



Toronto Chapter AGM

Minutes Fair Vote Canada – Toronto Chapter Annual General Meeting – April 26, 2012 Metro Hall

Chair: John Deverell

Meeting was called to order at 7:15.

1. Approval of agenda change:

Moved by Geoff Rytell and seconded by Gary Dale to amend the agenda as suggested by the chair. **Carried.**

2. Remarks: Wayne Smith, executive director, Fair Vote Canada

3. Chapter Annual Report: Joyce Hall

Moved by Gary Dale and seconded by Mala Naraine to receive report. **Carried.**

4. Treasurer's Report: June Macdonald

Moved by Bruce Budd, seconded by Sufiya Mary Reid to accept the report. **Carried.**

5. Resolutions

Resolution 1. -- to amend the chapter bylaw

Moved by Linda Sheppard, seconded by Joyce Hall that the FVC Toronto Chapter Bylaws be amended as follows:

(Part A) Under Article IV the Executive, delete the clause

“Meetings of the Executive may be held at any time and place to be determined by the Executive, provided that 48 hours written notice of such meeting shall be given personally, or transmitted by facsimile or electronic mail, to each member of the Chapter, or sent by regular mail at least 14 days prior to the meeting. There shall be at least four meetings per year of the Executive.”

and insert the following:

“Meetings of the Executive may be held at any time and place to be determined by the Executive provided that 48 hours written notice of such meeting shall be given personally, or transmitted by facsimile or electronic mail, to each member of the Executive.”

(Part B) and delete the clause: “All official meetings of the Executive shall be open to all members of the Chapter.”

Background to Resolution 1

The Fair Vote Canada Toronto Chapter bylaw requires all Executive meetings to be open to all members of the chapter, and all members to receive 48 hours' notice of any Executive meeting. These provisions predate, and are not included in, the Fair Vote Canada Model Bylaws, which merely require every member of the Executive to receive 48 hours' notice of any Executive meeting. This amendment brings the Chapter bylaw more into conformity with the model bylaw, and with actual practice.

FVC Toronto Chapter Bylaw: <http://s.fairvote.ca/files/FVCTorontoChapterBy-LawsDec2009.pdf>

Fair Vote Canada Chapter Guidelines and Model Bylaw: http://s.fairvote.ca/files/FVC_chapterguide_Sept2010.pdf?q=files/FVC_chapterguide_Sept2010.pdf

The motion was voted on in two parts – see Part A and Part B above:

Part A: Carried (19 to 11)

Part B: Defeated

Resolution 2 -- to reaffirm support for the goals of Fair Vote Canada

Motion was brought forward by the executive director on behalf of the Executive of the Toronto chapter:

Moved and seconded by the Executive of the FVC Toronto Chapter:

Be it resolved that the Toronto chapter of Fair Vote Canada reaffirms its support for proportional representation at all levels of government: federal, provincial and municipal, and reaffirms the Toronto Chapter's support of Fair Vote Canada's Statement of Purpose and the Mission statement. We reject the use of the Alternative Vote for the election of a representative assembly at any level of government or civil society as being non-proportional.

Motion Carried (22 to 6)

Resolution 3. - request to National Council re municipal voting

Moved by: Joe Murray

Seconded by: Jo-Ann Davis

Whereas municipal parties are not permitted in Toronto municipal elections, and

Whereas many members of Fair Vote Canada in Toronto believe that, without parties, Instant Runoff Voting would be a more 'fair' voting system for these local elections, and

Whereas these members are equally committed to Proportional Representation and the goals of Fair Vote Canada,

Be it resolved, that the membership of the Toronto Chapter call on the National Council to review their decision and consider a broader approach, allowing local chapters to advocate for a wider range of municipal reforms.

Background to Resolutions 2 and 3

In 2011, the Fair Vote Canada National Council received a request to endorse the RaBIT campaign, which advocates the use of the Alternative Vote (AV) or Instant Runoff Vote (IRV) to elect members of Toronto City Council. This would mean using a ranked ballot to elect

councillors in the current, single-member wards.

The National Council took the position that using AV/IRV to elect a city council would be contrary to our existing position that, while IRV is an appropriate method to elect a single-holder office such as a mayor or party leader, only proportional systems are appropriate for electing members of a representative assembly such as a city council. The National Council reaffirmed the commitment of the organization to proportional representation, and the request was denied.

FVC Statement of Purpose: <http://fairvote.ca/statement-of-purpose>
FVC position paper on Alternative Vote: http://s.fairvote.ca/files/AV-backgrounder-august2009_1.pdf?q=files/AV-backgrounder-august2009_1.pdf
FVC reaffirmation of support for PR, February 2011: <http://www.fairvote.ca/en/FVC-news/fair-vote-canada-reaffirms-commitment-to-proportional-representation-0>

Motion Was Defeated. (17 to 12)

6. Elections :

Elections were held to fill the seven positions on the Toronto Executive using the Single Transferrable Vote.

The results were as follows :

- Desmond Cole
- Mark Greenan
- Joyce Hall
- Gerry Hobden
- June Macdonald
- Dave Meslin
- Katherine Skene

7. Motion to destroy the ballots :

Moved by Gary Dale, seconded by Desmond Cole to destroy the ballots.

Carried.

Meeting Adjourned.

Notice of Annual General Meeting April 26, 2012

The Annual General Meeting of the Fair Vote Canada Toronto Chapter will take place on Thursday, April 26, 2012 at 7 pm at Metro Hall, 55 John Street, Room 314 (south-east corner of King and John, two blocks east of Spadina).

We are happy to announce that the keynote address will be given by Professor Dennis Pilon of York University, one of Canada’s leading scholars on electoral reform and political change, a member of the National Advisory Board of Fair Vote Canada, and a founding member of the Fair Vote Canada Toronto Chapter. Dennis is always an engaging speaker, and will address a topic of immediate concern.

In addition to electing a new Executive for the coming year, the chapter will consider several important resolutions.
The meeting is open to the public and all are welcome. Bring a friend! Refreshments will be

served mid-way through the meeting.

Agenda

6:45 to 7:15 pm : Registration and issuing of ballots to qualified voters

7:15 pm Call to order: meeting chair—John Deverell

- Introductory remarks by Wayne Smith, Executive Director of Fair Vote Canada.
- Minutes and reports: Chapter executive
- Resolutions
- Candidates / candidate statements

8:00 pm Collection of ballots / coffee break

8:15 pm Keynote Presentation “The Politics of Alternative Vote” Dennis Pilon / discussion.

9:00 pm Announcement: new executive of the Toronto Chapter. (Wayne Smith)

Election of Executive Committee

Seven candidates will be elected by secret ballot to a one-year term, using the Single Transferable Vote, a proportional system.

Qualification of voters

Although the meeting is open to all, voting and standing for office is restricted to those who have been members for at least sixty days (joined on or before February 26, 2012) and who are in good standing (dues paid up).

If your membership has expired, you can renew your support online at <http://FairVote.Ca>, or at the meeting. If you are unsure about your membership status, contact the Executive Director at office@fairvote.ca.

