



## FROM THE OFFICE OF THE LEADER **ANNAMIE PAUL**

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### **Shadow Cabinet Role Description and FAQs**

#### **WHAT IS THE SHADOW CABINET?**

The Shadow Cabinet (SC) of the Green Party of Canada (GPC) is an alternative cabinet to the government, which shadows/mirrors government cabinet portfolios in most cases.

#### **WHO ARE THE MEMBERS OF THE SHADOW CABINET?**

SC members are often, but not exclusively, members of the GPC that intend to present themselves as candidates in the next general election. Each SC member is given a specific policy portfolio, for which they are the “Critic.”

#### **WHO SELECTS MEMBERS OF THE SHADOW CABINET?**

Under the GPC Constitution, members of the SC are appointed by, and serve at the discretion of, the Leader of the Green Party of Canada.

#### **WHAT ARE THE CRITERIA FOR SELECTION AS A CRITIC?**

Critics must be members of the GPC. They are normally selected for their expertise in their individual subject area/portfolio of responsibility.

It is important that a Critic have the confidence of, and a strong working relationship with, the Leader of the GPC, as the Leader depends heavily on the advice of Critics on matters that touch upon their portfolio.

A Critic will have an extensive educational, professional and experiential track record in the thematic area of responsibility. They may also have public recognition as a leader within their area of expertise.

Regional distribution, diversity of perspectives and representation of equity-seeking groups will also be important considerations.

#### **WHAT DOES SHADOW CABINET DO?**

As a group, the Shadow Cabinet:

- Helps the Leader to develop policy positions that are holistic, well-researched and grounded in Green values and member-approved policies.
- Provides critical opposition on policy matters to the government’s position as well as responding to policy matters as they arise within and outside of Parliament.
- Contributes to the development of the Green Party of Canada’s election platform, with each member contributing their expertise in one or more subject areas.
- Serves as ambassadors of Green Party policy and legislative priorities.



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### **WHAT ARE SOME OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE SHADOW CABINET CRITICS?**

Shadow Cabinet members may be asked to take part in press conferences, contribute to press releases, serve as Green Party spokespeople, draft op-eds, and/or provide expertise in support of the development of briefs, backgrounders, and talking points on their portfolio issues. Being able to respond quickly to interview and other requests, especially in campaign periods, is important.

### **WHAT ARE THE DAY-TO-DAY RESPONSIBILITIES?**

Under the direction of the Leader, Critics are responsible for:

- Providing background material and research in their area.
- Shadowing the parliamentary committee(s) relevant to their portfolio, tracking the legislation and actions of the Minister(s) and current events related to their Critic portfolio.
- Alerting the Leader and SC to issues that arise, related to their portfolio, and to opportunities for the Green Party to make a statement on emerging issues.
- Consulting on portfolio-related releases and statements generated by the GPC.
- Drafting statements, potential press releases, and policy materials, conforming to Green policy, priorities and principles.
- Drafting talking points or Green Papers in their area of expertise as aids for the Leader or candidates.
- Participating in Shadow Cabinet discussions where necessary to discuss any ramifications that policy initiatives that may have on their subject area.
- Drafting new policy resolutions or suggesting improvements to member-proposed resolutions and participating in the policy development process for each General Meeting, which may include suggesting improvements on the process.
- Helping to manage the work of the Knowledge Cluster and Portfolio Brain Trust associated with their Critic portfolio, and using this resource in developing policies, positions and materials for the Green Party.

### **WHAT IS THE TIME COMMITMENT?**

Critics will need to dedicate an amount of time that is similar to that required by an active Board Member of a non-profit or NGO - about 5 to 10 hours per week in general. There will be moments of greater and lesser intensity; the period around the preparation of the GPC platform, or the consideration of a key piece of legislation related to the Critic's portfolio, are moments that will require more time from a Critic.