

# CONSTITUTION FOR THE ODDS COMMITTEE FOR THE CANADIAN ACTION PARTY

## Preamble

The purpose of this committee is to experientially evolve an electoral system where the Petitions of the People are not only heard but actually manage the governing principles of the social and economic aspects of the society. It is also a good educational experience for our members to promote confidence and proficiency in the life of a political representative of the people, and to prepare and encourage members to face the challenge of a Federal National Election with a team of politically active fellows they have learned to know and trust.

For a true and principled government to evolve; the people must have control of public servants. No civil government will be serviceable and effective unless the citizenry **possess** and **use** wise techniques of guiding and controlling officeholders and public servants. This committee is committed to embed some of these techniques into the electoral system itself.

The best method to prove a technique is to put it into action. The Canadian Action Party is committed to evolve a practical and efficient government where Politics with Principles are active endowments of the body politic.

The Canadian Action Party must engage intelligent and trained representation. The survival of democracy is dependent on successful representative government; and that is conditioned upon the practice of electing to public offices only those individuals who are technically trained, intellectually competent, socially loyal, and morally fit. Only by such provisions can government of the people, by the people, and for the people be preserved.

A true and principled democratic government (the power of the people) is the only power on earth capable of checkmating the rule of the fortunate and wealthy few who throughout human history have ruled over the unfortunate many. Thus our mission is **Checkmate** and a new era of human history.

### 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. **Active Candidate:** any member of this committee who has been nominated by another active candidate so that they may actively pursue the gaining of votes from other members towards the position of Prime Representative
- b. **Administrator:** the committee member assigned by the National Executive to handle the administrative details of this committee
- c. **Campaign Period:** the duration of time through which the Principle Challenger must hold the greatest number of votes prior to being declared the new Prime Representative
- d. **Challenger:** an active candidate who holds more than half the number of votes of the Prime Representative. Note that a challenger may consider themselves to be an ally and supporter of the Prime Representative despite the implications of the word "challenger"
- e. **Inactive candidate:** any member of this committee who does not wish to publicly solicit votes towards gaining the position of elected Prime Representative. She/he may either have not requested the status of active candidate, or may have rescinded their own status as active candidate
- f. **Margin:** the difference between the number of votes held by the Prime Representative and the Principle Challenger
- g. **Marginal Candidate:** an active candidate who has less than half the number of votes of the Prime Representative, but a greater number of votes than the margin
- h. **National Executive:** the National Executive of the Canadian Action Party as defined in the CAP Constitution
- i. **Nominations:** requests made by active candidates to allow other members to become active candidates
- j. **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

- k. **Prime Representative:** the active candidate who has the greatest number of votes standing from committee members
- l. **Principle Challenger:** the active candidate who has the second greatest number of votes standing from committee members
- m. **The committee:** the ODDS committee, as outlined in this document
- n. **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
- o. **Vote:** a vote of support made by a member of the committee to elect the Prime Representative. Each committee member only gets one vote for one candidate, but they may change that vote at whatever time they wish
- p. **Voter:** a member of this committee casting a vote to count towards a candidate for the position of Prime Representative, entitled to change that vote at whatever time they wish

### 3. MEMBERSHIP

- a. Any CAP member may be accepted for membership into this committee by an *active candidate* for the position of *Prime Representative*, 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 8 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 *vote* of support for an *active 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 *active 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 *active candidates* whenever the opportunity presents itself.
- c. Once an *active 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. see section 6. for list of responsibilities

### b. Prime Representative

- i. The *active candidate* with the highest number of *votes*, or, during a *campaign period*, the *active candidate* who had the highest number of *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 *Prime 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 *active candidate* may be *nominated* thusly by any other *active candidate*, who must present their *nomination* to the *Administrator*. Upon becoming an *active 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 *votes* standing in their support for the position of *Prime Representative*, and the name of the candidate who *nominated* them to active status.
  1. All *active 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 *active candidate* for a *nomination*, and the *active 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 *active candidates* grows, *the committee* will function more and more effectively.
- iv. Any member may change their *vote* of support for the position of *Prime Representative* from one candidate to another at any time they wish, by presenting their change of *vote* to the *Administrator*.
- v. See section 9. for the role of the *prime representative* within CAP.

- c. *Principle Challenger*.
  - i. The *active candidate* with the second highest number of *votes*, or, during a *campaign period*, the *active candidate* with the highest number of *votes*.
  - ii. If the *Principle Challenger* gains more *votes* than the *Prime Representative*, then a *campaign period* begins.
    - 1. If the *Principle Challenger* remains in the electoral lead for the duration of the *campaign period* (as stated in section 5. a, and subject to section 6. d), then he/she 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 9. for the role of the *principle challenger* within CAP.

## 5. CAMPAIGN PERIOD

- a. The duration of the *campaign period*, for the present time, shall be set at one month.
- b. The *Administrator* may change the duration of the *campaign period* with the approval of the *National Executive* if he/she first makes sure that an amount of notice equal to double the *campaign period* is given to all members of *the committee* prior to the change being made. Since the *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 the duration of the *campaign period*.

## 6. ADMINISTRATOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES

- a. keeping a list of all *active candidates*, and their contact information, available to all members of *the committee*. This means that when a person becomes accepted as a new *active candidate*, the *Administrator* must be able to forward information about this new *active candidate* to all committee members
- b. keeping the tallies available of the number of *votes* standing towards each *active candidate* for the perusal of all members of *the committee*.
- c. accepting *votes* from members of *the committee* for the position of *Prime Representative*. 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 *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 the *Principle Challenger* gains more *votes* than the *Prime Representative*, all committee members must be notified as soon as possible by the *Administrator* that the *campaign period* has begun. 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 *active candidates* to allow other committee members to become *active candidates*. Under no circumstances may the *Administrator* refuse such a *nomination*. The following information must be available to all members about each *active candidate*: their contact information, the number of *votes* standing in their support, and the person who originally nominated them to activate their candidacy.
- f. when an *active candidate* decides to cease their active candidacy, the *Administrator* must make sure that their contact information, electoral support, and nominated status as *active candidate* 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 *vote* of support for a candidate for the position of *Prime Representative* 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.
- h. keeping the following information for each member: name, contact information, CAP membership number, name of *active candidate* that invited them to *the committee*, status of standing *vote*: public/private, candidate being supported for the position of *Prime Representative*, status of candidacy: active/inactive, person who *nominated* the member to active candidacy if applicable. 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. ADMINISTRATOR'S IMPARTIALITY

- a. If the *Administrator* is an *active candidate* for the position of *Prime Representative*, and, at the discretion of the National Executive, it is believed there may be any conflict of interest arising in the *Administrator's* duties, then they may appoint an *inactive candidate* as the *Administrator*.
- b. It is not necessarily detrimental to the system to have the *Administrator* also functioning as an *active candidate*, because the proactive nature of the electorate (given that they are all CAP members) may keep the system clear of corruption. Due to the fact that even *marginal candidates* wield a certain amount of power and influence in this electoral system, it is likely that there is no pressure on any candidate to sacrifice honesty or integrity for the purpose of gaining *votes* of support toward the

position of *Prime Representative*, which means that they are very likely to express their opinions honestly and remain open and unbiased towards other candidates. For this reason, it is not difficult even for an *active candidate* to recognize and honour the extremely important function of the *Administrator* to be unbiased towards all candidates.

## 8. ACTIVE CANDIDATES: INTERDEPENDENCE

- a. The standing of the *Prime 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 *margin* of difference in support between the *Prime Representative* and *Principle Challenger* may be referred to as *Marginal Candidates*, and those that have achieved more than a half the number of *votes* as the *Prime Representative* may be referred to as *Challengers*. It is impossible for a *Prime Representative* to retain the elected status of his/her position unless he/she is communicative and respectful towards all *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*.

## 9. CAP REPRESENTATION

- a. It is recommended that the *Prime Representative* and *Principle 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. In all functions where the *Prime Representative's* presence is deemed appropriate, it should be the *Prime Representative's* option to designate any other *active candidate* in the committee as a proxy if unable to attend.
- c. All *active 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.

## 10. CHANGES TO THIS CONSTITUTION

- a. The *Prime 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 *campaign period* for them to decide if they are willing to allow the changes to occur. If a *campaign period* begins at any point during this time, then these proposed changes to the Constitution must be dropped, unless the *principle challenger* specifically agrees to carry forward these changes. If not, then they may be re-introduced again at a later time.

## 11. 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 *active candidates* so as to enable them to gain proactive participation in the production of policy for 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.