

Submitter

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Title

S16-D002 Affirm the democratic principle of post meeting ratification votes open to all Members of the Party

Preamble

WHEREAS the Members were presented in 2012 with the proposal to remove the ratification of policy previously approved at an BGM as though it was mere housekeeping;

WHEREAS the merits and risks of doing so were never debated;

WHEREAS the GPC general meeting process does not ensure regional representation since it unfairly favors those living nearby and those who have the funds and time to travel to attend in person;

WHEREAS we have a growing membership, now at ~20,000, and Members want to ensure that control of the party rests with the general membership.

Operative

BE IT RESOLVED that Federal Council be directed to craft a motion reinstating the requirement for a Policy or Directive ratification vote after every general meeting, and to develop a fair and efficient method of disseminating information relevant to the motions to the members.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Federal Council strike a Committee on Motion Development (CMD) to investigate best practices and propose a proportionally representative system for the development and adoption of resolutions at general meetings.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the CMD be tasked to tap the experience and expertise of other Green Parties across the country and around the world to develop a process for motion adoption that is fair, proportionally representative across Canada and politically effective at advancing the collective objectives of the membership.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee be structured to be representative of the whole membership and develop a timeline that allows for local EDAs to participate in forging this process before the final recommendation is presented to Federal Council.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the CMD's recommendation be submitted to Federal Council by Sep 30, 2017, and that Federal Council be authorized to adopt the proposed system for the 2018 BGM.

Backgrounder

Our process calls for a pre-convention vote using the Bonser Ballot to prioritize motions and recommend a course of action to the Members attending the General Meeting. Motions are divided into Green, Yellow and Red where Green results in a recommendation for approval, Red results in a recommendation for rejection and Yellow results in a recommendation that the motion be sent to a workshop for further study and development. The Members attending the General Meeting are free to accept or reject these recommendations.

The challenge to legitimacy stems from three factors:

1. While the general membership is greatly affected by decisions made at General Meetings it is not preoccupied with policy development or constitutional matters. There is a certain trust placed in Federal Council and the effectiveness of the Party's consensus building process to ensure that we stay true to our values and vision.
2. The last Bonser Ballot was completed by ~2,000 members representing about 10% of our membership or about 1/3 of 1% of Canadian voters who chose to support the Green Party of Canada in the last federal election.
3. The number of members who are actually able to expend the time and money to travel to a General Meeting is even smaller, typically representing only 1% of the membership.

Subjecting all votes taken at General Meetings to an online ratification vote allows the safeguard of sober second thought if the general membership feels that any decisions made at the General Meeting does not fairly reflect the will of the membership at large. Conversely, if the membership at large does register its will on a contentious or controversial issue there can be little doubt that it reflects the true will of the Party.

Sponsors

Haral Hommel, Tracy White, Danny Hay, Sue Andrews, Bob MacKie, Ann Eastmen, Tom MacLean, Ann Grossnickle, Teri Hague, Lily Charles, Alexis White, V Redden, Peter Schieldrop, Michael Strumberger, Yves Parizeau, C Fletcher, Shirley McBride, Shelagh Levey, Linda Brown, Jocelyn Gifford, Tom Mitchell, Bill Foster, Sharon Forrester, Nancy Searing, Jean Jordan, Jan Slakov, Marilyn Redivo, Marcus Redivo, Jean Simpson, Mary Walter, Sylvia Olsen, Laura Parker

Submitter

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Title

S16-D014 A resolution to establish a Committee on Resolution Development (CRD)

Preamble

Whereas one of the three purposes of this SGM in Calgary is to "review and adopt improved processes for policy making"

Whereas our current policy and resolution development and adoption process has no mechanism to insure proportional representation of the full membership,

Whereas traveling to conventions requires considerable resources of time and money which currently favours members living close to the convention site and those with sufficient financial resources to travel.

Whereas the prioritization of resolutions is currently minimal, allowing any number of resolutions of varying importance and complexities to be submitted for consideration at a national convention.

Whereas some resolutions address complex issues that require careful consideration by the entire membership before they are adopted within very limited time available at convention.

Operative

Be it resolved that Federal Council strike a Committee on Resolution Development (CRD) to investigate best practices and propose a proportionally representative system for the development and adoption of resolutions at general meetings.

Be it further resolved that the CRD be tasked to tap the experience and expertise of other Green Parties across the country and around the world to develop a process for resolution adoption that is fair, proportionally representative across Canada and politically effective at advancing the collective objectives of the membership.

Be it further resolved that the committee be structured to be representative of the whole membership and develop a time-line that allows for local EDAs to participate in forging this process before the final recommendation is presented to Federal Council.

Be it further resolved that the CRD's recommendation be submitted to Federal Council by Sep 30, 2017, and that Federal Council be authorized to adopt the proposed system, on a trial basis, for the 2018 BGM.

Backgrounder

This Special General Meeting in Calgary has been necessitated, at considerable expense to the attendees and the party, because our current process of resolution development and adoption has failed to represent the unified will of the party. Over time we have tweaked and modified our process in a sincere attempt to make it work but now we know that it doesn't.

With the strife resulting from last Summer's convention it is time to do a comprehensive re-assessment of our internal processes in anticipation of Electoral Reform bringing consensus based governance, in the form of Proportional Representation, to Canada.

To accomplish this, we could strike our own special committee that could be proportionally representative of the membership. The job of the committee would be to tap international Green experience (The Heinrich Boel Foundation might be able to help facilitate this) and provincial Green Party structures (just so we don't miss the obvious in our back yard) and develop a comprehensive proposal for how we develop, process and pass resolutions.

The findings of such a committee could be presented to the membership through regional meetings of EDAs for feedback and proposed changes or amendments. Then after EDA feedback has been considered, the recommendation would be presented to Federal Council and eventually to the 2018 BGM for final adoption.

Sponsors

Maureen Bodie, Mary Walter, David Hunter, Rob Gerbrandt, Kathleen Burman, Nick Burman=, Steve Dyck, Diane McLaren, Tom McLean, Shirley McBride, Peter Schieldrop, Lily Charles, Sue Andrews, Dave Charles, Linda Brown, Claudia Cornwall, Gordon Cornwall, Gary Searing, Nancy Searing, Donnamae Wilson, Bonnie North, Alison Watt, Jules Maitland, Shelagh Levey, Laura Parker, Jocelyn Gifford, Gerry Gaydos, Alexis White