

CONSTITUTION FOR THE ODDS COMMITTEE FOR THE CANADIAN ACTION PARTY

Preamble

Democracy is thousands of years old. Throughout history it has rarely been completely successful in solving many of society's problems. In today's world, it still appears to be failing most individuals in every democratic nation in the world. Clearly, we must assume that it either does not work, or else that all forms being used are flawed in some essential way.

There are dozens of suggestions in the world being tried today that are different from the Canadian form of democracy, and many of them were created long after the Canadian system. Those forms were devised when more observations and experience were available to help design a system to be more effective. Many of these have proven to be superior to the Canadian "first past the post" system, and yet there is still conflict between humans in those countries and there is still poverty among their citizens. In each, there is still greed and corruption, not just in the society, but even in the democratically elected government itself.

We may look at the relationship between politicians and citizens as similar to that of an employee and employer. The citizens are the employers; they hire the politicians to participate in the governance that they desire for their society, and pay them for the work they do. By voting, citizens choose who to hire for the job. By paying taxes, they pay their employees, as well as the cost of implementing the projects and services that are determined to be in the best interests of the society.

The job of elected representatives consists of organizing society so that citizens are sharing in the responsible development of an environment in which people's needs are provided in a fair and mutually satisfying way. The ultimate responsibility remains with the voters. It is ultimately they who suffer the consequences of their government's bad decisions; therefore it is necessary that they are able to continuously review and revise their acceptance of the work being done on their behalf.

There is no employer in the world that must wait four years to deliver an employee performance evaluation except the citizens of a democratically-governed nation. Until now.

The Canadian Action Party has been using the Ongoing Demographic

Democracy System (ODDS) for some time now. This system allows you to change your vote whenever you wish. Elected officials are accountable every moment they engage in the activities for which they are responsible. The voters are the highest authority. Every aspect of the party should be under the direct oversight of the membership.

Since the inception of this idea, party officials who tried to avoid being held accountable for their actions and decisions that directly affect the membership and the viability and effectiveness of the party have been removed from their positions. The people that remain have continued to put their effort into building the party and working consistently to move it forward. With the support of the membership, they shall continue to do so. If an elected representative in the party now does something of which the general membership strongly disapproves, the members may remove the person from that position.

By participating in this system, you will be given the chance to prove that perhaps democracy can someday be a positive and effective force in the world. You may have been taught through the course of your life that there is not much point in speaking up when you think something is wrong, because you are just one person, and it will not make a difference. Perhaps your participation in this electoral system will teach you differently. Perhaps you can envision a future time when your government is no longer a safe house for the worst criminals in the nation, stealing from the populace and subjugating its citizens.

Some members of the Canadian Action Party believe that there is a choice: that we do not need to be governed by people we know to be corrupt and greedy. Those members are being allowed to give the membership of CAP this opportunity to vote for representatives within the party through the ODDS Committee, in order to experience ongoing democracy as a possible alternative to the "term" democracy we now have at every level of government in Canada and which is the world-wide standard.

Some members of CAP believe that using ongoing democracy in our Riding Associations, as well as within our National Executive, Committees, and Leadership, could help propel the Canadian Action Party into the Canadian Parliament.

Some believe this because they have heard many times from their friends that the policies of CAP are admirable but that, as voters, they have no confidence that a party putting forward these policies and promises would live up to them if they did achieve the needed seats in Parliament.

Almost all Canadians believe that membership in a political party is a waste of time and resources. Political parties in Canada, for good reason, have left a sour taste in the mouths of the Canadian electorate.

Nothing short of guaranteed accountability will renew Canadians' confidence in democracy, and motivate them to inform and educate themselves, and then to

vote and remain vigilant to the service they receive from their representatives. Some CAP members sincerely believe that ongoing democracy can achieve this important goal.

It is in no way intended to replace or eclipse a single policy of the CAP platform. It is simply a new and refreshing concept of electoral reform being explored by the Canadian Action Party.

CAP needs to prove to its own members, by experience in this Committee, that this system gives an effective guarantee of accountability from elected representatives. We hope it will motivate them to become informed and educated about party affairs and take an active role in governing and directing their party.

In our Riding Associations, which we must work hard to create in all Ridings across Canada, citizens will see that our Candidates are accountable to the party members who chose them to be their representatives. It is conceivable that citizens will eventually demand this method of guaranteeing accountability at every level of government, maybe in every democratic organization in the country. Some day, oppression could be a thing of the past, and by participating in this Committee, you can help make that happen.

1. NAME AND PURPOSE

- a) The name of this committee shall be the ODDS Committee for the Canadian Action Party, hereinafter referred to as the ODDS Committee.
- b) The ODDS Committee shall allow members to participate in the *ODDS* electoral system so that they can get a feel for what it's like to be a *voter* in this system, as well as gain some perspective as to how effective they believe this system to be when put into practice.
- c) The ODDS committee embodies a system of communications within CAP that allows each member of the party to be given an effective means for their ideas and their opinions to be added to the collective fruits of the ingenuity of the total party membership. It functions as a lobbying group to allow all CAP members to have an equal means to influence the party's leader and *National Executive* to give priority and consideration to their ideas and concerns about the direction, policy and structure of the party. It also gives members incentive to become involved and informed in CAP matters.
- d) The goal of this committee shall remain to grow indefinitely with the membership of CAP.

2. DEFINITIONS (note: all defined phrases appear in italics throughout this document)

- a) **Administrator:** the committee member assigned by the National Executive to handle the administrative details of this committee
- b) **Executive Campaign Period:** the duration of time through which the Principle

Executive Challenger must hold the greatest number of votes prior to being declared the new Executive Representative

- c) **Executive Candidate:** any member of this committee who has been nominated by another Executive Candidate so that they may actively pursue the gaining of votes from other members towards the position of Executive Representative
- d) **Executive Challenger:** an Executive Candidate who holds more than half the number of votes of the Executive Representative. Note that a challenger may consider themselves to be an ally and supporter of the Executive Representative despite the implications of the word “challenger”
- e) **Executive Representative:** the Executive Candidate who has the greatest number of executive votes standing from committee members
- f) **Executive Vote:** a vote of support made by a member of the committee to elect the Executive Representative. Each committee member only gets one vote for one candidate, but they may change that vote at whatever time they wish
- g) **Inactive Candidate:** any member of this committee who does not wish to publicly solicit votes towards gain an elected position in this committee. She/he may either have not requested the status of candidate, or may have rescinded their own status as Executive or Lead Candidate
- h) **Lead Campaign Period:** the duration of time through which the Principle Lead Challenger must hold the greatest number of lead votes prior to being declared the new Lead Representative
- i) **Lead Candidate:** a member of this committee who has been appointed by the National Executive to be a candidate for Lead Representative
- j) **Lead Challenger:** a Lead Candidate who has at least half as many lead votes as the Lead Representative.
- k) **Lead Representative:** the Lead Candidate who has the most lead votes
- l) **Lead Vote:** a vote of support made by a member of the committee to elect the Lead Representative. Each committee member only gets one vote for one lead candidate, but they may change that vote at whatever time they wish
- m) **Margin:** the difference between the number of votes held by the candidate with the highest number of votes and the principle challenger
- n) **Marginal Candidate:** a candidate who has less than half the number of votes of as the front runner, but a greater number of votes than the margin
- o) **National Executive:** the National Executive of the Canadian Action Party as defined in the CAP Constitution
- p) **Nominations:** requests made by executive candidates to allow other members to become executive candidates
- q) **ODDS:** Ongoing Demographic Democracy System, the name for a system of democracy which gives voters the right to change their votes at whatever time they choose,

instead of waiting for the end of a term of office and a new election date decided by means out of their control

- r) **Principle Executive Challenger:** the executive candidate who has the second greatest number of executive votes standing from committee members
- s) **Principle Lead Challenger:** the lead candidate who has the second greatest number of lead votes standing from committee members
- t) **The committee:** the ODDS committee, as outlined in this document
- u) **Universal Two Way Communication Between Voters and Candidates:** the description of the most powerful element of the ODDS towards creating a harmonious society: the fact that voters may always be assured that they have the opportunity to speak directly to a candidate prior to voting for them
- v) **Voter:** a member of this committee casting an executive vote to count towards a candidate for the position of Executive Representative, and also a lead vote to count towards a candidate for the position of Lead Representative, entitled to change those votes at whatever time they wish

3. MEMBERSHIP

- a) Any CAP member may be accepted for membership into this committee by an *executive candidate*, subject to the following conditions.
- b) There are two very important concepts that each potential new member must be educated about before they are invited to become members. See section 7 for an explanation of the significance of these concepts.
 - i) They must be aware of what the *margin* is, how it influences the balance of power within *the committee*, and the importance of keeping the *margin* small as this is what gives all *voters* the feeling of being well represented.
 - ii) They must be aware of *universal two way communication* within *the committee*, which is achieved by *voters* taking it upon themselves to communicate with a candidate directly prior to voting for them. A *voter's* decision to cast a *lead or executive vote* of support for a *lead or executive candidate* should be based upon the prime consideration that they feel respected and listened to by that candidate while speaking to them. In the interests of *universal two way communication*, any member should recognize that the more *lead and executive candidates* they gain an opportunity to speak with, the more informed their *vote* shall be, so it would be good for them to solicit chances to speak to any candidates whenever the opportunity presents itself.
- c) Once an *executive candidate* has confirmed that a person is enlightened about these two aspects of the *ODDS* electoral process (the *margin* and *universal two way communication*), then they should request the *Administrator* to accept this person's membership request.
- d) If any person ceases to be a member of CAP, then that person also ceases to be a

member of this committee.

4. DESIGNATED INDIVIDUALS

- a) *Administrator*
- i) appointed by the *National Executive*
 - ii) Neither the *administrator*, nor any assistants to the *administrator* (as defined in section 6.h) may be *executive candidates*, or *lead candidates*
 - iii) see section 6. for list of responsibilities
- b) *Executive Representative*
- i) The *executive candidate* with the highest number of *executive votes*, or, during an *executive campaign period*, the *executive candidate* who had the highest number of *executive votes* just prior to the campaign period's commencement.
 - ii) Each member, upon joining, is automatically accepted as an *inactive candidate* for the position of *Executive Representative*, and their vote for the position stands in support of themselves (note that this ensures 100% voter turnout at all times, and is also representative of the fact that each member's opinion has a constant importance in the overall decision making process of *the committee*).
 - iii) Any person who wishes to make themselves an *executive candidate* may be *nominated* thusly by any other *executive candidate*, who must present their *nomination* to the *Administrator*, which may not occur if the member is already a *lead candidate*. Upon becoming an *executive candidate*, a member's contact information becomes publicly available to all other members of *the committee*, as well as the tally of the number of *executive votes* standing in their support, and the name of the candidate who *nominated* them to active status.
 - (1) All *executive candidates* must be aware that it is their responsibility to exercise good judgement in ascertaining that a person's request to activate their candidacy is based on a legitimate desire to earnestly represent the interests of their supporters and become advocates of policy creation and direction for the betterment of *the committee*, the party, and the country.
 - (2) If a member asks an *executive candidate* for a *nomination*, and the *executive candidate* believes that this member fulfills the preceding criteria, then they should take it as their responsibility to give this member the *nomination* they are seeking, which must then be presented to the *Administrator*.
 - (3) As the number of *executive candidates* grows, *the committee* will function more and more effectively.
 - iv) Any member may change their *executive vote* from one candidate to another at any time they wish, by presenting their change of *vote* to the *Administrator*.

- v) See section 8 for the role of the *executive representative* within CAP.
- c) *Principle Executive Challenger.*
- i) The *executive candidate* with the second highest number of *executive votes*, or, during an *executive campaign period*, the *executive candidate* with the highest number of *executive votes*.
 - ii) If the *Principle Executive Challenger* gains more *executive votes* than the *Executive Representative*, then an *executive campaign period* begins.
 - (1) If the *Executive Representative* does not regain the electoral lead for the duration of the campaign period (as stated in section 5. a, and subject to section 6. d), then the former *Principle Challenger* becomes the new *Prime Representative*.
 - (2) If the *Prime Representative* gains back the electoral lead prior to the end of the *campaign period*, then the *campaign period* is immediately ended and the *Prime Representative* retains the position.
 - (3) If at some point during the *campaign period*, the *Principle Challenger* gains twice as many *votes* as the *Prime Representative*, then the *campaign period* is ended and the *Principle Challenger* takes the position of *Prime Representative* immediately.
 - iii) See section 8 for the role of the *principle challenger* within CAP.
- d) *Lead Representative*
- i) The *lead candidate* with the highest number of *lead votes*, or, during a *lead campaign period*, the *lead candidate* who had the highest number of *lead votes* just prior to the campaign period's commencement
 - ii) In order to become a *lead candidate*, a CAP member must seek such an appointment from the *National Executive*, which may not occur if the member is already an *executive candidate*
 - iii) The procedure for the *principle lead challenger* to gain the position of *lead representative* is the same as the procedure for an *executive challenger* to become *executive representative*, as described in section 4.c.ii, except for that it involves *lead votes* instead of *executive votes*, and has a different length campaign period, as shown in section 5.b
 - iv) The role of the *lead representative* within the CAP shall be determined by the *National Executive*

5. CAMPAIGN PERIOD

- a) The duration of the *executive campaign period* shall be set at one month.
- b) The duration of the *lead campaign period* shall be set at three months.

- c) The *Administrator* may change the duration of either campaign period with the approval of the *National Executive* if he/she first makes sure that an amount of notice equal to double that campaign period is given to all members of *the committee* prior to the change being made. Since the *executive campaign period* is currently set at one month, the *Administrator* must make sure that all members of *the committee* have two months notice prior to a change in its duration, whereas the *lead campaign period* requires six months notice prior to a change.

6. ADMINISTRATOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES

- a) keeping a list of all *executive candidates*, all *lead candidates*, and the contact information for all of these, available to all members of *the committee*. This means that when a person becomes accepted as a new *executive candidate* or *lead candidate*, the *Administrator* must be able to forward information about this person to all committee members
- b) keeping the tallies available of the number of *executive votes* and *lead votes* standing for each *executive candidate* and *lead candidate*, for the perusal of all members of *the committee*.
- c) receiving and recording *executive votes* and *lead votes* from members of *the committee*. It is the *Administrator's* discretion whether to obtain those votes in writing, by verbal agreement, or by other means. Any member who wishes to inquire about the status of their standing *executive vote* and *lead vote* must be given this information by the *Administrator*. Any member who wishes to inquire about the number of votes standing for them must be given this information by the *Administrator*.
- d) when an *executive campaign period* or *lead campaign period* begins, all committee members must be notified of this as soon as possible by the *Administrator*. If there are committee members who are not notified of this at an early enough point in the campaign period, the *Administrator* may consider a request from them to extend the campaign period in order to make sure that they have extra time to consider their decision, and communicate with other members about this change of representation. Members must also be informed of the results of the campaign period when it ends.
- e) accepting *nominations* from *executive candidates* to allow other committee members to become *executive candidates*. Under no circumstances may the *Administrator* refuse such a *nomination*. The following information must be available to all members about each *executive candidate*: their contact information, the number of *executive votes* standing in their support, and the person who originally nominated them to activate their candidacy.
- f) when an candidate decides to cease their active candidacy, the *Administrator* must make sure that their contact information and electoral support no longer be publicly available to members of *the committee*.
- g) for the sake of the scrutineering process, which gives credibility to the electoral decisions, all members should be informed and encouraged that they may choose to have their votes become publicly available to all members of *the committee* (but not to be

revealed outside of *the committee*). Having suggested this to the members, the *Administrator* is nonetheless required to put a top priority on each member's desire for privacy if they do not deliberately, knowingly make this choice.

- h) keeping the following information for each member: name, contact information, CAP membership number, name of *executive candidate* that invited them to *the committee*, status of standing *votes*: public/private, candidate being supported for the position of *Executive Representative*, status of candidacy: executive/inactive/lead, person who *nominated* the member to active candidacy if applicable, and *deputy leader candidate* for whom their *lead vote* stands. This information shall not be made available to anybody else other than assistants to the *Administrator* who have been requested by the *Administrator* and approved by the *National Executive*, except the information that has been declared public by the member.

7. ACTIVE CANDIDATES: INTERDEPENDENCE

- a) The standing of the *Executive Representative* of the ODDS committee within CAP shall increase in stature and influence as the membership of *the committee* grows. All other candidates for the position who have attained any electoral support may also be referred to as Representatives. Those that have achieved a greater number of *votes* than the *executive margin* of difference in support between the *Executive Representative* and *Principle Executive Challenger* may be referred to as *Marginal Candidates*, and those that have achieved more than a half the number of *votes* as the *Executive Representative* may be referred to as *Executive Challengers*. It is impossible for an *Executive Representative* to retain the elected status of his/her position unless he/she is communicative and respectful towards all *Executive Challengers* and *Marginal Candidates*, which means that all members of *the committee* have a direct line of communication to make sure that their concerns and ideas are addressed by the top position in *the committee*, which is the intent of *universal two way communication*.

8. CAP REPRESENTATION

- a) It is recommended that the *Executive Representative* and *Principle Executive Challenger* of this committee be included in meetings of the *National Executive*. The *National Executive* may, at their discretion, allow one or both of them to have a vote in the decisions of motions put forward throughout the matters conducted in meetings.
- b) All *lead candidates* from the ODDS Committee would make excellent choices as representatives of the Canadian Action Party at any events where CAP would benefit from attendance, as they are not only empowered by votes from CAP members but are also in direct communication with CAP members. This would have an extremely beneficial effect for the party in that it would be far easier to find nationwide representation for the party in all forums without requiring key members to be transported throughout the country.

9. CHANGES TO THIS CONSTITUTION

- a) The *Executive Representative* may make changes to this Constitution by notifying all members of *the committee* of the intended changes, and then, once confirming that all members of *the committee* have received this notice, leaving them a period of time equal to three times the length of the *executive campaign period* for them to decide if they are willing to allow the changes to occur. If an *executive campaign period* begins at any point during this time, then these proposed changes to the Constitution must be dropped, unless the *principle executive challenger* specifically agrees to carry forward these changes. If not, then they may be re-introduced again at a later time.

10. SUMMARY

- a) All CAP members may be encouraged to join this committee in order to assist in its growth and in the building of a new electoral system that gives true power to the voters themselves.
- b) All members of *the committee* may be encouraged to become *executive candidates* or *lead candidates* so as to enable them to gain proactive participation in the direction of the party.
- c) All members who choose to allow their vote to become a part of the public information available to other members within *the committee* (section 6. g) are helping produce a communicative, transparent network of people who are honest about their beliefs and ideas, and who are willing to openly engage in discussion with each other about their differences so that they may learn the motives behind each other's points of view.
- d) This electoral system promotes fairness, cooperation, brainstorming, compromise, minority recognition, transparency of government, proactiveness, sharing of information, responsiveness, and empowerment of the individual. It is fair to say that this committee has a good chance of cutting years off of the amount of time it will take CAP to achieve elected power in Canadian government, and will also make CAP impervious to the inevitable corruption that takes place within a political party in the Canadian Parliamentary system as they gain power, recognition, and thus become targets of the elite powers of Canadian society for attempting to establish control and bureaucracy to favour their interests.