

CHOOSING YOUR NATIONAL EXECUTIVE AND LEADER

Dear CAP member,

Here is an introduction to the officials of the Canadian Action Party, as designated in the CAP Constitution.

National Executive

The Constitution of CAP outlines the National Executive as being comprised of thirteen (13) individuals:

- President
- 4 Vice Presidents representing the party, one of whom will be French speaking and one of whom will be English speaking
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Chairs of 6 standing committees: policy, organization, constitution and legal affairs, communications and publicity, finance, native and aboriginal peoples' affairs.

These positions are elected at a National Convention, and then the Constitution states that "in the case of death, incapacity, or resignation in writing the remaining members of the National Executive shall appoint a new member to hold office for the unexpired term of the person being replaced," until the next National Convention.

Between National Conventions, these individuals constitute the Executive Committee responsible for the affairs of CAP. They are the final authority on the interpretation of the party's Constitution. They govern the party with full authority in all matters not specifically covered in the Constitution.

Leader

The Leader of CAP is responsible for the overall direction of CAP. According to the CAP Constitution (section 6), the Leader of the party is responsible for the organization and administration of the Parliamentary Caucus, setting the strategic direction for the party, and appointing the party's Election Readiness Committee prior to a federal election. The Leader and Caucus together will endeavour to promote and implement the Principles and Policies of CAP, and all of the above mentioned duties will be carried out in accordance with the CAP Constitution.

ODDS Committee members unofficially elect these positions

As a CAP member, you are a voter on the ODDS Committee, and you get one vote for a candidate for the National Executive, and one vote for a candidate for Leader, and you may change either of these votes at any time you wish.

The ODDS Committee (ODDS stands for Ongoing Demographic Democracy System) was created by the National Executive in November, 2008, originally to assist in the selection of one VP seat, on a trial basis, as an effort to place techniques into the hands of the membership that allow them to guide and control their elected officials. Presently, the ODDS Committee's recommendations are given a great degree of consideration by the National Executive in choosing people to be appointed for many vacant positions in the National Executive. The ODDS Committee has also become a strong voice in recommending who is chosen for the position of Leader, and also as a recommendations process for choosing members of the party's Shadow Cabinet.

A conventional electoral process forces voters to make a decision under duress and then be stuck with that decision for the next year, or four years, or whatever the term of office for the position they are electing. The ODDS Committee's electoral process instead allows all voters to change their vote whenever they choose. This committee has its own Constitution defining how it conducts this electoral process. Because voters can change their votes at whatever time they choose, the elected position can be subject to change at a time that is the will of the voters, rather than based on a term of office outlined by a previous executive decision.

There are two kinds of candidates on the ODDS Committee: Lead Candidates and Executive Candidates. A voter may cast one Lead Vote for a Lead Candidate, and one Executive Vote for an Executive Candidate, and may change either of these votes at any time that the voter wishes. The Executive Candidate with the most votes is called the Executive Representative, and the Lead Candidate with the most votes is called the Lead Representative. In order for another Lead Candidate to become Lead Representative, she or he must gain more votes than the Lead Representative, but the incumbent then has three months to regain the lead during which she or he retains the position.

Doris Foster is currently elected as the Executive Representative of the ODDS Committee, and Melissa Brade is currently elected as the Lead Representative. Doris has been appointed to the position of Vice President on the National Executive, and Melissa has been appointed as Leader of the party. They have both expressed the intention that if either of them is replaced in their respective ongoing electoral processes in the ODDS Committee, then they may resign from their position so that the elected replacement may be appointed. All CAP members are entitled to have a vote, which they may change at any time, to collectively choose the people recommended for these positions, and others, by this committee. This effectively creates an ongoing entitlement for every CAP member to participate in giving direction to the party, both on the National Executive level, which governs the party itself, and on the public representation of the party that is put forward in federal elections to become the party's elected Members of Parliament.

Presently, three of the Vice Presidents on the National Executive are Executive Candidates with high standing on the ODDS Committee. Also, the Lead Candidates that are showing support from the membership through this electoral process are chosen by the Leader to be members of the party's Shadow Cabinet. So even a vote cast for a candidate with a small number of votes is still significant in empowering a member of this party to be recognized and appreciated for the work they do. A vote does not have to only be perceived as a means of "choosing a leader". It is an empowerment of another person.

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To understand the process that the Constitution for the ODDS Committee delineates, there are a few simple sections to focus on. As you read through them, you will find it helpful that all phrases written in italics are defined in section 2. The heart of the electoral system is detailed in section 4.c.ii of the ODDS Committee Constitution. The requirements to become a voting member are described in section 3.b, which should be read by any person who wants to participate in this electoral system. It references section 7, which gives a deeper understanding of the transformative qualities of this electoral system. Section 4.b.iii describes the pre-requisites that must be fulfilled for a person to become an Executive Candidate. In order to become a Lead Candidate, a member must first be selected as the CAP candidate that will represent the party in their riding in the next federal election, and then be appointed as a Lead Candidate by the National Executive, as per section 4.d.ii. The person who manages this electoral system, counting votes and maintaining the privacy of the members, is called the administrator, and is appointed by the National Executive. Her/his responsibilities are described in section 6.

Once you have read the preceding sections of the Constitution, you will understand all of the necessary elements of this electoral system to become a conscientious, registered voter. Please get in touch with the administrator so you can register to vote, and then she/he will give you the list of candidates and their contact information. As you acquaint yourself with the list of candidates, you can vote as you choose, at a time of your choosing. You shall be in control of your own say in the direction of the Canadian Action Party, in a way that no voter has ever had the opportunity to be in control before.

The Administrator of this committee is Psam Frank. His phone number is 604-765-1496, and his e-mail address is psamfrank@gmail.com or Psam.Frank@canadianactionparty.ca

Thank you for your participation.