

Submit your Ideas and Proposals

An AGM presents us with the opportunity to review our Constitution & Bylaws and to propose policies. Every member has the right to present new policies.

If you have ideas about how we can improve our Constitution & Bylaws or have policy ideas, then we certainly want to hear from you!



Constitutional and By-Law Amendments

An important part of an Annual General Meeting is the possibility to modify our governing documents (Constitution & By-laws). If you have ideas about how we should improve our governing documents, then we certainly want to hear from you! Please drop us a line at amendments@greenpartyns.ca as soon as possible if you would like more information about the process.

The process to submit an amendment is described in By-law B, but is not very transparent. Check with us if you have questions. The submission must include the name of the member who will present the proposal at the AGM. You will also need to provide names and contact information for at least five members who endorse the proposed amendment. All proposed amendments must be submitted to amendments@greenpartyns.ca by noon on March 6.

Our current By-Laws (including By-law B) can be found at:

<https://greenpartyns.ca/constitution-bylaws-may-2021/>

Call for Policy Proposals

The Policy Committee welcomes all members to submit policy suggestions to be ratified at the AGM. At our 2021 AGM, a bylaw was ratified requiring all existing policies be renewed at least every three years and none of ours had been. Therefore, the Committee is working to develop an extensive list of policies and welcomes your assistance.

There is a specific format for submission and the **deadline is 12 noon, March 6th, 2023.**

There are two methods for submission. Both must follow the following format and must meet the minimum criterion of being consistent with the Global Green Principles.

Policy proposal submissions can go:

- a. for consideration by the Policy Committee (approval by 75% of the committee) or
- b. for presentation directly to the membership at the AGM (require 3 endorsers and will be considered at the AGM after the first group of submissions).

Format:

Policy proposals must be in the following format and order:

1. subject/policy area title
2. relevant principles (see below for the list the global principles), beliefs and the current state of affairs on the subject
3. a numbered list of specific subject-based policy suggestions. **Please note the definition of policy below which is new to our format and past policies from previous years.**
4. a concluding section including cost estimates if applicable
5. date of submission
6. citations – if the statements are likely controversial or new to GPNS
7. names and contact information of three endorsing members if submission is to go directly to membership

Submit to the Interim Policy Co-convenors, Jillian Foster and Jane Matheson, at policy@greenpartyns.ca

Deadline: **12 noon, Mar 6th, 2023**

All members will receive member and Policy Committee submissions, which meet the above approval and format, by Mar 21st, 30 days in advance of the AGM.

Definition of Policy

“Policy” is defined as a group of principle-based statements which guide thinking and focus attention. In our GPNS context, policies guide our representatives (MLAs, leaders and Shadow Cabinet) and our party officials (Executive and associated bodies – committees and EDAs) to make decisions that are ultimately based on our global green principles.

Policy does not contain specific strategy or tactical statements. It is separate from strategy in that it is not prescriptive and can thereby flexibly apply in a wide array of situations but it also provides more context than our global principles alone. For example, we could have a policy statement ‘to support incentives and investment in infrastructure to promote sustainable transportation and discourage fossil fuel-based transportation’¹ as opposed to having, what should be called a strategy statement of ‘require the inclusion of hybrid and fully electric vehicles in the government car fleet’².

Reference 1. BC Green Party policy document; 2. Former GPNS energy policy

Two other examples (BC Green Party policy statements versus statements taken from former GPNS policy which are more strategic statements, directing action, as opposed to the desirable guidance required by our new definition)

As part of Health Care Policy

“BC Greens support a patient-centric healthcare system that is committed to fairness, local control and accountability.”

Former GPNS

- Consult with stakeholders to develop a hospital plan that delivers timely, equitable and efficient care.

As part of Senior Care Policy

“BC Greens support measures to promote healthy aging to allow seniors to live with dignity and independence.”

Former GPNS

- Assess and improve our programs for elder care, focusing on at-home caregiver support and on financial and respite consideration for families that care for elderly or infirm family members.
- Immediately begin measures to increase the number of available spaces in nursing homes.

Green Global Principles

(<https://globalgreens.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Global-Greens-Charter-2017.pdf>)

- Ecological Wisdom
- Social Justice
- Participatory Democracy
- Nonviolence
- Sustainability
- Respect for Diversity