

Constitution and Bylaws of the Green Party of Ontario

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- AGM10: Ottawa
- AGM11: Muskoka (bylaws)
- AGM12: Niagara-on-the-Lake
- AGM13: Whitby
- AGM14: Toronto
- AGM15: London
- AGM16: Calabogie
- AGM17: Parry-Sound Muskoka
- AGM18: Barrie
- AGM19: Scarborough
- AGM20: Online
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Constitution

Article 1

Party Name

(1.0) The body being constituted is the Green Party of Ontario, which hereinafter may be referred to by that name, or as the GPO, or simply as “the Party”.

Article 2

The Mission of the Green Party of Ontario

(2.0) The purpose or mission of the Green Party of Ontario is to elect Green Party of Ontario candidates and implement Green Party of Ontario principles through public policy, utilizing all the resources at the Party’s command.

[AGM17]

[AGM19]

Article 3

Adherence to the Values of the Green Movement

(3.0) The Green Party of Ontario affiliates with and supports the core values of the Global Greens Charter, outlined in Appendix A to this Constitution.

[AGM17]

Article 4

Membership in the Green Party of Ontario

Eligibility

(4.1.1) Any individual may apply for membership in the Party providing they:

- (a) are a resident of Ontario,
- (b) are fourteen (14) years of age or older,

(c) pledge to abide by the Party Constitution, by-laws, policies and the principles and values contained therein, and

(d) are not a member of any other provincial political party.

(4.1.2) 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.

(4.1.3) All privileges conferred with membership will begin two weeks after receipt of payment unless otherwise specifically indicated in the Constitution and Bylaws.

[AGM17]

Requirement

(4.2.1) A person who is eligible under 4.1 may become a member by:

- (a) filling out the application form, and
- (b) paying the membership fee
 - (i) to the Party directly, or
 - (ii) to a registered Constituency Association (CA).

(4.2.2) Despite 4.2.1, the membership fee shall be waived for:

- (a) Youth under the age of 18
- (b) Students that are members of a campus club

[AGM18]

Privileges

CA Executive

(4.3.1) All members of the Party in good standing may only hold membership within a single CA.

(4.3.2) Members in good standing will be eligible to vote for and stand for election to the executive of that organization in accordance with its constitution.

(4.3.3) Members may sit on constituency association executives as non-voting members, volunteer, and participate in riding events in electoral districts outside their primary residence if desired.

(4.3.4) Members who wish to hold membership with voting privileges with a constituency association that is not their own may submit a request to the central party for approval.

Provincial Executive

(4.4) Members of the party are entitled to:

- (a) stand for election to any province-wide Provincial Executive positions,
- (b) stand for election as their own region's representatives on the Provincial Executive, and
- (c) vote for Provincial Executive positions providing:
 - (i) they have been a member for two months to receive a mail-in ballot or they have been a member for a minimum of two weeks to vote in person; or
 - (ii) they renew a membership that has been lapsed for less than two years.

[AGM17]

Run as a candidate

(4.5.1) Any member of the Party in good standing can apply to seek the nomination to represent the Party as Candidate for provincial parliament in any riding in the province provided they meet all requirements outlined by the Party.

(4.5.2) Members are only entitled to vote in the candidate nomination process in the riding in which they hold voting membership.

(4.5.3) The Provincial Executive will set nomination rules for candidate selection. Each CA is also permitted to develop nomination rules for candidate selection provided they do not contradict the rules set by the Provincial Executive.

Develop Policy Statements

(4.6.1) Every member of the Party has the right to prepare and submit resolutions for consideration as per the appropriate by-law(s) at both General Meetings and CA meetings.
(4.6.2) Every member will also enjoy an unrestricted right to vote on such matters at CA meetings, and attend provincial conferences to vote and/or hold proxy votes for members in their riding, to the extent allowed by the allocation of such positions as specified in this Constitution and the Bylaws.

Timely notice and right to attend meetings

(4.7.1) All members shall:

- (a) receive timely notices of local, regional, and provincial meetings, and
- (b) have the right to attend all such meetings, provided any delegate fees have been paid.

(4.7.2) Despite 4.7.1, members may be excluded during those parts of Provincial Executive meetings that move in camera to discuss legal or personnel issues.

Access to minutes

(4.8) Members will have access to the approved minutes of all past meetings, and to the financial and audit reports, for both their local Associations and the Party in a timely manner

Revocation

(4.9) Membership may be revoked:

- (a) at the member's request, or
- (b) according to Party membership revocation procedure as defined in the Bylaws.

Registration

(4.10) All members will be registered with the Party.

Renewal

(4.11) Membership may be renewed in all cases without differentiation where it has lapsed for no more than two years. The rights and privileges of a renewed member will be no different from the rights and privileges of current members, except as may be specified elsewhere in this Constitution and Bylaws.

Article 5

Constituency Associations

(5.1.1) A Constituency Association (CA) is an organization of Party members registered with Elections Ontario in a particular Electoral District as defined by Elections Ontario.

(5.1.2) A CA may be formed and shall exist within an Electoral District subject to rules set by the Party in this Constitution and applicable Bylaws.

(5.1.3) If a CA is not in compliance with articles 5.1.1 or 5.1.2 of this Constitution the CA is considered dissolved and the Party may request de-registration with Elections Ontario.

Presidents Council

(5.2.1) All CA Presidents shall be members of the Presidents Council.

(5.2.2) The Presidents Council will provide feedback and advice to the Provincial Executive about members' opinions.

(5.2.3) Meetings will be called by the President of the Party or by 25% of CA Presidents.

(5.2.4) Meetings will normally be held by teleconference or other electronic means that allow for simultaneous interaction between members.

Young Greens of Ontario

(5.3.1) The Young Greens of Ontario will promote ideas and principles of the Green Movement to younger members of Ontario society and provide an additional opportunity to participate in the Party.

(5.3.2) Any member up to 29 years of age may affiliate with the Young Greens of Ontario.

(5.3.3) Young Greens members may form affiliate organizations (such as campus clubs) and be associated with the Party.

Article 6

General Meetings

(6.0) General Meetings of members shall have the highest decision-making authority in the Party.

Annual General Meetings

(6.1.1) The Party shall hold an Annual General Meeting (AGM) every year and not more than 16 months following the previous meeting.

(6.1.2) All business properly brought before the meeting shall be considered. This shall include, but not be limited to:

- (a) reports from Officers and Committees reporting to the membership,
- (b) elections for Provincial Executive positions,
- (c) Constitution and Bylaw amendments,
- (d) Policy Statement Resolutions, and
- (e) other Directives.

Special General Meetings

(6.2.1) Special General Meetings may be called by any one of the following:

- (a) the Party President,
- (b) the Provincial Executive, or
- (c) a group of members in good standing representing quorum for a General Meeting.

(6.2.2) All business properly brought before the meeting shall be considered.

Quorum

(6.3.1) The quorum for the General Meetings shall be the lesser of 200 or 5% of the current Party membership.

[AGM19]

(6.3.2) Each member attending a General Meeting may also bring up to 9 proxy votes providing:

- (a) the proxies are from a maximum of 9 (nine) members in good standing,
- (b) the proxies are from a registered CA where the member resides,
- (c) the proxies have been democratically awarded to the member,
- (d) the proxy form has been signed by all members being represented,
- (e) the proxy form has been endorsed by the CA President,
- (f) the proxy total does not exceed 18 (eighteen) from a single electoral district, and
- (g) each member represented on the proxy provides their consent through signature or email to central party.

(6.3.2.1) A member attending a General Meeting may supplement their proxy count with members in ridings without an active CA providing;

- (a) The total proxies do not exceed 9 members in good standing,
- (b) The proxy total does not exceed 18 from a single electoral district
- (c) The proxies are from a region where the member resides, and
- (d) The proxy form has been signed by all members being represented.

(6.3.2.2) In the event that proxy requests exceed the maximum allotment per riding, only the first 18 received chronologically will be accepted.

[AGM17]

- (6.3.3) All proxy forms must be delivered at the time of registration of the General Meeting.
- (6.3.4) The member will receive the appropriate voting credentials after the proxies have been verified.

Notification

(6.4) Notice for a General Meeting shall be given to all current members at least fourteen (14) weeks prior to the date of the meeting.

Resolutions

(6.5.1) The General Meeting may consider, but is not limited to, any resolution or amendment of the following nature:

- (a) Constitutional,
- (b) Bylaw,
- (c) Policy Statement, and
- (d) Directive for the Provincial Executive.

(6.5.2) Resolutions must meet the same deadlines that General Meeting Policy Statement resolutions must meet as specified in the Policy Development Process. [AGM 21]

(6.5.3.1) All motions for a General Meeting shall be:

- (a) Authored by a member of the Party in good standing, and
- (b) Be sponsored by at least 15 members in good standing as well as
- (c) One (1) Policy Statement Development Committee member, OR one (1) Shadow Cabinet member OR 5 additional members in good standing.

(6.5.3.2) Policy statement resolutions shall meet all requirements of the Policy Development Process. The Policy Development Process must:

- (a) Encourage policy statements that uphold Party values.
- (b) Encourage diversity, collaboration and broad membership participation.
- (c) Ensure evidence-based policy statements.
- (d) Empower the membership to lead the development of policy statements.
- (e) Empower the membership to democratically order policy statement resolutions for General Meetings.
- (f) Empower Party Members of Provincial Parliament and Issue Advocates to maintain and update detailed party policies that follow the policy statements approved by the membership, the Party's values and the best available scientific evidence.
- (g) Not conflict with the Constitution or By-Laws of the Party.
- (h) Be easy for members to understand.

(6.5.3.3) The Provincial Executive will review the Policy Development Process within six months after each General Meeting and will

- (a) update the policy development process as necessary to adhere to the requirements of this constitution.
- (b) publish any changes to the Policy Development Process.

(6.5.4) Resolutions shall be considered in the following order:

- (a) Constitution and Bylaw resolutions, then
- (b) Policy statement resolutions, then
- (c) Directive resolutions.

[AGM19]

Exception, emergency resolutions

(6.5.5) Despite 6.5.2, a resolution may be considered if:

- (a) the resolution meets all other requirements stated above,
- (b) the resolution is sponsored by an additional 10 members who are at the General

Meeting, and

(c) the General Meeting plenary approves the consideration of the resolution by a vote of 75% in favour.

(6.5.6) Any resolution to be considered under 6.5.5 shall be brought forward by motion within the agenda of the General Meeting at the discretion of the Chair or the President, and will be placed in the agenda as moved through a 75% vote of the plenary.

Article 7

Candidates

(7.1) Party candidates for the Provincial Legislature shall:

(a) be Party members in good standing,

(b) be successfully screened by a selection committee set up by the Provincial Executive, and

(c) be elected at a Nomination Meeting run by the CA for which the candidate is being chosen.

(7.2) Despite 7.1(c), if a situation of electoral urgency exists as determined by the Provincial Executive, or a committee of the Provincial Executive, a candidate may be selected by the Party Leader and a Candidate Selection Committee if a CA does not exist in the affected riding.

(7.3) The Provincial Executive will approve provincial rules for candidate nomination contests that will outline the minimum rules for Party CA nomination contests.

Article 8

Provincial Executive

(8.0.1) The Provincial Executive shall be the highest decision-making body of the Party between General Meetings.

(8.0.2) The Provincial Executive shall:

(a) ensure the orderly functioning of the Party within the framework and spirit of this Constitution, including proactive involvement in the application of its conflict resolution techniques,

(b) engage in long-term planning for the Party's future,

(c) develop and approve the Party's budget and oversee the expenditure of funds,

(d) maintain a record of all resolutions passed at General Meetings and Provincial Executive meetings, in whatever fashion is prescribed by the Bylaws attached to this Constitution,

(e) monitor Party operations on a regular basis and ensure all positions are filled,

(f) monitor the Party's operational effectiveness,

(g) craft, modify as appropriate, and operate by procedural guides and protocols for recurring events, and

(h) invoke the Party's impeachment process as circumstances warrant, and apply discipline when required.

(i) approve the Party's Policy Development Process.

[AGM19]

Composition

(8.1) The Provincial Executive shall be made up of the following positions:

(a) President,

(b) Leader,

(c) Chief Financial Officer,

(d) One Deputy Leader or two Deputy Leaders of different gender identities as non-voting Provincial Executive members,

(e) Secretary, and

(f) a pair of Regional Representatives of different gender identities from each of the following regions:

(i) Eastern

(ii) Northern

(iii) Central

(iv) Toronto

(v) Horseshoe

(vi) Southwestern

(g) A pair of Young Greens Representatives

[AGM18]

Requirements

(8.2.1) All persons holding office in the Party shall:

(a) be Party members in good standing, and

(b) perform their duties with competence.

(8.2.2) All Provincial Executive positions shall be elected by the membership at an Annual General Meeting.

(8.2.3) All positions of the Provincial Executive shall serve until their replacement is elected according to the following schedule:

(a) the positions of President, CFO, Eastern, Toronto, and Southwestern Regional Representatives shall be elected in odd numbered years,

(b) the positions of Secretary, Central, Northern, and Horseshoe Regional Representatives shall be elected in even numbered years, and

(c) the position of Leader shall be elected when the position becomes vacant or a Leadership Confidence Vote fails to pass.

(d) the Young Green Representatives every year

[AGM18]

Leadership Confidence Vote

(8.3.2.2.1) A Leadership Confidence Vote shall be conducted in the same manner as elections for Provincial Executive members in either of the following conditions;

(a) at the first AGM following a provincial general election where the Party does not form the government of Ontario or a part of a coalition government; or

(b) if a written request is moved by more than one third of registered CA Presidents, co-signed by the registered CA CFO, within any three month period.

(i) In the case of (8.3.2.2.1.b) The request to hold a Leadership Confidence vote will be submitted to the Party president requesting that the Party hold a Leadership Confidence vote at the next General Meeting, as long as notice of the meeting has not been given.

(8.3.2.2.2) A Leadership Confidence Vote shall pass if more than two thirds (2/3) of ballots cast at are in favour of the Party Leader.

(8.3.2.2.3) In the event of a vacancy, with the exception of President, Chief Financial Officer and Leader, the Provincial Executive may appoint an interim replacement for the vacant position until a by-election can be held at the next General Meeting.

(8.3.2.3) In the event of a vacancy in either of the positions of President or Chief Financial Officer;

(a) An interim replacement shall be appointed to comply with any rules according to Elections Ontario, and

(b) A by-election shall happen at the earliest convenience to re-fill the vacancy.

(8.3.2.4) In the event of a vacancy of the position of Leader;

(a) The Provincial Executive shall appoint an interim replacement, and

(b) A Leadership Contest shall occur in accordance with the Constitution and Bylaws of the

Party.

(8.3.3) There is no limitation on the number of terms that one individual can serve in the same position.

Provincial Executive elections

(8.4.1) Elections for Provincial Executive positions shall happen at General Meetings.

(8.4.1.1) Candidates for Regional Representative shall be listed on the same ballot. The candidate with the most votes is elected. The second position will be awarded to the top candidate with a different gender identity of the first-place candidate.

(8.4.2.1) Members wishing to stand for election to any position on the Provincial Executive shall;

(a) be nominated in writing to the Party office by 5pm Eastern Time on the date of the posted deadline,

(b) be nominated by at least 5 members eligible to vote for the nominee and in good standing.

[AGM19]

(8.4.2.2) In addition to 8.4.2.1, members wishing to stand for election for a Regional Representative position may only stand for election in the region where they maintain their principal residence.

(8.4.2.3) In addition to 8.4.2.1, members wishing to stand for election for certain positions that are province-wide and voted on by the entire membership shall;

(a) be nominated by an additional additional 10 members,

(b) be nominated by members from 3 of the 6 geographical regions recognized by the Party.

[AGM19]

(8.4.2.4) For the election of Young Green Representatives

(a) Only GPO members in good standing that qualify as Young Greens as defined in Article 5 may stand for election to the position of Young Green Representative or vote in the election of Young Green Representatives,

(b) Where all contestants on the ballot are of the same gender, the election of the Young Green Representatives shall be exempt from the By-Law D 4.2.e(iii) specification that two different genders be elected.

(8.4.3.1) The Provincial Executive shall appoint a Returning Officer to oversee the collection of ballots prior to the tally at the General Meeting where the vote is to take place.

(8.4.3.2) The Returning Officer shall be subject to approval by the body of the General Meeting and the vote may not be tallied until the body of a General Meeting has approved a Returning Officer.

(8.4.3.3) The Returning Officer shall have the following powers;

(a) Declare if a ballot has been cast properly.

(b) Oversee the counting of ballots cast.

(c) Report the election results to the body of the General Meeting.

[AGM17], [AGM 18]

Leadership Contest

(8.4.4) Upon passing a motion to have a Leadership Contest, the Party President and Provincial Executive shall;

(a) conduct a Leadership Contest in accordance with all rules sanctioned by Elections Ontario;

(b) oversee the internal Party process of election of Leader as outlined in this Constitution;

(c) Hold a General Meeting to elect a Leader no shorter than four (4) months and no longer than twelve (12) months from the initiating action.

[AGM20]

Leadership nominations

- (8.4.4.1) Nominations for Leader of the Party shall;
- (a) be opened by the Provincial Executive within 14 days of said motion.
 - (b) remain open for a minimum of sixty (60) days and a maximum of ninety (90) days.

Leadership Contest Committee

- (8.4.4.2) The Provincial Executive shall strike a committee to oversee a Leadership Contest within 14 days of said motion. The Leadership Contest Committee shall;
- (a) Work closely with the Party President, Provincial Secretary, Provincial Executive, Executive Director, and Staff to ensure the integrity of the Leadership Contest.
 - (b) Draft rules for the Leadership Contest for approval of the Provincial Executive at least 30 days before nominations close;
 - (c) Be comprised of:
 - (i) two (2) members of the provincial executive, one of whom shall be the Secretary
 - (ii) no less than five (5) and no more than seven (7) members in good standing;
 - (iii) The Executive Director (ex-officio); and,
 - (iv) The President (ex-officio).
 - (d) Assist in conducting the count of ballots at the General Meeting where the Leader is to be elected;
 - (e) Members of the Leadership Contest Committee shall remain neutral for the duration of the Leadership contest and not endorse any candidate (word “publicly” removed at workshop)

Leadership Contestants

- (8.4.4.3) Contestants for Leadership shall;
- (a) Obey all rules and guidelines from Elections Ontario;
 - (b) Obey all rules and guidelines within the Party Constitution and Bylaws;
 - (c) Obey any additional rules and guidelines which are approved for the Leadership contest; and,
 - (d) be nominated in accordance with article 8.4.2.
 - (e) not be a member of the Leadership Contest Committee or staff member.

Article 9

Amendments to the Party Constitution and Bylaws

- (9.1) Amendments to this Constitution and associated Bylaws shall:
- (a) Be presented at a General Meeting of the membership;
 - (b) Be sponsored in accordance with this Constitution;
 - (c) Meet the notification deadlines as set by this Constitution; and
 - (d) Receive 60% support from those present at the General Meeting. Exception, Amendment of Bylaws
- (9.2.1) Despite 9.1, the Party Bylaws may be amended by the Provincial Executive providing that the changes are consistent with this Constitution.
- (9.2.2) All changes made under 9.2.1 shall be presented to the Party membership for approval at the next General Meeting.
- (9.2.3) The Policy Development Process may be amended by the Provincial Executive providing that the changes are consistent with this constitution.
- (9.2.4) All changes made under 9.2.3 shall be presented to the Party membership for confirmation at the next General Meeting.

[AGM19]

Article 10

Protection from Takeover Attempts

(10.1) This Constitution specifically forbids that the Green Party of Ontario can be merged with or absorbed into another party, unless a resolution promoting either outcome is;

- (a) Passed by a 80% approval vote at two consecutive AGMs, and
- (b) Followed by an endorsement from 80% of all Constituency Associations.

(10.2.1) The endorsement of the Associations to determine their support for the resolution shall;

- (a) Begin not later than one (1) month after the second Annual General Meeting, and
- (b) Continue for a period not longer than two (2) calendar months.

(10.2.2) To ensure every Association is consulted and also informed in regard to the consequences of such a proposition, the Party shall;

- (a) Send registered letters containing the relevant information to every Association via its named contact person and official address of record.

Article 11

Parliamentary Authority

(11.1) The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the Party in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with the Constitution, Bylaws and any special rules of order the Party may Adopt.

Article 12

This article was removed

Article 13

Promotion and Protection of Diverse, Equitable, and Safe Spaces

(13.1) The Green Party of Ontario (the Party) is committed to providing an environment free of discrimination and harassment, where all individuals are treated with respect and dignity, can contribute fully, and have equal opportunities.

(13.2) Under the Ontario Human Rights Code, every person has the right to be free from harassment and discrimination. Harassment and discrimination will not be tolerated, condoned or ignored at the GPO.

(13.3) The Party also recognizes that harassment and discrimination limit the ability of people to participate fully in organizations such as ours and therefore in the practice of the democratic values that our organization endorses. Concomitant with its mission to elect Members of Provincial Parliament and impact Ontario politics, then, the GPO pro-actively supports building

awareness of harassment and discrimination and providing for the equitable participation of all Ontarians in the political process.

(13.4) The Party is committed to a comprehensive strategy to address harassment and discrimination in the organization, including:

(13.4.1) Establishing, publicizing, and regularly revisiting this article;

(13.4.2) Providing training and education to ensure that all Party members and staff know the rights that are provided to them and to visitors at GPO events, the responsibilities they have under this article and Human Rights legislation, and the processes and procedures to follow in the event of a complaint;

(13.4.3) Monitoring organizational systems to help ensure their design and function minimizes opportunities for harassment or discrimination and maximizes safety and inclusivity;

(13.4.4) Providing an effective, accessible, and fair complaints procedure for both complainant and respondent;

(13.4.5) Promoting appropriate standards of conduct at all times;

(13.4.6) Ensuring that disciplinary or restorative measures are imposed, as necessary and as determined by process;

(13.4.7) Promoting diversity on all committees and in all decision-making bodies.

(13.5) To achieve the goals and commitments in this Article of the Party's Constitution, the Party shall have:

(13.5.1) The Safe Spaces Committee which shall be responsible for addressing institutional matters as they relate to this Article

(13.5.2) The Conduct Committee which shall be responsible for investigative processes, disciplinary matters and enforcement of this Constitution, Party Bylaws, Member Code of Conduct, and the Ontario Human Rights Code.

[AGM20]

Appendix A

The Principles of the [Global Greens Charter](#)

As adopted by the Global Greens at its founding conference on April 16, 2001 in Canberra, Australia and updated on April 1, 2012 in Dakar, Senegal.

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 organization of conflict management and peacekeeping.
- pursuing a rigorous code of conduct on arms exports to countries where human rights are being violated.

Sustainability

We recognize 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 recognize 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 jeopardizing 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 transnational 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.
- recognizing 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.

Bylaws

By-Law A

Definitions

Throughout the Constitution of the Green Party of Ontario and also the By-Laws attached to that document, unless there is something in the subject or context inconsistent herewith:

“Complainant” is the person making a complaint of harassment or discrimination. The complainant may allege harassment or discrimination either as a victim or as a witness.

“Conference” means a delegated province-wide meeting of the party, such as the Annual General Meeting, where the members select delegates from among themselves locally, and it is those delegates and the party's provincial leadership who attend to discuss and make decisions about the business brought before the meeting.

“Consensus” means a general understanding or agreement in which everyone present, if not fully accepting of what is being proposed, at least concurs to a sufficient degree that they will not stand in objection.

“Office” is an elected position within the Party.

“Preferential ballot” and **“preferential voting”** refer to a voting process in which electors mark their ballots in a way that indicates their ranked choice from most to least preferred.

“Principal residence” means the location that a person has chosen to use on address-specific identification documents, such as a driver's license, or, in the event one doesn't have any such documents, the address one would employ if he/she did possess them.

“Policy Statement” is defined as a principle based statement which does not contain any specific strategy or tactical statement, but provides direction to the Leader, Issue Advocates and Party Members of Provincial Parliament.

“Reporter” is the person depositing a record in which discrimination or harassment is alleged.

“Respondent” is the person alleged to have committed harassment or discrimination.

“Vacancy” refers to a position that is formally vacant through either a written letter of resignation being received by the party, an absence of participation of the member for three consecutive meetings without regrets being received prior to the meeting by the chair. This applies only after the chair has attempted contacting the member using all contact information provided to the party, unless emergency circumstances are deemed to apply by vote of the Provincial Executive or Constituency Association.

“Volunteer” is any person doing work or performing tasks for or on behalf of the Party for which they are not being compensated

“Immediate relations” refers to the partner, parents, siblings, and children of any Green Party of Ontario paid staff or Provincial Executive member. The term “immediate relations” also extends to the partner's immediate relations.

[AGM17], [AGM18], [AGM19], [AGM20]

By-Law B

General Meetings

[AGM13 Replaced By-Law C Guidelines for Running General Meetings and Policy Conferences and By-Law F Decision-Making at Conferences]

B 1 Location

(1.1.1) The Provincial Executive will choose the location of General Meetings.

(1.1.2) The Provincial Executive will attempt to rotate the location of General Meetings among all of the regions identified in the Constitution and Bylaws in an equitable way.

(1.2.1) The Provincial Executive may identify an established Constituency Association (CA) willing to host a General Meeting.

(1.2.2) In the event that more than one CA in a region is interested in hosting a General Meeting the Provincial Executive may ask for bids from CAs within a region to determine which CA will host.

(1.2.3) In the event a suitable location cannot be found in the preferred region, the Provincial Executive may choose to hold the General Meeting in another location in the province.

[AGM17]

B 2 Duties of General Meeting Organizing Committee

(2.1.1) The Organizing Committee for a General Meeting shall be appointed by the Provincial Executive.

(2.1.2) The Provincial Executive may compose the General Meeting Organizing Committee as they see fit.

(2.1.3) Any CA awarded a bid to host a General Meeting will have the opportunity to recommend local party members to sit on the General Meeting organizing committee.

(2.1.4) Any members serving on the Organizing Committee or as a volunteer at a General Meeting shall be governed by the Constitution, Bylaws and Procedural Manual.

(2.2.1) The Organizing Committee's main goal is to facilitate the preparation, organization and execution of the General Meeting.

(2.2.2) The Organizing Committee will strive to make the atmosphere at the General Meetings reflect the values of the Party as outlined within the Constitution and Bylaws.

(2.2.4) The organizing committee shall accommodate for delegates where possible.

(2.3.1) The Organizing Committee will identify and recommend individuals to serve at General Meetings in the following official positions;

a. Registrar

b. Chief Returning Officer

c. Meeting Chair(s)

d. Recorder(s)

(2.3.2) In addition to other duties outlined in the Constitution and Bylaws the main duties for each position shall include;

a. Registrar will be responsible for overseeing registration, reviewing credentials and awarding proxy votes and maintaining a list of all attendees.

b. Chief Returning Officer shall oversee Provincial Executive elections.

c. Meeting Chair(s) shall conduct the official business of the plenary and be familiar with the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order and the Constitution and Bylaws of the Party.

d. Recorder(s) shall keep accurate records of all resolutions and motions debated and all official business conducted at the meeting.

[AGM17]

B 3 Delegate Proxy Credential Awarding

(3.1.1) Any individual member attending a General Meeting may act as a proxy delegate on behalf of other members from their home Constituency Association (CA) providing:

a. The member is representing a properly founded CA which is in good standing according to the Constitution and Bylaws of the Party and Elections Ontario. and,

b. The member has been granted privileges from the CA they will represent at a properly constituted CA executive meeting. and,

c. The member is not attempting to represent any other member registered for that General Meeting.

(3.1.2) A member attending a General Meeting and awarded delegate credentials may be a proxy delegate for up to nine (9) additional members in good standing.

(3.1.3) The Provincial Executive shall approve the credential forms delegates will present to the Registrar to represent proxy votes.

(3.1.4) Proxy votes may not exceed a total of 18 from a riding's constituency association.

(3.2.1) The process for presenting Credentials and being awarded proxy votes at a General Meeting shall be:

a. The delegate must present the appropriate credential form upon registration.

b. The delegate proxy credentials are verified upon registration by the Registrar.

(3.2.4) Once verified, the delegate shall possess the additional membership proxies for the duration of the General Meeting and be allowed to vote with these additional proxies.

(3.2.5) If there are discrepancies or disputes with regards to proxies, the credentials presented, or any matter relating to awarding of proxies, they will be resolved by the Organizing Committee

and Registrar. All decisions by the Organizing Committee shall be final.

(3.3) In the event that a delegate is deemed by the Organizing Committee to be misrepresenting or mis-using proxy votes, these votes may be rescinded by the Registrar.

[AGM17]

Proxy Voting

(3.4.1) The number of proxy votes a Delegate represents shall be given to the Delegate by the Registrar after verification.

(3.4.2) The proxy vote count for each Delegate must be clearly indicated during voting.

(3.4.2) A Delegate shall not be allowed to split their votes when voting by proxy.

B 4 Quorum

(4.1) Quorum for General Meetings will be set at a number of delegates representing 5% of the total party membership

(4.2) Once Quorum is achieved at a General Meeting the total number of members represented at the meeting shall be announced to the plenary.

(4.3) Once Quorum is achieved at a General Meeting, Quorum shall be upheld until the adjournment of the meeting unless attendance falls below 2% of the total party membership before adjournment of the meeting.

[AGM17]

B 5 Rules of Order

(5.1.1) The current edition of Robert's Rules of Order shall govern party General Meetings except where the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order is inconsistent with the Party Constitution or Bylaws.

(5.1.2) Resolutions for consideration at General Meetings shall be directed by the Chair and be considered in accordance with the Bonser Method.

(5.2) The Bonser Method for considering resolutions is as follows:

(5.2.1) Debate shall open by either;

a. The resolution sponsor will have two (2) minutes to present the resolution and explain its merits to the assembly, or

b. If the resolution sponsor is unavailable to open debate the resolution may be read to the plenary by the Chair or designate.

(5.2.2) Questions of clarification may be asked to the sponsor as follows:

- a. Each delegate asking a question shall be given thirty (30) seconds.
- b. Three (3) questions of clarification will be allowed.
- c. The sponsor will be given thirty (30) seconds to reply to each question.
- d. Only minor wording changes that clarify the resolution in response to the questions asked shall be allowed. Friendly amendments will be allowed at this time.
- e. In the absence of the author and designated sponsor, the chair will determine whether proposed amendments are friendly or unfriendly.

(5.2.3) Debate on the motion shall occur as follows:

- a. Members may be given up to thirty (30) seconds to speak in favour or opposition of a motion,
- b. Members shall do so by approaching either a "Pro" or "Con" microphone.
- c. No more than two speakers shall be permitted on either side of the debate.
- d. Rebuttal to debate from the sponsor shall not be permitted.

(5.2.4) The chair may extend debate for up to five (5) minutes as they see the benefit.

(5.2.5) The resolution sponsor shall have the opportunity for up to thirty (30) seconds to close debate on the motion.

(5.2.6.1) Once debate has been closed, delegates shall vote using cards as follows;

- a. Green Cards indicate support of the resolution;
- b. Red Cards indicate defeat of the resolution;
- c. Yellow Cards indicate that the resolution should be sent to workshop.

(5.2.6.2) Proxy votes must be clearly displayed for the vote counters

(5.2.7.1) The motion shall pass if more than 60% of the votes cast are green

(5.2.7.2) The motion shall be defeated if more than 60% of the votes cast are red,

(5.2.7.3) Any other outcome means the resolution will be sent to a workshop session for possible amendment.

(5.2.8.1) At an appropriate time in the agenda, the chair will call a breakout workshop session for each of the resolutions voted as such.

(5.2.8.2) Delegates may disperse into whichever of these workshop sessions they wish.

(5.2.8.3) Workshops shall be conducted as follows;

- a. Each workshop shall have a facilitator and recorder.
- b. Resolutions may be discussed and amended.
- c. Decisions shall be made by a simple majority of the workshop session.
- d. Workshop breakout sessions shall not be more than ten (10) minutes in length.

(5.2.8.4) Upon conclusion of the workshop session, facilitators shall report back to the plenary and be given thirty (30) seconds to report the results of the workshop as well as any recommendations of the group.

(5.2.8.5) Up to three (3) questions of clarification will be allowed on the recommendations.

(5.2.8.6) No Pro or Con debate will occur on a resolution coming out of a workshop session.

(5.2.8.7) The vote after the resolution has been workshopped shall be conducted as follows;

- a. Green Cards indicate support of the resolution.
- b. Red Cards indicate defeat of the resolution.
- c. Yellow Cards indicate abstention.

(5.2.8.8) A resolution will be considered passed this second vote if 60% of the cards displayed are green, Otherwise it is defeated and shall not be reconsidered at that General Meeting.

[AGM17]

B 6 Considering Resolutions

(6.1.1) Resolutions shall be considered as outlined in the Constitution, Bylaws and any Policy Development Process approved by the Provincial Executive. Their order may only be changed by recommendation of any of the following:

- a. President; or
- b. Secretary; or
- c. An individual or a committee designated by the Policy Development Process; or
- d. General Meeting Chair.

[AGM19]

(6.1.2) Resolutions to be reordered must be moved before approval of the agenda at a General Meeting.

(6.1.3) Resolutions to be reordered as proposed by bylaw B 6.1.1 must receive 75% support of the General Meeting plenary.

(6.2.1) Resolutions may be considered en bloc if there are multiple resolutions relating to the same topic.

(6.2.2) Resolutions may be considered en bloc by any of the following:

- a. President; or
- b. Secretary; or
- c. An individual or a committee designated by the Policy Development Process; or
- d. The General Meeting chair; or
- b. The resolution author and five (5) members present at the General Meeting.

[AGM19]

(6.2.3.1) Any individual resolution may be removed from the bloc and considered on its own at the request of any member present at the meeting.

(6.2.3.2) Motions removed from a bloc will be considered individually.

(6.2.4) Once debate on the blocking motion has been exhausted a vote shall be taken as follows:

- a. Green Cards indicate support of the resolution.
- b. Red Cards indicate defeat of the resolution.
- c. Yellow Cards indicate abstention.

(6.2.5) The blocking resolution will be considered passed if 60% of the cards displayed are green. If the blocking motion is defeated, all motions within the bloc will then be considered individually.

(6.3.1) Resolutions on similar topics may be declared to be in contradiction with one another by any of the following;

- a. President; or
- b. Secretary; or
- c. An individual or a committee designated by the Policy Development Process; or
- d. General Meeting Chair; or
- e. A member from the floor of the General Meeting with the endorsement of ten (10) members present at the General Meeting.

[AGM19]

(6.3.2) If resolutions are found to be in contradiction a recommendation may be made to the plenary to rule one or both of the resolutions out of order.

(6.3.3) Individual members shall be limited to bringing 5 Constitution and Bylaw or Directive resolutions to an AGM with the exception of Members of the Provincial Executive.

[AGM06] [AGM08] [AGM17]

B 7 Record of Passed Resolutions

(7.1) Passed resolutions at General Meeting shall be recorded as follows:

- a. Resolutions shall be recorded in their original wording and numbered sequence.
- b. There will be a current account of those resolutions that are still in force, with annotations of the date and nature of any changes, whether additions or deletions, but without any commentary or explanation for the changes, and this record will be divided into Constitutional, directive, and policy statement categories;
- c. Separate listings of Constitutional, directive, and policy statement resolutions will be kept, each containing whatever identifiable introductory and explanatory notes, or commentary, the Provincial Executive sees fit; and
- d. The recording system will apply unique identifiers to each resolution ever passed, to indicate its type, the year(s) in which it was adopted (and subsequently amended), and also the sequence number of the conference(s) in those years when any of the foregoing occurred.

[AGM19]

(7.2) Provincial Executive resolutions shall be recorded as follows:

- a. They will, as far as available records permit, record all passed resolutions which established or amended the executive's procedural rules, highlighting which resolutions are still in effect; and
- b. This record will include any introductory or explanatory notes applicable to each resolution, as well as the date(s) on which these rules were introduced and/or amended.

[AGM17] [AGM19]

B 8 Approval of Meeting Plenary Chair(s)

(8.1) A ballot with names of recommended candidates to chair the Annual General Meeting will be presented to convention delegates prior to the opening of the AGM.

(8.2) Members will be provided with an opportunity to approve the appointment of each candidate for Chair through submission of their ballots before Plenary begins.

(8.2.1) Nominees must receive 60% approval from submitted ballots received prior to the beginning of Plenary in order to be eligible to chair the AGM.

(8.2.2) Only nominees recommended by the AGM planning committee may act as Chair of Plenary.

(8.3) If a Plenary Chair is successfully challenged by the Plenary, the Plenary will approve the replacement of the Chair with another candidate from the recommended list.

(8.3.1) In the event that the list of recommended candidates is exhausted, the President will be requested to act as Chair to facilitate the appointment of a new Chair.

(8.4) Facilitators for Policy Statement Workshops may be designated by the Chair or the AGM Organizing Committee.

[AGM19]

By-Law C

Constitution, Bylaw and Directive Resolution Processing

[AGM13 Replaced By-Law E Submission and Handling of Resolutions]

(1.1.1) Motions submitted on time for consideration at a General Meeting shall be subject to review. Constitutional, Bylaw, and Directive motions shall be reviewed by the Party President and Secretary. Policy statement motions will be subject to review by an individual or a committee designated by the Policy Development Process. [AGM20]

The review process shall ensure:

- a. Adherence to the Constitution and Bylaws of the Party, including the Values, and Parliamentary Authority (rules of order);
- b. Ease of understanding;
Minimization of potential conflict with or among existing elements of the Constitution, Bylaws, and Policies;
- c. Reference to sound, objective, and factual evidence;
- d. General accord with the legal and parliamentary conventions of Canada and its sub-national governments, including the division of powers among federal and provincial governments in the Constitution Acts;
- e. Protection of the good name of the Party, its membership, its representatives, and its affiliated Green Party organizations.

[AGM19]

(1.1.2) Where a motion is found not to satisfy the criteria stated in section 1.1.1., the author will be notified in writing of the request to revise the proposed resolution. The notice:

- a. Shall include the reason(s) for the request;
- b. Shall state the date by which the revision is to be received;
- c. May be transmitted electronically.

(1.1.3) Where the mover does not comply with a request under section 1.1.2, in exceptional circumstances based on the findings of the review described in section 1.1.1., the motion may be ruled out of order by:

- a) an individual or a committee designated by the Policy Development Process for Policy Statements; or

b) the President and Secretary for Constitutional, Bylaw and Directive motions.

[AGM17]

[AGM20]

C 2 Resolution Publishing

[Removed AGM17]

C 3 General Meeting Notice

(3.1.1) Notice of the General Meeting shall include:

- a. General information about the conference,
- b. Announcement of party elections occurring at the General Meeting,
- c. The date which resolutions, candidate information and other information about the General Meeting will be available through the party website.

(3.1.2) Members will receive electronic methods of publication of conference materials including on time resolutions by default.

(3.1.3) Members can request mailed delivery of party materials for General Meetings.

By-law D

Tenure and Selection of Provincial Executive Members

D 1 Terms of Office and Election Scheduling

(1.1) Except for the Leader, all terms of office for the Party's Provincial Executive members will be two years.

(1.2) Provincial Executive shall be filled in accordance with the following schedule:

- a. In odd calendar years the following positions shall be elected;
 - i. President; and
 - ii. Chief Financial Officer; and
 - iii. Gender paired Regional Representatives from the following regions;
 1. Eastern, and
 2. Southwestern, and

3. Toronto.

b. In even calendar years the following positions shall be elected:

i. Secretary; and

ii. Gender paired Regional Representatives from the following regions;

1. Northern, and

2. Golden Horseshoe, and

3. Central.

(1.3) There is no limitation on the number of terms that one individual can serve in the same position.

D 2 Nomination and Membership Requirements

(2.1) A call for nominations shall be included in the notice for the General Meeting where Provincial Executive elections will take place.

(2.2) The closing of the nominations will coincide with the resolution deadline for that meeting.

(2.3) After the closing of the nomination period the list of the names of all nominees and the positions they are contesting will be published.

(2.4) To be valid, nominations must include the written consent of the individual being nominated.

(2.5) All members of the Provincial Executive must remain members in good standing for the duration of their term.

(2.6.1) In addition to rules outlined in the Party Constitution and Bylaws, candidates for any Provincial Executive position shall be a member in good standing for three (3) months prior to being nominated.

[AGM20]

D 3 Disqualification and conflict of interest from Party Employment

(3.1.1) No one may run for an elected position on the Provincial Executive if they or their spouse or partner is a paid member of the GPO staff.

(3.1.2) Any member of the Provincial Executive who has a close family member who may benefit monetarily from the party must;

a. Declare a conflict of interest before discussion on any item before the Provincial Executive; and

b. Recuse themselves from voting for any item in which a close family member may

benefit monetarily.

(3.2) Notwithstanding Bylaw D 3.1.1, the Leader of the Green Party of Ontario may be paid by the Party at a rate that is determined by the Provincial Executive.

D 4 Rules Applicable to the Election of Executive Members

(4.1) All elections for positions on the party's Provincial Executive will occur at General Meetings.

(4.1.1) If no interested candidates step forward who meet eligibility requirements for selection, the incoming Provincial Executive can reopen nominations following the election or fill by appointment.

(4.2) Voting for Executive positions will be conducted by preferential ballot and counted using the method described in the party Constitution and Bylaws.

- a. Ballots are sorted according to each voter's first choice.
- b. A winner is declared once a contestant reaches the threshold according to the Droop Quota $((\text{number of valid votes}/(\text{number of winners} + 1)) + 1)$.
- c. For single seat positions the winning threshold will be 50%+1 of total votes cast.
 - i. If there is no clear winner (i.e., greater than 50%+1) on the first round of voting, the votes of the least popular option for first choice are redistributed to the contestant ranked second on those particular ballots. This process of eliminating the lowest ranked option and redistributing to the next preference is repeated until a contestant reaches 50%+1 of the votes cast.
- d. A ballot is considered exhausted once all selected preferences on a given ballot are eliminated.
- e. For multi-seat elections the winning threshold will be determined according to the Droop Quota of total votes cast.
 - i. If there is no clear winner (i.e., greater than the threshold established by the Droop Quota), the votes of the least popular option for first choice are redistributed to the contestant ranked second on those particular ballots. This process of eliminating the lowest ranked option and redistributing to the next preference is repeated until a contestant reaches the winning threshold.
 - ii. The first contestant to reach the Droop Quota with the highest vote count is elected.
 - iii. Once the first winner is declared, that person and any contestants of the same gender as the winner are withdrawn from the ballot.
 - iv. Votes are redistributed to the remaining contestants according to the voter's next preferred option that is not yet elected or eliminated.
 - v. The second winner is declared elected once a contestant from the remaining options reaches the threshold established by the Droop Quota of the total remaining ballots.
- f. Should there be a tie for the fewest number of first preference votes, then among these, the option with the fewest number of second preference votes shall be eliminated. Should a tie persist, the procedure shall continue with third preference votes, et cetera. Should a tie still persist, the option with the fewest number of original first preference votes, shall be eliminated. Should a tie still persist, the procedures shall continue with original second preference votes et cetera. Should a tie still persist, an option shall be eliminated by random draw.

[AGM19]

(4.3) Ballots shall be available four (4) weeks before the day of voting.

(4.4) Ballots shall be available in the following forms:

- a. electronically on the Party website or by email to be printed by the member; or
- b. mailed to the member; or
- c. in person at the meeting where the election is taking place.

(4.5) Ballots may be cast:

- a. by mail received prior to the meeting date; or
- b. as an absentee delivered to the registrar at the meeting by another attendee; or
- c. in person at the meeting; or
- d. A secure electronic voting system may be used when available.

(4.6) Ballots cast at a General Meeting by an absent voter shall:

- a. be prepared to ensure the secrecy of the ballot; and
- b. be cast in a manner that identifies the member to the Chief Returning Officer.

(4.7) All ballots for Provincial Executive positions must offer electors the option of voting for "None of the Above."

(4.8) The Chief Returning Officer will maintain the voters list for the election.

(4.9) Members may only cast one ballot in an election for Provincial Executive members.

D 5 Refilling Vacancies

(5.1) Should any Executive position become vacant mid-term, the remaining Executive members have authority under this Constitution to refill the vacancy.

(5.2) If the position is that of CFO, the Provincial Executive will appoint an interim replacement as quickly as is required by Elections Ontario.

(5.3) Based upon the time remaining in the incumbent's position the Provincial Executive may;

- a. Call a by-election at the earliest possible General Meeting.
- b. Appoint an interim replacement to perform the duties of the vacated position until that by-election takes place. Or,
- c. Appoint an interim replacement who will occupy the position for the remainder of its original

term.

(5.4) Bylaw D 5.3.c shall only be enacted if the remainder of the incumbent's term is less than one year.

(5.5) A by-election for a Provincial Executive position shall be conducted in the same manner as outlined in the party Constitution and Bylaws for a regular election of a Provincial Executive member.

[Amended AGM06] [AGM08] [AGM13] [AGM17] [AGM18]

By-Law E

Task-Oriented Committees

The Provincial Executive will abide by these rules for the establishment and operation of both standing and ad hoc committees:

a. establishing committees - The Executive can create a committee for whatever purpose it sees a need. - Any members of the party can ask the Executive to set up a committee to perform a specific task, but implementing such requests will be done at the discretion of the Executive.

b. mandate, reporting, autonomy, budget - The Executive will establish, in writing, the mandate of the committee, and may set timelines for the performance of certain tasks within that mandate. - Each committee will report directly to the entire Executive through its chairperson. - Committees are to request resources to fulfil their mandates through the Executive, such as in areas of financing, communications, and administration. - Committees shall update the Executive at least every second month, ideally by submitting a report a week or so prior to Executive meetings.

c. committee chairpersons - The Executive will appoint the chairperson. - Within two months of being appointed, the chairperson will forward a list of prospective committee members to the Executive, which has discretion over all appointments. - Any chairperson may ask the Provincial Executive to adjust the membership of her/his committee, but must place this request on the Executive's agenda, and in any cases where the request is to remove some member(s), the affected individual(s) must be informed of the proposed action not less than a week prior to the Executive meeting, with a written rationale for the removal. Any member who may be removed from a committee in this manner may contest the chairperson's rationale by participating in the Executive's discussion of the matter. - If not already a member of the Executive, each committee chairperson will be added as an observer on the Executive listserv, except for correspondence that the Executive needs to keep in camera. - Committee chairpersons may observe Executive meetings and participate in any discussions relevant to the mandate of their committee, but they do not have voting privileges unless already a member of the Executive.

[AGM06][AGM17]

By-Law F

Guidelines regarding Conflict of Interest

F1 Declarations

1. Provincial Executive members must declare their connection to any person(s) who are involved in the discussion of a contentious issue (for example, candidate nomination dispute) that comes to the Provincial Executive and involves any member of the Provincial Executive or their immediate relations.

F2 Prohibitions

1. Provincial Executive members must exclude themselves from any discussion(s) and any respective decision(s) making of a contentious issue (for example, candidate nomination dispute) that comes to the Provincial Executive and involves any member of the Provincial Executive or their immediate relations.
2. Provincial Executive members must exclude themselves from any discussion(s) and any respective decision(s) making where the outcome would further a personal interest of theirs or the personal interest of any other Provincial Executive member(s).
3. No Provincial Executive member (except for the Leader and Deputy Leaders) or their immediate family relations, are allowed to be paid Green Party of Ontario staff, unless approved by the Provincial Executive.
4. No Provincial Executive member (while in office and for a period of at least six (6) months following their term in office) shall accept tangible benefits from the Green Party of Ontario or enter into work contracts with the Green Party of Ontario.

Therefore, no Provincial Executive member (while in office and for a period of at least six (6) months following their term in office) who is an officer, director, or acts on behalf of a partnership, private corporation, or non-governmental organization shall cause that entity to accept tangible benefits or enter into a work contract with the Green Party of Ontario.

F3 Processing Allegations

1. The relevant Constituency Association shall process allegations that:
 - a. infringe upon its constitution.
2. The Provincial Executive shall process allegations that involve Provincial Executive members, or
 - a. are brought directly to the Provincial Executive; or
 - b. extend beyond a Constituency Association's constitution; or
 - c. are made regarding members of the executive of a Constituency Association.
3. During the processing of any allegations, the Constituency Association and/or Provincial Executive shall
 - a. request a "statement of facts" from all members involved in the allegation;
 - b. encourage courteous discussion among all members involved; and
 - c. refer any criminal misconduct directly to the relevant public authority.
4. When a statement of facts is not consistent or not received, the Constituency Association and/or Provincial Executive may appoint a mutually agreed upon person to facilitate the statement of facts.
5. All allegations processed by the Constituency Association and/or Provincial Executive must remain confidential.
6. Allegations that fail to reach consensus among all participants shall be referred to the Ombuds Committee.
7. Decisions of the Ombuds Committee shall be final.
8. The Ombuds Committee shall also have authority to make discretionary recommendations to the Constituency Association and/or Provincial Executive regarding the disposition of the matter.

F4 Penalties

1. Any member found to be in violation of this By-Law
 - a. may be removed from their position in the Green Party of Ontario (for a period of up to three (3) years); and

- b. may have their Green Party of Ontario membership revoked.
2. Any member found to be in violation of this By-Law shall be served a notice of violation(s).
3. A notice of violation(s) must
 - a. be addressed to the violator and be copied to the Provincial Executive;
 - b. include the position of the violator;
 - c. identify the violation; and
 - d. include the penalty.

[AGM18]

Bylaw G

Ombuds Committee

G 1 Composition

(1.1) The Provincial Executive shall appoint an Ombuds Committee of:

- (a) no fewer than three members;
- (b) at least one (1) man and one (1) woman.

Exception where insufficient volunteers

(1.2) Despite Section J(1.1)(b) provided that the Provincial Executive has advertised to the membership by all reasonable means to get a committee member of the gender that is not otherwise represented on the Committee, the Committee shall be considered properly constituted.
Term

(1.3) The term of the Ombuds Committee members shall be two (2) years.

(1.4) Despite Section J(1.3) some members shall be appointed for three (3) years to ensure not all terms expire in the same year.

Chair

(1.5) The Committee shall choose a chair from its members and the chair shall be selected for a two-year term. Qualifications of members

(1.6) The Provincial executive shall solicit the services of GPO members that have had:

- (a) experience with management, dispute settlement and arbitration; and
- (b) who have displayed impartiality, tact, judgment, clarity, and firmness.

Direction and responsibilities

(1.7) The Ombuds Committee shall:

- (a) act in the best interests of the GPO,
- (b) act expeditiously to remove barriers to the effective and efficient operation of the GPO,
- (c) implement the Constitution of the GPO, and
- (d) reinforce Green values in the operation of the GPO.

Resignation

(1.8) If a member resigns, the Provincial Executive shall solicit a replacement to fill the vacancy as soon as possible, in order to ensure the minimum number and the minimum gender composition of the Committee.

G 2 Grounds upon which the Committee may decline

(2.1) The Committee may, in its sole discretion, decline to consider a matter referred to it on the following grounds, and cannot be challenged for having or not having declined:

- (a) in the opinion of the Committee, the dispute that has been referred to it is not of sufficient severity as to disrupt the efficiency or effectiveness of the GPO or of any of the GPO organizations

created under the Constitution.

(b) in the opinion of the committee, there have not been good-faith attempts at prior discussion, fact-finding or mediation before the matter was referred to the Committee;

(c) in the opinion of the committee, the matter is being pursued for vexatious reasons, particularly if the person or organization bringing the allegations or participating in the dispute have repeatedly been found to have brought unfounded allegations in the past, or not to have made serious attempts to maintain the effective and efficient operations of the party despite previous disputes;

(d) the matter is under investigation by the Police;

(e) the Committee may decline to consider the matter further, after having undertaken some fact-finding and/or research into the matter.

G 3 Committee Procedures

(3.1) The Committee may take any steps that it feels necessary to collect information, reach decisions, and make recommendations. At a minimum, one or more Committee members shall have talked to each of the parties to the dispute referred to it and shall determine which GPO members and organizations have a particular stake in the matter. If practical, one or more Committee members should try to hold a joint meeting with the disputants and any other stakeholders that have been determined.

(3.2) While being thorough and fair, the work of the Committee is not considered a legal proceeding and is not required to follow judicial rules of procedure. While any participant in a dispute or an allegation or request under I2 or J1 may wish to have a lawyer express the participant's opinions or present information on behalf of the participant, legal representation is NOT expected and the Committee shall not delay its work unduly in order to accommodate lawyers or any other party.

(3.3) All members of the party shall cooperate thoroughly and expeditiously with the Committee

(3.4) When a matter is referred to the Committee, it shall be addressed to the Committee Chair, who shall notify other Committee members. Where necessary or desirable, the Chair may appoint a sub-committee to review the matter referred to it. The sub-committee shall contain no fewer than two members. The Chair shall ensure that any Committee members involved in reviewing the matter have as little familiarity with or stake in the outcome of the matter as possible.

(3.5) The Committee shall develop procedures regarding the drafting of reports, and the acceptance of reports in the event that Committee or sub-committee members do not agree. The Committee may develop further procedures on any matter if it feels them necessary.

G 4 Committee Decisions and Reports

(4.1) Unless the Committee has declined to deal with a matter referred to it, the Committee shall do a written report on each matter, including its decision. Committee decisions are final on matters within the jurisdiction of the Committee.

(4.2) The reports shall:

(a) outline the issue or dispute referred to the Committee, including which people and/or organizations the Committee finds to have a particular stake in the matter;

(b) explain how the Committee has jurisdiction in the matter and what authority the committee has;

(c) summarize the relevant facts and information that the Committee has found;

(d) draw conclusions as appropriate;

(e) state the decision of the Committee;

(f) make any additional recommendations that the Committee chooses to make.

(4.3) All reports shall be provided to: - (a) the Provincial Executive via the Secretary; - (b) to the CA Executive, if the CA was involved in the referral of the matter to the Committee; - (c) to each participant and stakeholder, as specified in the report.

(4.4) Subject to any procedures that the Committee may develop, the Chair shall be the spokesperson for the Committee. The Chair or her/his delegate may be called to explain a Committee report, in confidence, to the Provincial Executive.

(4.5) The Committee has the right to make recommendations to the Provincial Executive and to an AGM on any matter concerning the Constitution, Bylaws, and conduct of the GPO, as a result of issues raised through, or patterns observable from, the Ombuds Committee's work.
[AGM10][AGM17]

By-Law H

Revoked

[revoked AGM06]
[AGM06]

By-Law I

Duties and Responsibilities of the Provincial Executive Members

I 1 Appointment

(1.0.1) The Provincial Executive positions shall be filled according to By-Law G.

(1.0.2) The duties and responsibilities of the Provincial Executive positions defined in this bylaw are general overviews of the positions of the Provincial Executive. President

(1.1) In addition to powers granted elsewhere in the Constitution and By-Laws the President shall:

- (a) Oversee the administrative and operational activities of the Green Party of Ontario within the guidelines and requirements of Elections Ontario and within the Constitution of the GPO;
- (b) Work closely with the CFO to ensure that the GPO remains financially viable;
- (c) Work closely with operations staff to ensure that all regulations and requirements of Elections Ontario are met in a timely manner;
- (d) Work with others on the Provincial Executive, Functionaries, and any committee members that play a significant role in the development of a strong and active general Membership;
- (e) serve as the spokesperson of the Provincial Executive;
- (f) be responsible for timely meetings of the Provincial Executive, including any Executive retreats;
- (g) open all province-wide inter-association meetings of the party or secure a designate;
- (h) generally chair Provincial Executive meetings;
- (i) proactively lead the search for members to fill the party's elected and appointed positions;
- (j) liaise with the presidents of other political parties and provincial officials as needed;
- (m) Liaise with and create relationships with provincial stakeholders, community organizations, and business associations to assist with policy statement development and fundraising opportunities.

[AGM19]

I 2 Leader

(2.1) In addition to powers granted elsewhere in the Constitution and By-Laws the Leader shall:

- (a) act as the spokesperson of the Party, to articulate GPO policy to as wide an audience as possible;
- (b) attend public events and venues to where a GPO perspective and/or presence is appropriate;
- (c) Appoint Issue Advocates;
- (d) solicit the advice of the Issue Advocates prior to making public statements;
- (e) communicate with the membership through regular newsletter commentaries and

press releases;

(f) work at putting a bilingual face on the party;

(g) prepare monthly reports ahead of Executive meetings.

(h) appoint a Deputy Leader or two Deputy Leaders of different gender identities.

[AGM 18][AGM19][AGM20]

I 3 Deputy Leaders

(3.1) In addition to powers granted elsewhere in the Constitution and By-Laws the two Deputy Leaders shall:

(a) assist the Leader in her/his duties and responsibilities;

(b) serve as alternate official Party spokespersons;

(c) assist the Leader in communicating with internal entities the general membership;

(d) consult with the Leader and/or Issues Advocates before making public statements on issues;

(e) prepare monthly reports ahead of Executive meetings.

[AGM15][AGM 18]

I 4 Chief Financial Officer

(4.1) The Chief Financial Officer is required to:

(a) fulfill the legal requirements of the position as required by Elections Ontario.

(4.2) In addition to powers granted elsewhere in the Constitution and By-Laws the Chief Financial Officer shall:

(a) oversee the development and management of the party's budgetary processes;

(b) allocate funds as approved by the Provincial Executive;

(c) publish the financial statements of the GPO for distribution at the AGM.

I 5 Secretary

(5.1) In addition to powers granted elsewhere in the Constitution and By-Laws the Secretary shall:

(a) work with the President to prepare and distribute materials for meetings;

(b) fill or delegate the role of recording secretary at meetings and managing the Provincial Executive online discussion group;

(c) store records in a timely and secure way;

(d) prepare correspondence as required;

(e) provide expertise interpreting the GPO Constitution and By-Laws and identify areas where improvements should be made;

(f) give information about their duties and responsibilities to those stepping into new positions;

(g) with support from the functionaries, prepare a portfolio of the party's protocols and templates of commonly used items, making them readily available on request;

(h) work with provincial conference organizers to ensure resolutions are processed and recorded appropriately.

I 6 Regional Representatives

(6.1) In addition to powers granted elsewhere in the Constitution and By-Laws the Regional Representatives shall:

(a) represent the interests of the membership in their respective regions on the Provincial Executive;

(b) be responsible for active communication between the Executive and their constituents;

(c) ensure the appropriate Functionaries, and the Provincial Executive, are aware of any concerns raised by members from their region, and that responses are provided to the individual(s) involved;

(d) provide regional insight and background information in the process of preparing news releases or other GPO messages that will be of particular relevance in their Regions;

(e) assist with organizing and running regional meetings and assist with ongoing CA

development as capable;

I 7 Young Greens Representatives

(7.1) In addition to powers granted elsewhere in the Constitution and By-Laws the Young Greens Representatives shall

- (a) Represent the interests of Young Greens and youth on the Provincial Executive and within the Party;
- (b) Be responsible for active communications between the Executive and Young Greens;
- (c) Ensure the appropriate Functionaries, and the Provincial Executive, are aware of any concerns raised by Young Greens, and that the responses are provided to the individual(s) involved;
- (d) Provide insight and background information in the process of preparing news releases or other GPO messages that will be of particular relevance to Young Greens
- (e) Prepare monthly reports ahead of Executive meetings
- (f) Liaise with federal Young Greens representatives

[AGM17]

By-law J

Constituency Associations

J 1 Requirements & Operation

(1.1) All Constituency Associations of the Green Party of Ontario shall;

(1.1.1) Adhere to the Elections Ontario Act.

(1.1.2) Adhere to the Constitutions, and Bylaws, of the Green Party of Ontario as well as any subsequent procedures that are approved by the Provincial Executive.

(1.1.3) Nominate a candidate in accordance with the procedures established by the Provincial Executive, to elect a Member of Provincial Parliament who will represent the Green Party of Ontario.

(1.1.4) Raise funds to assist in the running of the CA and the promotion of a GPO candidate.

(1.1.5) Promote the Policies, Goals and Aims of the Green Party of Ontario.

(1.1.6) Report to the GPO through GPO staff.

(1.2.1) The elected CA executive shall maintain the operations of the riding association between AGMs.

(1.2.2) The CA executive is responsible to ensure that all forms and reports required by Elections Ontario are submitted on time.

(1.2.4) The CA executive is responsible to ensure that all records and reports requested by the party are forwarded to the GPO office. These may include but not be limited to;

- a) AGM and founding meeting minutes,
- b) A contact list for the current CA executive,
- c) A copy of the annual financial statements,
- d) A copy of the current Annual Plan & Budget.

(1.2.5) All members of the CA executive representing the GPO must adhere to the constitution and bylaws as well as any code of conduct that is provided by the Provincial Executive.

J 2 Founding Meetings

(2.1) Application

(2.1.1) Members wishing to organize a founding meeting must contact the Executive Director, or designate, and gain approval to hold a founding meeting.

(2.1.2) Preference to hold a founding meeting shall be given to members normally living within

the boundaries of electoral district. However, the Executive Director may give any member in good standing permission to organize a founding meeting provided there is just cause.

(2.2) Meeting requirements

(2.2.1) There is a minimum of 10 members living within the electoral district required to hold a founding meeting.

(2.2.2) Date for founding must be approved by Executive Director, or designate.

(2.2.2) Notification must be given to all current and lapsed members a minimum of 30 days prior to the meeting

(2.2.3) Quorum for a founding meeting shall be the greater of 10% or 5 members in person, or by indirect communication (teleconference, videoconference etc) or 5 members in person.

[Amended AGM11, AGM19]

(2.2.4) A sample agenda shall be provided by the Executive Director, or designate and may be used for the meeting.

(2.2.4.1) If the sample agenda is not used a founding meeting must at minimum contain;

(a) Approval of Agenda and appointment of meeting officers

(b) Adoption of Constitution

(c) Call for candidates and election of Executive which must contain at minimum a President and CFO

(d) Discussion of goals for CA and next steps

(2.2.5) All members in good standing shall have voting privileges at founding meetings provided they have been a member a minimum of fourteen (14) days prior to the day of the meeting.

(2.2.5.1) Membership starts the day the member information and fee is received at the GPO office.

(2.2.5.2) Members who have lapsed within one year prior to the meeting date can renew at the meeting and gain voting privileges.

(2.3) Reporting & Follow-up

(2.3.1) All reports required by Elections Ontario must be submitted within 30 days

(2.3.2) Founding meeting minutes must be sent to GPO office within 30 days

(2.3.3) CA Annual Plan & Budget (template) must be submitted to the GPO office within 90 days

J 3 Annual General Meetings

(3.1) Application

(3.1.1) To hold an AGM the CA President must ensure the GPO Executive Director, or designate, has the following documents on file at the GPO office;

(a) Previous years Elections Ontario AR1 Report,

(b) A copy of the previous year end Bank Statement,

(c) Previous year Annual Plan and Budget & Actual Results,

(d) Current CA constitution,

(e) List of the current executive members.

(3.1.2) Each CA shall provide the Executive Director, or designate, with the proposed date of the meeting.

(3.2) Meeting requirements

(3.2.1) A CA AGM can occur no later than fifteen (15) months following the previous AGM or founding meeting.

(3.2.2) A CA must have a minimum of 15 members in good standing or lapsed members.

(3.2.3) The AGM date must be approved by the GPO Executive Director, or designate.

(3.2.4) Notification of the AGM to all current and lapsed members must be a minimum of 30 days prior to the meeting.

(3.2.5) Quorum for a meeting shall be the greater of 10% or 5 members in person, or by indirect communication (teleconference, video conference etc) or 5 members in person. [Amended AGM11, AGM 19]

(3.2.6) A sample agenda shall be provided by the Executive Director, or designate.

(3.2.6.1) If the sample agenda is not used an AGM must at minimum contain;

(a) Approval of Agenda and appointment of meeting officers

(b) Financial Report

(c) President's Report

(d) Appointment of Auditor

(e) Call for candidates and election of Executive which must contain at minimum a President and CFO

(f) Discussion of goals for CA and next steps

(3.2.7) All members in good standing shall have voting privileges at an AGM provided they have been a member a minimum of fourteen (14) days prior to the AGM.

(3.2.7.1) Membership starts the day the membership fee is received at the GPO office.

(3.2.7.2) Members who have lapsed within one year prior to the meeting date can renew at the meeting and gain voting privileges.

(3.3) Reporting & Follow-up

(3.3.1) All reports from Elections Ontario must be submitted within 30 days

(3.3.2) Founding meeting minutes must be sent to GPO office within 30 days

(3.3.3) CA Annual Plan & Budget (template) must be submitted to the GPO office within 60 days

J 4 Nomination meetings

(4.1) Provincial Executive

(4.1.1) The Provincial Executive shall approve rules for CA nominations and Candidate Application forms well in advance of scheduled general elections.

(4.1.2) The Provincial Executive shall notify CA executives that candidate nominations are open after such rules and application forms have been approved.

(4.1.3) In the case of a by-election the Executive Director may contact a CA executive to expedite the process for nomination.

(4.1.4) Within at least one year before a general election, the Leader shall nominate for approval by the Provincial Executive, a Campaign Chair and/or committee to carry out and enforce this bylaw.

(4.2) Application

(4.2.1) The CA executive shall provide the Campaign Chair, or designate with a detailed report that shall include the following;

(a) Candidate search report,

(b) Proposed date for the meeting.

(4.2.2) The Campaign Chair, or designate, shall give a timely reply to the CA executive with a decision on the nomination meeting.

(4.3) Meeting requirements

(4.3.1) A CA must have a minimum of 20 members in good standing or lapsed members to hold a nomination meeting.

(4.3.2) Quorum for a Nomination Meeting shall be the same as for an AGM.

(4.3.3) The Nomination meeting date must be approved by the Campaign Chair, or designate.

(4.3.4) Notification of the Nomination Meeting to all current and lapsed members must meet the minimum requirements set out in the Nomination Procedures. [AGM 21]

(4.3.5) A sample agenda shall be provided by the Campaign Chair, or designate but must contain at minimum.

(a) Approval of Agenda

(b) Appointment of Returning Officer

(c) Vote

(d) Announcement of Vote

- (4.3.6) All members in good standing shall have voting privileges provided they have been a member a minimum of fourteen (14) days prior to the meeting.
- (4.3.6.1) Membership starts the day the membership fee is received at the GPO office.
- (4.3.6.2) Members who have lapsed within one year prior to the meeting date can renew at the meeting and gain voting privileges.
- (4.3.7) Reporting & Follow up
- (4.3.7.1) The results of the nomination meeting must be submitted to the GPO within 10 days.
- (4.3.8) In the case of electoral urgency, requirements for the nomination meeting may be waived by the Campaign chair or designate.
- [AGM10]

Bylaw K

Conduct and Discipline

K 1 Scope

- (1.1) This bylaw applies to any event, activity, workplace, and spaces both physical and digital in which the GPO is an organizer, sponsor, or employer, and to guests and volunteers of the Party.
- (1.2) This bylaw applies to any representative of the Party, including but not limited to:
- (1.2.1) Members
 - (1.2.2) Volunteers
 - (1.2.3) Members of any committee of the Party
- (1.3) This bylaw applies at every level of the organization, including but not limited to:
- (1.3.1) Regional Organizations and Alliances
 - (1.3.2) Campaigns and Campaign Teams
 - (1.3.3) Committees of the Party
- (1.4) This bylaw covers disciplinary and remedial action related to:
- (1.4.1) The Party's Constitution
 - (1.4.2) The Party's Bylaws
 - (1.4.3) The Party's Code of Conduct
 - (1.4.4) Harassment and Discrimination as defined in the Ontario Human Rights Code

K 2 The Conduct Committee

- (2.1) The Conduct Committee shall be responsible for enforcing and carrying out this bylaw
- (2.2) Members of the committee shall be appointed by the Provincial Executive except:
- (2.2.1) A position on the Conduct Committee which shall be reserved for a person whose appointment is recommended by the Safe Spaces Committee
- (2.3) The members of the Committee shall elect from among themselves a Chair
- (2.4) The Conduct Committee shall be responsible for the collection of reports as specified in this bylaw
- (2.5) The Conduct Committee is empowered by this bylaw to investigate complaints
- (2.5.1) The Committee or a member of the Committee shall conduct the investigation, or the committee may delegate this responsibility to a member of the Party or qualified professional they deem to have appropriate skills and expertise
- (2.6) In the course of its duties the Committee may:
- (2.6.1) Require cooperation of any official in the Party
 - (2.6.2) Institute temporary measures for the duration of the investigation including:
 - (2.6.2.1) Requiring a respondent to have no contact with a complainant or witnesses involved in the investigation
 - (2.6.2.2) Prohibit participation in events, meetings, campaigns, or digital forums
 - (2.6.3) Request contact details of any person covered by this bylaw

(2.7) Disciplinary action may be taken against anyone who victimizes or retaliates against a complainant or a respondent. Likewise, disciplinary action may be taken against a complainant who makes false claims of discrimination or harassment under this bylaw.

(2.8) Managers, supervisors, and others in leadership positions (such as members of the PE or executives in Constituency Associations) who fail to respond to a complaint or to impose penalties duly determined by this by-law may be subject to disciplinary action.

(2.9) Failure to cooperate with the Committee in an investigation may be considered an actionable offense under these bylaws.

K3 Recognizing the therapeutic role of providing contemporaneous documentation of events and to provide evidentiary value in the future for complainants, this bylaw offers the option of depositing a record

(3.1) A person (reporter) may deposit a written personal account of their alleged experience of harassment or discrimination

(3.2) A person (reporter) may also deposit an account of events they witness of harassment, discrimination, or other member misconduct

(3.3) All information recorded under this bylaw shall be kept secure and confidential

(3.4) No action shall be taken on these reports unless a complaint is initiated by the reporter within which the record has evidentiary value

(3.5) A reporter may withdraw a deposited record unless and until it is included or referred to in a complaint initiated by the reporter

(3.6) Records deposited shall be destroyed according to the schedule of records retention observed by the GPO and in compliance with all laws and regulations to which the Party may be subject

K4 Complaints

(4.1) Any person who considers they have experienced or witnessed an incident or course of incidents of discrimination, harassment, or other misconduct within this bylaw's scope may make a complaint

(4.2) In a complaint, the complainant and the respondent shall both have the option of engaging personal support and/or legal representation through the complaint process at their own expense.

(4.3) The complainant has the right to discontinue a complaint at any stage of the process without repercussions except any that may arise under K2.8

(4.4) The respondent has the right to respond fully to any allegations made in a complaint

(4.5) Complaints and responses will be considered confidential to the degree possible; information shall only be conveyed to others where it is necessary that the process can be carried out, to carry out any other step as requested by the complainant, or to ensure the safety of others

(4.6) There shall be no presumption of guilt and no determination made in relation to any complaint until a full investigation has been completed

(4.7) All complaints will be dealt with according to the principles of natural justice, which obliges those making decisions to be free of bias in the matter in which they are deciding, and requires a fair hearing in which both respondent and complainant have the right to be heard and to have equal and fair access to the process.

K5 Making a Complaint

(5.1) To initiate the complaint process, the complainant should contact:

(5.1.1) The Chair of the Conduct Committee

(5.1.2) The Executive Director of the Party or any member of the Provincial Executive should any member of the Committee be implicated in the complaint in any way

(5.2) The complainant will submit, orally, in writing, or through an intermediary:

- (5.2.1) a statement of complaint which includes details of any relevant actions or events, including dates, times, and places;
 - (5.2.2) the names of potential witnesses;
 - (5.2.3) the impact of the actions and events on them.
 - (5.2.4) supporting documentation
- (5.3) The respondent will be informed that a complaint has been made and will be given the statement of complaint and referred to this bylaw.
- (5.4) Both the complainant and the respondent will be given an explanation of the processes used to address complaints under this bylaw.
- (5.5) Both the complainant and respondent will be advised of their right to seek support services at their own cost.
- (5.6) The respondent will have opportunity to respond, orally, in writing, or through an intermediary, to the allegations made and this response will be made available to the complainant.
- (5.7) The complainant will meet with representatives of the Conduct Committee to decide if they wish to persist in the complaint and, if so, if they wish to pursue an informal or a formal resolution to the complaint.

K6 Decision to Start a Complaint

- (6.1) The Chair of the Committee shall determine if a complaint is within the jurisdiction of the Committee and if the complaint is an actionable offense
- (6.2) Should the Respondent not be a member of the Party nor hold any title, function, or role within the Party, the Committee, or Chair of the Committee, has the authority to prohibit the Respondent from participation in any Party event, activity, or space both physical or digital and bypass a formal or informal resolution process.

K7 Investigation of a Complaint

- (7.1) The investigation of all complaints shall be impartial, timely, fair, and address all relevant issues
- (7.2) The investigation shall, whenever possible, be completed within 45 days of its beginning
- (7.2.1) An investigation shall be considered started when an investigator or investigators have been appointed
- (7.3) Notwithstanding K (7.2):
- (7.3.1) This timeframe may be extended with the agreement of the complainant and respondent, or if justifiable circumstances prevent the full process being satisfactorily completed within this time frame
 - (7.3.2) If the time frame is extended the complainant and respondent shall be informed of the revised time frame for a completion and the reasons for the extension
- (7.4) In the event that there is a substantive agreement between the complaint and the response and a willingness by the complainant to proceed to an informal resolution as defined by this bylaw, the investigation may be concluded
- (7.5) Should the complainant be unwilling to pursue an informal resolution, the investigation may continue after the response, however, and may include:
- (7.5.1) interviews of the complainant(s), respondent(s), and relevant witnesses suggested by the complainant or respondent(s),
 - (7.5.2) the gathering of documents relevant to the matters in the complaint
- (7.6) As part of any investigation:
- (7.6.1) Both the complainant and the respondent will be given an explanation of the processes used to address complaints under this policy.

(7.6.2) The investigator(s) may conduct interviews with parties involved including the complainant, the respondent, and witnesses to obtain information regarding the complaint.

(7.6.3) Such interviews will take place with each party separately. Each party asked to participate in an investigation (including witnesses) is entitled to have a support person present if desired.

(7.6.4) The investigator(s) will comprehensively and accurately document all information obtained during the interviews including the parties involved, timing, location, and nature of conduct reported or witnessed.

(7.6.5) The investigator(s) will also document the time, nature, parties present, and information given of the interviews themselves.

(7.6.6) If the investigator(s) considers it appropriate for the safe and efficient conduct of an investigation, workplace participants, party members, or volunteers, may be removed from their duties, or provided with alternative duties.

(7.6.7) The investigator(s) or Chair of the Committee may order respondents to have no contact with a complainant

(7.6.8) An investigation can be considered complete when it has collected sufficient evidence on which to base a conclusion, or when the committee determine that such evidence does not exist.

(7.6.9) The findings of the investigation will be reported to the Conduct Committee.

(7.6.10) The Conduct Committee's conclusion as to whether violation of conduct has occurred will be based on the evidence and on the balance of probabilities

(7.7) The investigator(s) will prepare a report for the Conduct Committee summarizing the allegations, the steps taken during the investigation, and the evidence gathered. The report may make findings of fact and recommendations for further action.

K8 Informal Resolution Process

(8.1) It is up to the complainant to determine whether or not they wish to pursue an informal resolution. The respondent has no rights under this bylaw to insist upon an informal resolution.

(8.2) An informal resolution has been achieved when:

(8.2.1) A common understanding of the factual circumstances surrounding the complaint has been established; and at least one of the following:

(8.2.1.1) The respondent has taken responsibility for the offending behavior and a behavior management plan has been established to prevent further offending behavior to the satisfaction of the Conduct Committee; and/or

(8.2.1.2) The respondent has undertaken any additional measures agreed to in the process (e.g., education, training, or restorative action); and/or

(8.2.1.3) An apology has been given by the respondent; and/or

(8.2.1.4) The complainant is satisfied that their complaint has been resolved.

(8.2.2) The complainant withdraws their complaint.

(8.3) To achieve an informal resolution, the Conduct Committee will appoint a mediator. The mediator will be familiar with this bylaw, have no conflict of interest, and be agreeable to both parties. If both parties and the Conduct Committee cannot agree on a mediator after reasonable efforts have been made, the matter will proceed to the formal resolution process, at which time the informal process will end.

(8.4) The mediator will be provided with the statements of both complainant(s) and respondent(s) and any supporting documentation submitted by either.

(8.5) Any communication between the complainant and the respondent proposed by the mediator must be approved by the complainant.

(8.6) At any time the complainant may ask that the matter proceed to a formal resolution, at which time the informal process will end.

(8.7) The mediator will make a report to the Conduct Committee of the terms of resolution, if

reached, to which the complainant and respondent have agreed.

(8.8) Resolutions arrived at through informal resolution are not findings of guilt. The terms of resolution are not, themselves, appealable. If new evidence is brought by either the complainant or the respondent, a new complaint may be initiated.

K9 Formal Resolution Process

(9.1) A complainant may choose to pursue a formal resolution to their complain

(9.2) A formal resolution to a complaint includes:

(9.2.1) An investigation which secures sufficient evidence so as to enable a finding of fact as to whether the alleged behavior occurred on the balance of probabilities; and

(9.2.2) A determination regarding whether the behavior constitutes misconduct; and

(9.2.3) A recommendation of disciplinary or other action to the president of the Provincial Executive; and

(9.2.4) A comprehensive report which includes all evidence leading to the conclusions, a description of the process, and any recommendations, delivered by the Conduct Committee to the Provincial Executive.

K10 Disciplinary Action

(10.1) Possible outcomes of the investigation may include but are not limited to:

(10.1.1) Disciplinary action against the respondent including but not limited to:

(10.1.1.1) suspension of volunteer duties and/or membership rights,

(10.1.1.2) revocation of candidacy for election or for GPO office,

(10.1.1.3) exclusion from participation in any events, activities, or spaces both physical and digital in which the Party has jurisdiction,

(10.1.1.4) probation,

(10.1.1.5) expulsion;

(10.1.2) A formal apology and undertaking that the behavior will cease;

(10.1.3) Conciliation or mediation conducted by an impartial third party where the parties to the complaint agree to a mutually acceptable resolution; and

(10.1.4) Restrictions on a member volunteering or working on a campaign or attending meetings or social events for a defined period.

Bylaw L

Regions of the Party

[Passed at the January 2011 meeting of the Provincial Executive]

Definitions

“Regions” Contiguous representation areas within the province of Ontario.

(1) Regions of the Party

The following are the regions of the Party and the Electoral Districts assigned to each.

Southwestern (22 ridings)	Brantford--Brant	on	Huron--Bruce
	Bruce--Grey--Owen Sound	Elgin--Middlesex--London	Kitchener Centre
	Cambridge	Essex	Kitchener--Conestoga
	Chatham-Kent--Leamington	Halldimand--Norfolk	Kitchener South--Hespeler

Waterloo
Lambton--Kent--Middlesex
London North Centre
London West
London--Fanshawe
Oxford
Perth--Wellington
Sarnia--Lambton
Wellington--Halton Hills
Windsor West
Windsor--Tecumseh

Horseshoe (25ridings)

Flamborough--Glanbrook
Hamilton
West--Ancaster--Dundas
Brampton West
Brampton North
Brampton Centre
Brampton East
Brampton South
Burlington
Guelph
Milton
Hamilton Centre
Hamilton East--Stoney Creek
Hamilton Mountain
Mississauga Centre
Mississauga East--Cooksville
Mississauga--Erin Mills
Mississauga--Lakeshore
Mississauga--Malton

Mississauga--Streetsville
Niagara Falls
Niagara West
Oakville
Oakville
North--Burlington
St. Catharines
Niagara Centre

Central (22 ridings)

Ajax
Barrie--Innisfil
Barrie--Springwater--Oronogo
Medonte
Dufferin--Caledon
Durham
Haliburton--Kawartha Lakes--Brock
Markham--Unionville
Markham--Stouffville
Markham--Thornhill
Newmarket--Aurora
Aurora--Oak Ridges--Richmond Hill
King--Vaughan
Oshawa
Peterborough--Kawartha
Pickering--Uxbridge
Richmond Hill
Simcoe North
Simcoe--Grey
Thornhill
Vaughan--Woodbridge
Whitby
York--Simcoe

Eastern (17 ridings)

Kanata--Carleton
Carleton
Glengarry--Prescott--Russell
Kingston and the Islands
Lanark--Frontenac--Kingston
Leeds-Grenville-Thousand Islands and Rideau Lakes
Nepean
Northumberland--Peterborough South
Ottawa Centre
Ottawa South
Ottawa West-Nepean
Orléans
Ottawa-Vanier
Bay of Quinte
Hastings--Lennox and Addington
Renfrew--Nipissing--Pembroke
Stormont--Dundas--South Glengarry

Toronto (25 ridings)

Beaches-East York
Davenport
Don Valley East
Don Valley West
Don Valley North
Eglinton-Lawrence
Etobicoke Centre

Etobicoke North
Etobicoke-Lakeshore
Parkdale-High Park
Scarborough Centre
Scarborough Southwest
Scarborough-Agincourt
Scarborough-Guildwood
Scarborough--Rouge Park
Scarborough North
Toronto--St. Paul's
Toronto Centre
Toronto-Danforth
University--Rosedale
Spadina-Fort York
Willowdale
York Centre
York South--Weston
Humber River--Black Creek

Northern (11 ridings)

Algoma-Manitoulin
Kenora-Rainy River
Nickel Belt
Nipissing
Parry Sound-Muskoka
Sault Ste. Marie
Sudbury
Thunder Bay-Atikokan
Thunder Bay-Superior North
Timiskaming-Cochrane
Timmins-James Bay

[AGM17]

Bylaw M

GPO Code of Conduct

Purpose

(1.0) The purpose of this Bylaw is to ensure all participants at Party-affiliated functions have an opportunity to participate fully without being hindered in or prevented from doing so by any

Ontario Human Rights Commission (OHRC) prohibited grounds for discrimination, and to be free from harassment and intimidation.

(1.1) OHRC prohibited grounds for discrimination are citizenship, race, place of origin, ethnic origin, colour, ancestry, disability, age, creed, sex / pregnancy, gender identity, gender expression, family status, marital status, sexual orientation, receipt of public assistance, and record of offence.

Prohibited grounds of discrimination or harassment

(2.0). All participants at a Party-affiliated function will not engage in any behaviour that will undermine or attack the goals and purposes of the GPO including, but not limited to:

- a. using offensive language or behaviour;
- b. making denigrating comments on the basis of OHRC prohibited grounds;
- c. harassing, threatening, assaulting or intimidating other participants; or
- d. damaging or destroying any property that does not belong to them.

Complaints and equity officer

(3.0) All centrally organized GPO events or meetings with more than 20 people in attendance shall appoint an Equity Officer (EO) to investigate any complaints, including those under 2.0.

(3.1) The meeting organizer(s) shall outline the procedure for investigating and resolving complaints made to the EO prior to the meeting.

(3.2) All procedures for investigating and resolving complaints must include the following:

- a. a process for making anonymous complaints;
- b. a process for the accused person or persons to make a written statement responding to any allegation made against them;
- c. a process for determining whether any provision within 2.0 has been violated;
- d. a process for determining the appropriate resolution in the event of a violation of 2.0;
- e. a process for informing all affected parties; and
- f. a process for determining whether the complaint should be reviewed further by the GPO.

(3.3) The procedure for investigating and resolving complaints must be publicized prior to the event.

(3.4) The GPO shall provide assistance for the investigation and resolution of complaints.

(3.5) The duties of the EO include, but are not limited to:

- a. being visible and available for the duration of the meeting, including attendance at affiliated social events;
- b. acting in a responsible manner and being prepared to deal with any eventuality at all times;
- c. investigating all complaints; and
- d. issuing a report to the Ombuds Committee if required following the event.

Procedure for review on request of the complaints and equity officer

(4.0) A GPO member, having had their complaint investigated, may request that the complaint be reviewed by the GPO Ombuds Committee.

(4.1) All requests for review by the GPO Ombuds Committee must include a written report detailing the investigation by the Complaints and Equity Officer.

(4.2) The GPO Ombuds Committee may make recommendations to the Provincial Executive based on the evidence reviewed in accordance with the process outlined in Bylaw K: Membership.

Definitions

(5.0) Harassment is a form of discrimination. It involves any unwanted physical or verbal behaviour that offends or humiliates. Generally, harassment is a behaviour that persists over time. Serious one-time incidents can also sometimes be considered harassment.

(5.1) Participant is defined as any person in attendance for any portion of an affiliated event.

