 On having been a Member not in good standing for 12 consecutive months.

1.3.1.5 On stating that they are working to form a new Federal political party, or if they are working for another existing Federal political party.

1.3.2 A Member may be expelled by a resolution of the Federal Council or a General Meeting of Members. The person who is subject to the proposed expulsion shall be given an opportunity to be heard at the meeting before the motion is put to a vote.

1.4 Other than when the membership is assembled in general meeting, email will be considered the default form of communication between the national office and the membership, including but not limited to, election of Council, distribution of official notices, and any matter requiring the participation of the general membership.

1.4.1 Members, at the time of application for membership, or at any time thereafter, may exercise the option to choose postal mail or other forms of communication.

1.5 Voting Rights

1.5.1 A Member's right to vote on all matters, including all elections, shall commence after s/he has been a Member for 30 days.

1.5.2 When a former Member rejoins the Party after having been a Member not in good standing for more than one year, that Member's voting rights shall resume 30 days after rejoining the Party, otherwise that Member's voting rights resume the day they rejoin.

Bylaw 2 Federal Council

2.1 Selection of members to Federal Council:

2.1.1 Chairperson and Councillors at Large: Ten (10) persons shall be elected to Federal Council as Councillors at Large, as follows:

2.1.1.1 Nominations shall be by ten (10) members of the Party in good standing.

2.1.1.2 All Members of the Party in good standing shall be eligible to vote for these positions.

2.1.1.3 The Chairperson of the Party shall be appointed or elected by Federal Council from amongst the voting members of Federal Council.

2.1.1.4 The outgoing Chair will continue in the Chairperson's role as a non-voting member of Federal Council, where that non-voting member does not factor into Federal Council's quorum, until such time that Federal Council appoints or elects a new Chairperson.

2.1.2 Provincial and Territorial Representatives:

Five (5) Members of the Party in good standing residing within a province or the territories of Canada shall be required to nominate for the position of Provincial Representative or the Territorial Representative of their respective province or territory.

2.1.2.2 All Members of the Party in good standing residing within a province or the territories of Canada shall be eligible to vote for Provincial Representative or the Territorial Representative of their respective province or territory.

2.1.3 The Leader:

2.1.3.1 One hundred (100) Members of the Party in good standing shall be required to nominate for the position of Leader.

2.1.3.2 All Members of the Party in good standing shall be eligible to vote for the position of the Leader.

2.1.4 Election to Federal Council and Term of Office:

2.1.4.1 The vote, for any office of Federal Council, shall require None-of-the-Above (NOTA) to be a contestant, shall be by preferential ballot, and a majority vote shall elect.

2.1.4.1.1 Where the election calls for Party Members to be elected to two or more seats in the same position, such as the case of Councillor at Large, voting shall be exercised using a multi-seat proportional representation form of the single transferable vote (PR-STV) and subsequent election to those seats shall be simultaneous.

2.1.4.1.2 Where the election calls for Party Members to be elected to one position only, such as the case of Leader, voting shall be exercised using a form of the single transferable vote (STV) requiring a majority of votes cast for election.

2.1.4.2 All Federal Council members shall be elected to serve a two year term or until their successors are elected, except the Leader who shall serve a four year term or until a successor is elected.

2.1.4.3 In odd numbered years the representatives of Newfoundland and Labrador, New Brunswick, Quebec, Manitoba, Alberta, the representative from the Territories, and five (5) Councillors at Large shall be elected.

2.1.4.4 In even numbered years the representatives of Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Ontario, Saskatchewan, British Columbia, and five (5) Councillors at Large shall be elected.

2.1.4.5 The Leader shall be elected in 2006 and every four (4) years thereafter.

2.1.4.6 Ballots for elections of Councillors at Large, Provincial Representatives, and the Territorial Representative shall have beside the name of each candidate on the ballot, the Province and the bioregion where the candidate resides.

2.1.4.7 Ballots for election shall be mailed out at least 30 days prior to election day.

Removal From Office and Removal of Units:

2.1.5.1 Any federal Councillor except the leader may be removed from office for cause, by a 3/4 vote of Federal Council at a meeting called for that purpose.

2.1.5.2 The Leader may be removed from office by motion at a general meeting, following a non-confidence vote supported by 3/4 of Federal Council at a meeting called for that purpose.

2.1.5.3 Any member or unit must be informed of all allegations in writing and is entitled to 30 days to prepare and present their defense before any motions of non-confidence or removal.

2.1.5.4 Any Federal Council member who fails to attend three consecutive Federal Council meetings without apparent cause shall be removed from Federal Council unless the member provides satisfactory written documentation explaining the absences and is reinstated by a majority vote of Federal Council. If the member is removed under these circumstances, the member shall be ineligible to run for a Federal Council position in the next election for Federal Council.

2.1.5.5 Federal Council or a General Meeting has the authority to deregister any Unit of the Party for cause.

2.1.6 Vacancy in Federal Council Office:

2.1.6.1 Federal Council has the authority to fill, by appointment, any vacancy, however caused, until the next General Meeting or the term for that position ends, whichever occurs first.

2.1.6.2 All Federal Council members shall be notified of a vacancy within seven (7) days.

2.1.6.3 Notice of the vacancy shall be posted on the Party's website and on the Party's general Members electronic mailing list within the same seven (7) day period.

2.2 Assignment of Member to a province or territory for voting purposes:

2.2.1 The assignment of a member to a province or territory shall be based on the mailing address on file thirty (30) days prior to the Federal Council election day.

2.3 Provincial or Territorial Representative

2.3.1 A Federal Council provincial or territorial representative's permanent residence must be in the province or territories they represent.

2.3.2 A Federal Council provincial or territorial representative cease to be a member of Federal Council if the provincial representative's permanent residency changes to another province or territory, or if the territorial representative's permanent residency changes to a province.

2.4 Meetings of Federal Council

Federal Council shall meet at least four (4) times per year.

2.4.2 Quorum at Federal Council meetings shall be a majority of voting members then in office, and if quorum drops below six (6) voting members, a General Meeting shall occur within six months.

2.4.3 Federal Council may meet by electronic means.

2.4.4 All decisions of Federal Council shall be by a majority of vote of those present and voting, except as may be specifically stated elsewhere in the Constitution or Bylaws.

2.4.5 All Article 9.1 ^[9] members of Federal Council may vote, except the Chairperson who may vote to break a tie, and the Executive Director who shall not vote, but who shall have a voice.

2.4.6 Federal Council may adopt procedural rules for conducting Federal Council meetings, not inconsistent with the Constitution and Bylaws.

2.4.7 Federal Council may create non-voting Federal Council positions who do not factor in the quorum calculation of Federal Council. Federal Councillors such created may be removed by Federal Council.

2.4.8 Federal Council meetings shall be scheduled by Federal Council, or may be called by the Chair, or may be called by any group of councillors constituting 1/3 of the membership of Federal Council.

2.4.9 Federal Council may make decisions between normal meetings by email and other electronic means, and the results of any such votes shall be read into the minutes of the subsequent meeting and in accordance with procedures set in the Bylaws.

2.5 Federal Council Committees

2.5.1 The Federal Council may establish a Management Committee with the authority to take action between meetings of the Federal Council. Such actions taken shall require ratification by the Federal Council.

2.5.2 The Federal Council may establish other committees as required. The mandate of such committees may be established by Federal Council and any such committee shall report to Federal Council.

2.6 If established, the Management Committee shall:

2.6.1 Consist of the Chair of Federal Council, the Leader, three other members of Federal Council, and the Executive Director. The three other members of Federal Council sitting on this committee shall be appointed or elected by Federal Council from amongst their own members.

2.6.2 All members of the Management Committee may vote, except the Executive Director who shall not vote, but shall have a voice.

2.6.3 The Management Committee shall have a quorum of three, excluding the Executive Director

Meetings of the Management Committee shall be at the call of the Chair or by three voting members.

Bylaw 3 Regions

3.1 The six (6) regions for the purposes of Article 8.2 ^[13] and elsewhere in the Constitution and Bylaws, are:

3.1.1 The Atlantic region consisting of the provinces of Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

3.1.2 The Quebec region consisting of the province of Quebec.

3.1.3 The Ontario region consisting of the province of Ontario.

3.1.4 The Prairie region consisting of the provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta.

3.1.5 The British Columbia region consisting of the province of British Columbia.

3.1.6 The North region consisting of Nunavut, Yukon and Northwest Territories.

Bylaw 4 General Meetings of the Entire Membership of the Party

4.1 Calling of Biennial General Meeting:

4.1.1 The biennial General Meeting of Members shall be called by the Federal Council by majority vote, and shall establish the location and the date of the meeting.

4.2 Calling of Other General Meetings:

4.2.1 Other General Meeting may be called by:

4.2.1.1 A committee mandated by a General Meeting.

4.2.1.2 Federal Council by a 2/3 vote of those voting.

4.2.1.3 Petition to Federal Council submitted and signed by 10% of the Members of the Party in good standing.

4.2.1.4 Petition to Federal Council submitted and signed by the CEO of at least 1/3 of the registered electoral district and Provincial Organizations.

4.2.1.5 A resolution adopted by a General Meeting by majority vote of those voting.

4.2.2 When a General Meeting has been petitioned, Federal Council shall select the location and the date of the General Meeting, which date shall be set within ninety days of receipt of the petition.

Motions at General Meetings:

4.3.1 Members shall be notified at least thirty (30) days in advance of any deadline to submit motions for consideration at a General Meeting of Members.

4.3.2 Motions shall be submitted by at least twenty (20) Party Members in good standing or a Unit representing at least twenty (20) Members.

4.3.3 Motions that are not submitted in advance and are moved from the floor of the meeting shall only be considered if they are of an emergency nature and shall require a 2/3 vote to be considered by the meeting.

4.3.4 Motions, including rationale and background information, submitted in advance, must be made available to Members of the Party who are eligible to vote at the General Meeting sixty (60) days in advance of the start of General Meeting.

4.3.5 In accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the Party, the text of motions, including amendments to the Constitution or Bylaws, may be changed at a General Meeting providing the original intent of the motion or amendment, as received by the Members with the notification of the General Meeting, is maintained.

4.4 Voting at General Meetings:

4.4.1 Votes cast by post or electronic mail, or by telephone fax, shall be by a process where the authenticity of the vote can be verified.

Bylaw 5 Selection of Candidates for Member of Parliament

5.1 Candidates Candidates shall be selected by the Party as follows:

5.1.1 Where there is an Electoral District Association, the electoral district shall select the candidate in accordance with the association's Bylaws.

5.1.2 Where no Electoral District Association exists, candidates will be selected in accordance with a process determined by Federal Council or by Bylaw.

5.1.3 Where there are no Party Members in an electoral district, selection of a candidate shall be by a General Meeting, Federal Council, a committee established by a General Meeting or Federal Council, or by a procedure mandated by a General Meeting or Federal Council.

Bylaw 6 Cabinet

6.1 The Leader shall appoint members to Cabinet or Shadow Cabinet, as the case may be, from among members of the Caucus or other members of the Party.

6.2 The Leader may replace members of the Cabinet or Shadow Cabinet as she or he sees fit.

The Leader may appoint two Deputy Leaders.

Bylaw 7 Ombuds and Appeals Committee

7.1 The Ombuds and Appeals Committee shall be selected at a General Meeting of Members, and such selection shall have due regard and respect for gender parity and regional balance.

7.2 The Ombuds and Appeals Committee may fill its vacancies between General Meetings of Members.

7.3 The Ombuds and Appeals Committee shall be chaired by two co-Chairs, one female and one male, that are selected by the committee.

7.4 The Ombuds and Appeals Committee is a committee of the Party membership, responsible to the membership at General Meetings.

7.5 The Ombuds and Appeals Committee shall:

7.5.1 Receive complaints from Members of the Party regarding decisions made by organized Units or Functionaries of the Party which affect their rights as members, or concerns regarding Party governance.

7.5.2 Decide whether or not to accept and deal with each complaint, and inform the complainant of the decision.

7.5.3 For accepted cases, issue reports with the committee's recommendations to all the parties involved.

7.5.4 Inform Federal Council regularly of its activities.

7.5.5 Maintain guidelines for conduct and operation of the Ombuds and Appeals Committee.

Bylaw 8 Electoral District Associations and Provincial Divisions

8.1 The Electoral District Association is the primary grassroots Unit of the Party through which Members exercise their rights.

8.2 Federal Council may grant recognition to one Electoral District Association per federal electoral district, and:

8.2.1 Such recognition may be revoked subject to rules set out in the Bylaws.

8.2.2 Electoral District Associations shall comply with such requirements as to their governance, financial management and reporting, as may be implemented by Federal Council or by Bylaw.

8.3

Provincial Divisions remaining be disband.

Bylaw 9 The Women's Caucus of the Green Party of Canada

9.1 The purpose of the Women's Caucus is to encourage equal participation of women and men within the Party, to represent and promote the interests of women within the Party and to encourage the active participation of women at all levels of the Party.

9.2 Every member of the Party who is a woman and who meets any additional membership requirements (such as a membership fee) established in accordance with the Constitution of the Women's Caucus is entitled to become a member of the Women's Caucus.

9.3 The Women's Caucus is responsible to establish, where possible, in each electoral district, a women's club.

9.4 The Chair of Federal Council, in consultation with the Women's Caucus, is responsible to report to the Biennial General Meeting of the Party with an assessment of the extent to which equal participation of women and men at all levels of the Party has been achieved.

Bylaw 10 Party Documents

10.1 The Federal Council shall maintain for viewing by all Members the following Party documents:

10.1.1 The Constitution and Bylaws ^[14].

10.1.2 The Rules of Procedure ^[15].

10.1.3 The Adopted Policy ^[16].

10.1.4 The Election Platform ^[17] for the immediately previous election.

10.1.5 All minutes of previous General Meeting and Federal Council meetings.

10.2 Documents in Bylaw 10.1 ^[18] shall be forwarded by mail to Members at cost on request.

Bylaw 11 Financial Procedures

11.1 Agency: In strict compliance with the *Canada Elections Act*, Federal Council or a General Meeting may:

11.1.1 appoint a person to be a registered agent of the Party, to issue tax receipts and maintain books for any recognized Unit, and

11.1.2 revoke the agency and dismiss the registered agent from office.

Fundraising: Units may conduct legal fundraising activities.

11.3 Borrowing: Only a General Meeting or Federal Council may authorize borrowing by the Party or any Unit thereof, on behalf of the Party.

11.4 Sovereignty: No Unit has rights to funds raised by another Unit except insofar as Federal Council or a General Meeting may levy fees from Units with registered agents to cover the costs of Party registration, annual audits or other essential activities.

11.5 Protection / Indemnity: When acting honestly, in good faith, and exercising due diligence and within the scope of their authority under the Party's Constitution, Bylaws, and other duly passed Party rules, no lawfully sitting Unit member, volunteer, employee, officer, director, member of any committee established by the Party, Functionary, or any other person duly acting in any approved capacity on behalf of the Party shall be liable for any debts, actions, claims, demands, liabilities or commitments of any kind of the Party howsoever incurred. The Party shall indemnify and hold harmless each such person against any such debt, action, claim, demand, liability or commitment whatsoever.

Appendix A

The Principles of the Global Greens Charter ^[19] *As ratified by the Global Greens at its founding conference on April 16, 2001, in Canberra, Australia*

Ecological Wisdom

We acknowledge that human beings are part of the natural world and we respect the specific values of all forms of life, including non-human species.

We acknowledge the wisdom of the indigenous peoples of the world, as custodians of the land and its resources.

We acknowledge that human society depends on the ecological resources of the planet, and must ensure the integrity of ecosystems and preserve biodiversity and the resilience of life supporting systems.

This requires:

- that we learn to live within the ecological and resource limits of the planet.
- that we protect animal and plant life, and life itself that is sustained by the natural elements: earth, water, air and sun.
- where knowledge is limited, that we take the path of caution, in order to secure the continued abundance of the resources of the planet for present and future generations.

Social Justice

We assert that the key to social justice is the equitable distribution of social and natural resources, both locally and globally, to meet basic human needs unconditionally, and to ensure that all citizens have full opportunities for personal and social development.

We declare that there is no social justice without environmental justice, and no environmental justice without social justice.

This requires:

- a just organization of the world and a stable world economy which will close the widening gap between rich and poor, both within and between countries; balance the flow of resources from South to North; and lift the burden of debt on poor countries which prevents their development.
- the eradication of poverty, as an ethical, social, economic, and ecological imperative.
- the elimination of illiteracy.
- a new vision of citizenship built on equal rights for all individuals regardless of gender, race, age, religion, class, ethnic or national origin, sexual orientation, disability, wealth or health.

Participatory Democracy

We strive for a democracy in which all citizens have the right to express their views, and are able to directly participate in the environmental, economic, social and political decisions which affect their lives; so that power and responsibility are concentrated in local and regional communities, and devolved only where essential to higher tiers of governance.

This requires

- individual empowerment through access to all the relevant information required for any decision, and access to education to enable all to participate.
- breaking down inequalities of wealth and power that inhibit participation.
- building grassroots institutions that enable decisions to be made directly at the appropriate level by those affected, based on systems which encourage civic vitality, voluntary action and community responsibility.
- strong support for giving young people a voice through educating, encouraging and assisting youth involvement in every aspect of political life including their participation in all decision making bodies.
- that all elected representatives are committed to the principles of transparency, truthfulness, and accountability in governance.
- that all electoral systems are transparent and democratic, and that this is enforced by law.
- that in all electoral systems, each adult has an equal vote
- that all electoral systems are based on proportional representation, and all elections are publicly funded with strict limits on, and full transparency of, corporate and private donations.
- that all citizens have the right to be a member of the political party of their choice within a multi-party system.

Nonviolence

We declare our commitment to nonviolence and strive for a culture of peace and cooperation between states, inside societies and between individuals, as the basis of

global security. We believe that security should not rest mainly on military strength but on cooperation, sound economic and social development, environmental safety, and respect for human rights.

This requires

- a comprehensive concept of global security, which gives priority to social, economic, ecological, psychological and cultural aspects of conflict, instead of a concept based primarily on military balances of power.
- a global security system capable of the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts.
- removing the causes of war by understanding and respecting other cultures, eradicating racism, promoting freedom and democracy, and ending global poverty.
- pursuing general and complete disarmament including international agreements to ensure a complete and definitive ban of nuclear, biological and chemical arms, anti-personnel mines and depleted uranium weapons.
- strengthening the United Nations (UN) as the global organisation of conflict management and peacekeeping.
- pursuing a rigorous code of conduct on arms exports to countries where human rights are being violated.

Sustainability

We recognise the limited scope for the material expansion of human society within the biosphere, and the need to maintain biodiversity through sustainable use of renewable resources and responsible use of non-renewable resources. We believe that to achieve sustainability, and in order to provide for the needs of present and future generations within the finite resources of the earth, continuing growth in global consumption, population and material inequity must be halted and reversed. We recognise that sustainability will not be possible as long as poverty persists.

This requires:

- ensuring that the rich limit their consumption to allow the poor their fair share of the earth's resources.
- redefining the concept of wealth, to focus on quality of life rather than capacity for over-consumption.
- creating a world economy which aims to satisfy the needs of all, not the greed of a few; and enables those presently living to meet their own needs, without jeopardising the ability of future generations to meet theirs.
- eliminating the causes of population growth by ensuring economic security, and providing access to basic education and health, for all; giving both men and women greater control over their fertility.
- redefining the roles and responsibilities of trans-national corporations in order to support the principles of sustainable development.
- implementing mechanisms to tax, as well as regulating, speculative financial flows.
- ensuring that market prices of goods and services fully incorporate the environmental costs of their production and consumption.
- achieving greater resource and energy efficiency and development and use of environmentally sustainable technologies.

- encouraging local self-reliance to the greatest practical extent to create worthwhile, satisfying communities.
- recognising the key role of youth culture and encouraging an ethic of sustainability within that culture.

Respect for Diversity

We honour cultural, linguistic, ethnic, sexual, religious and spiritual diversity within the context of individual responsibility toward all beings. We defend the right of all persons, without discrimination, to an environment supportive of their dignity, bodily health, and spiritual well-being. We promote the building of respectful, positive and responsible relationships across lines of division in the spirit of a multi-cultural society.

This requires:

- recognition of the rights of indigenous peoples to the basic means of their survival, both economic and cultural, including rights to land and to self determination; and acknowledgment of their contribution to the common heritage of national and global culture.
- recognition of the rights of ethnic minorities to develop their culture, religion and language without discrimination, and to full legal, social and cultural participation in the democratic process
- recognition of and respect for sexual minorities.
- equality between women and men in all spheres of social, economic, political and cultural life.
- significant involvement of youth culture as a valuable contribution to our Green vision, and recognition that young people have distinct needs and modes of expression.

Source URL: <http://greenparty.ca/party/documents/constitution>

Links:

- [1] <http://greenparty.ca/book/export/html/227#ecologicalwisdom>
- [2] <http://greenparty.ca/book/export/html/227#socialjustice>
- [3] <http://greenparty.ca/book/export/html/227#participatorydemocracy>
- [4] <http://greenparty.ca/book/export/html/227#nonviolence>
- [5] <http://greenparty.ca/book/export/html/227#sustainability>
- [6] <http://greenparty.ca/book/export/html/227#respectfordiversity>
- [7] <http://greenparty.ca/book/export/html/227#appendixa>
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- [10] <http://greenparty.ca/book/export/html/227#article10>
- [11] <http://greenparty.ca/book/export/html/227#article11>
- [12] <http://greenparty.ca/book/export/html/227#bylaw1>
- [13] <http://greenparty.ca/book/export/html/227#article8>
- [14] <http://greenparty.ca/party/documents/constitution>
- [15] <http://greenparty.ca/party/documents/rules-procedure>
- [16] <http://greenparty.ca/policy>
- [17] <http://greenparty.ca/platform>
- [18] <http://greenparty.ca/book/export/html/227#bylaw10>
- [19] <http://www.globalgreens.info/globalcharter.html>