

Fair Vote Nova Scotia By-Laws

September 2012

I. Name

The chapter of Fair Vote Canada in Nova Scotia shall be called Fair Vote Nova Scotia, hereafter referred to as the Chapter.

II. Aims and Objectives

The aims and objectives of the Chapter are:

- to support the goals of Fair Vote Canada and its multi-partisan, citizen-based campaign;
- to provide a means for people in Nova Scotia to participate in the creation of a new voting system; and
- to provide information on voting system reform to the public.

III. Members

Members of the Chapter are those members in good standing of Fair Vote Canada (hereafter referred to as the National Organization) residing in Nova Scotia who have signified in writing their willingness to participate in the activities of the Chapter and to abide by these By-Laws and those of the National Organization.

IV. The Executive

The Executive of the Chapter shall be composed of the following:

- i) President;
- ii) Secretary;
- iii) Treasurer;
- iv) other Executive Members, the number of which shall not be less than two or more than six.

Every effort shall be made in the nominations or appointment process to ensure that the Executive reflects gender equity and the cultural and geographic diversity of the Chapter membership. The term of office shall be one year.

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, or, if by mail, at least 14 days prior to the meeting. Notice by mail shall be sent at least 14 days prior to the meeting. There shall be at least four meetings per year of the Executive. Each member of the Executive is authorized to exercise one vote. A quorum of the Executive shall consist of a majority of the Executive. Executive members are considered to have vacated their position when absent from three consecutive Executive meetings without leave. The Executive may appoint members in good standing to fill vacant positions on the Executive, by simple majority vote, until the next Annual General Meeting.

V. Annual General Meeting

The Chapter shall hold an Annual General Meeting, which shall:

- i) receive a current financial statement from the Treasurer;
- ii) receive a report on activities; and
- iii) elect the Executive.

A quorum of the Chapter shall be five per cent of the membership including a majority of the Executive. Fourteen days written notice shall be sent either by regular mail, facsimile transmission, or electronic mail transmission to each member of any annual or special general meeting of members. Such notice shall include mention that any Fair Vote Nova Scotia member in good standing may run for any executive position.

Notice of any meeting where special business will be transacted should contain sufficient information to permit the member to form a reasoned judgement on the decision to be taken.

Each voting member present at a meeting shall have the right to exercise one vote. A majority of the votes cast by the members shall determine the questions in meeting except where the vote or consent of a greater number of members is required by the By-laws of the National Organization or these By-laws.

VI. Elections

The Executive shall be elected by secret ballot.

- i) The Executive shall be elected by a proportional system: the single transferable vote (STV);
- ii) The Executive will elect or decide by consensus its officers at their first meeting following the Annual General Meeting;
- iii) Any vacant Executive position may be filled by a majority vote of the Executive.

VII. Executive Roles and Responsibilities

- i) The President or his or her designate shall:
 - chair meetings of the Chapter and the Executive;
 - represent the Chapter to the public;
 - assume responsibility for all communications and records of the Chapter;
 - act as ex officio member of all committees and shall have the authority in consultation with the Executive to designate a member of the Executive as an ex officio member to any committee;
 - shall interpret the Chapter By-Laws.
 - act as co-signatory for the Chapter bank or credit union account
- ii) The Secretary shall:
 - record and keep a record of all Minutes of membership and Executive meetings;
 - ensure the proper distribution of said Minutes.
 - draft, as directed, correspondence and other documents;
 - ensure that said correspondence is forwarded as appropriate.
- iii) The Treasurer shall:
 - present a current financial statement to each meeting of the Chapter and its Executive;
 - act as co-signatory for the Chapter bank or credit union account.

VIII. Committees

The Chapter Executive shall have the authority and the responsibility for establishing committees of the Chapter.

IX. Finances

- i) The Chapter shall be funded by donations, as well as membership fees that may be levied at an Annual General Meeting;
- ii) Membership fees can only be levied by a two-thirds majority vote of those present and voting at an Annual General Meeting.

X. Amendment of By-Laws

- i) Any amendment of, deletion from or addition to these By-Laws shall become effective by approval of two-thirds of the voting members at an Annual General Meeting or special meeting called for the purpose of amending the By-Laws.
- ii) Notice of Motion must be included in the official notice of the Annual General Meeting or special meeting to amend, delete from or add to these By-Laws;
- iii) Unless otherwise specified, any amendment of, deletion from or addition to these By-Laws shall become effective at the time of its adoption.

XI. Authorities

- i) Nothing in these By-Laws shall be in contravention of the By-Laws of the National Organization;
- ii) These By-Laws, and any amendments, deletions from or additions thereto shall require the written approval of the National Council of Fair Vote Canada to be in effect.
- iii) The Executive shall have the authority to make such policies and regulations as are necessary for the administration of the affairs of the Chapter, provided such policies and regulations do not conflict with these By-Laws or with the By-Laws of the National Organization.

Passed at AGM 15 Sept, 2012