



**Senior Liberals' Commission • Liberal Party of Canada  
Commission des aînés libéraux • Parti libéral du Canada**

## **Draft Minutes - General Meeting**

Held Thursday, April 19, 2018  
Halifax Convention Centre, Halifax NS  
Mi'kmaq Territory

**Co-chaired by:** Anne Adams and Gregg Guptill

**Minutes recorded by:** Doug Brydges, SLC Communications Chair

**Attendance:** approximately 165+

**Call to Order:** 12:09 p.m.

Doug Brydges was appointed as recording secretary for the meeting.

National Anthem

Moment of silence for SLC members no longer with us

### **Approval of agenda:**

**MOTION** - Moved by Hilary Williamson      Seconded by Doug Brydges  
That the agenda be approved as presented.  
Carried

**Introductions:** Commission Officers and Section Chairs present were introduced.

### **Approval of previous minutes:** May 26, 2016

The minutes of May 26, 2016 were not available for review by the assembly.

**MOTION** - Moved by Lynne Steele      Seconded by Grant Walker  
That approval of the minutes of May 26, 2016 be tabled until the next General Meeting to be held in 2020.  
Carried

### **Reports**

**Charter Report:** presented by Anne Marie Gillis, Charter Committee Chair (2017)  
The report is appended to these minutes as Appendix A.

**MOTION** - Moved by Anne Marie Gillis      Seconded by Barbara Hart  
That the report be accepted as presented.  
Carried

**Policy Report:** presented by Hilary Williamson, Deputy Policy Chair  
The report is appended to these minutes as Appendix B.

**MOTION** - Moved by Hilary Williamson      Seconded by Bernie Gunning  
That the report be accepted as presented.  
Carried

**Co-chairs Report:** presented by Anne Adams and Gregg Guptill

The report is appended to these minutes as Appendix C.

**MOTION** – Moved by Anne Adams                      Seconded by Roger Légaré

That the report be accepted as presented.

Carried

**Adjournment** - the meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:42 pm following last minute announcements.

Appendices A, B and C follow

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## Appendix A – Charter Report

As presented April 19, 2018 by: Anne Marie Gillis, SLC Charter Committee Chair (2017)

The revised SLC Constitution was approved during the SLC AGM, held during the May 2016 LPC Biennial Convention in Winnipeg. Later during the Convention, a new LPC Constitution was also approved. This Constitution stated that there shall be only one constitution within the LPC. It mandated that the current Commission constitutions shall become their Charter. Furthermore, LPC By-law 1 Commissions stated that: “Each Commission, in consultation with its Sections, Clubs and Members, shall submit to the National board a revised Charter, consistent with the requirements hereof prior to the next National Convention.”

The SLC National Executive established a Charter Committee and in March 2017 approved its Terms of Reference. The purpose of the Charter Committee was to review and propose amendments to the SLC Charter that was approved in 2016 in Winnipeg.

The Charter Committee’s statement of work included:

- Review the SLC Charter and agree on the required amendments;
- Propose a schedule for completing the work and report regularly to the National Executive;
- Craft proposed amendments to meet the requirements of LPC By-laws;
- Arrange for review and comment on the proposed amendments from SLC Sections, Clubs, and Members; and,
- Following consideration of the comments received, recommend review and adoption of the proposed amendments by the SLC National Executive.

Committee members agreed that they would meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday through to the end of July for the initial work of reviewing and amending the Charter with the goal of presenting a final draft of the revised Charter to the National Executive in December 2017. Additional meetings were added in August.

In October, following a special SLC Executive meeting, Charter Committee members approved revisions to the Charter. An Executive Summary, to be included with the draft Charter was also approved. The documents were translated into French. The Notice inviting comments and input from SLC members into the SLC Draft Charter was posted in both official languages to the SLC website on October 10.

The SLC Co-Chairs requested in early November, through the LPC Commissions Coordinator, that an email blast be sent to all senior Registered Liberals (who provided email addresses on Liberalist) inviting them to provide comments and input to the draft Charter. Unfortunately, LPC did not send an email blast until late November. As a result, the consultation period was extended to December 11.

Over the course of the consultation period, from October 12 to December 11, twenty submissions were received from 19 individuals. The Charter Committee met by teleconference on December 21 and 28 to review and consider all comments and input received.

At the January 25 SLC Executive meeting, the revised Charter was discussed and amended further. Following discussion the Charter was approved as amended.

Key changes to the SLC Charter include:

- The age of membership in the SLC is lowered from 65 to 60.
- Addition of Management, Governance and Nomination Committees as Standing Committees.
- Strengthening Official Languages section

At the February 15 Executive meeting, the Co-Chairs reported that the Charter had passed legal review. By the March 15 Executive meeting, the Charter had not been approved by the LPC Board of Directors and would not be prior to the Convention.

The members of the Charter Committee include:

Chair: Anne Marie Gillis

Vice-Chair/Recorder: Doug McDonald followed by Doug Brydges (in June)

Member: Ken Halliday

Member: Barb Hart

Member: Don Reid

Member: Dianne King

I would like to thank all of the Charter Committee members for their dedication to this process. They were conscientious and diligent and provided thoughtful and sensible input and I think that the result is a Charter we can all be proud of.

Respectfully submitted,  
Anne Marie Gillis  
Chair, Charter Committee

## Appendix B – Policy Report

As presented, April 19, 2018, by Hilary Williamson, Deputy Policy Chair

*Bonjour! Good afternoon!* I have been privileged to work with SLC Policy Chair, Doug McDonald since last summer. In his absence today, I'll do my best to present what he has achieved in the new SLC policy process. I'll describe the steps in that process, and explain how they led to the 3 SLC resolutions that will be presented in tomorrow's workshops.

I know that there are many in the room who worked hard on SLC policy. I want to thank them for their enthusiasm and energy.

### SLC Policy Process

Two years ago in Winnipeg, Doug committed to introduce a new process that would allow each of you to participate in SLC Policy Development. So, what happened?

Early in 2017, an open ended questionnaire was sent to 23,000 senior Registered Liberals. Over 4,000 replied with the issues they believed most important for next year's election.

Analysis led to a short list of 18 issues. The 4,000 respondents were emailed again, asking them to choose their top 3 from the 18. Over 900 replied, and their choices led to a focus on 6 issues for policy development.

National working groups prepared papers and 15 resolutions came out of those 6 issues. Finally, 2,100 seniors voted to prioritize those policy resolutions. I'll talk more about the process and then return to the 6 issues that matter most to seniors.

### 7 Key Steps (briefly depicted in corresponding slide presentation)

The Senior Liberals' Commission policy process is now considered a model for the Liberal Party.

Doug acknowledges valuable advice and support in this effort from SLC Policy Committee members and LPC National Policy Secretary David Hurford.

First, key issues are identified. National working groups look into them in depth. They develop working papers and resolutions. There is ongoing online consultation with interested seniors, who finally vote on resolutions they have helped refine.

### Results – 6 Issues

Let's go back to seniors' top issues for the 2019 election. Each participant had 3 votes. They picked 6 issues:

1. Strengthen healthcare throughout Canada. That includes better access to family doctors, reduced wait times for specialists and medical procedures, and innovation for greater efficiency.

2. Stronger efforts to create stable, quality jobs for all Canadians with an emphasis on real opportunities for the younger generation.
3. A continuum of affordable housing for seniors. This ranges from expanded home care service, to senior and dementia care facilities.
4. Government leadership to address all aspects of environmental sustainability.
5. Restructuring the economy to address the emerging challenges of the 21st Century.
6. Addressing the needs of low-income seniors.

## **Results – Priority Resolutions**

In the process I outlined a few minutes ago, our working groups developed 15 policy resolutions. The six top ranked resolutions you see here were submitted to the Party. These are the SLC resolutions. Some have questioned what they all have to do with seniors' needs.

Well, our mandate is to engage and represent senior Registered Liberals' interests and concerns, and those are expressed in the above resolutions. I believe that it reflects well on Canada's elders that they generally rank Canada's broader needs, as well as issues that will help Liberal candidates get elected, ahead of their individual concerns.

**This** is what our policy process is all about.

## **Post Mortem**

The Policy Committee has considered each element of their process, looking at what worked well; and what not so well. Overall, it was a significant improvement. However, we all know that better is always possible, and a number of areas can certainly be enhanced.

Some of them are under SLC control, for example working group time frames. Some need consideration within the overall LPC policy process, such as resolution co-sponsorship. Others would benefit from stronger administrative support from the Party, for example help in reaching out to even more Senior Registered Liberals.

Doug has made a number of suggestions to the SLC Co-chairs for consideration by the incoming SLC Policy Chair and the National Executive.

## **Future Challenges**

The policy process is built around the concept of continuous engagement. Policy development is not something that occurs in the last few months before the National Convention. It's an ongoing process. What are the goals?

One is for SLC members to vote for our policy resolutions to be included in party policy. Then we must continue to promote them within the party and with government.

It's equally important to keep grassroots Liberals informed of follow up. They have invested a great deal of time and energy in developing resolutions, and are very interested in results.

Keeping them in the loop can combat the cynicism that has accumulated over the years about whether it's worth getting involved in politics and policy.

Another crucial goal is to start work toward the 2020 National Convention, recognizing that much of next year will focus on the election campaign. The more we do early on, the better resolutions will result.

Finally, it's also critical to keep making our policy process better.

In closing, I thank each of you for your contribution to our Policy process.

I urge you to support our resolutions, not only the 3 SLC priorities (on the environment, healthcare and jobs), but others that respond to SLC national priority issues, as you can see on this slide.

I also invite you to speak with us at the policy table during the Meet and Greet following this AGM. We will be happy to talk about our resolutions and we have signup sheets for anyone interested in joining a national policy working group.

***Merci! ... Thank You!***

Hilary Williamson, Deputy SLC Policy Chair

## **Appendix C – Co-chairs Report**

Summary, as presented April 19, 2018 by Gregg Guptill and Anne Adams

The SLC has been very active over the last two years. We are pleased to provide the following summary.

### **Our Goals**

#### **VISIBILITY / CREDIBILITY**

Advance the visibility and credibility of the SLC such that the SLC is recognized by NBoD, PTBs, EDAs and Registered Liberals as a critical component of the LPC's future.

#### **GOVERNANCE**

Streamline and improve governance and operation of the Commission, its Sections and Clubs.

#### **EXPANSION**

Increase the number of senior Registered Liberals actively engaged in the SLC.

#### **POLICY PARTICIPATION**

Increase the number of senior Registered Liberals actively engaged in LPC policy development.

#### **COMMUNICATION**

Improve existing and utilize additional channels of communicating effectively with all senior Registered Liberals at the provincial, territorial and EDA levels.

### **Our activities included**

#### **SLC COMMITTEES**

Management | Charter | Policy | Communications

#### **SLC WORKING GROUPS**

Commission By-law | Convention Program

#### **LPC BYLAW DEVELOPMENT**

Five months - July to November, 2017,  
SLC very involved on all By-law Working Groups,  
Two members per Working Group, thirteen in all

#### **SLC CHARTER DEVELOPMENT**

Ten months - March, 2017 to January, 2018,  
Committee of six, plus Co-Chairs,  
Submitted to LPC - January 29, 2018, NBoD approval pending.

#### POLICY DEVELOPMENT

New process developed over the last six years,  
Evolving process - will be refined,  
Direct influence on the new LPC process,  
National issues identified and prioritized,  
National Policy Resolution Working Groups established,  
SLC process is recognized by LPC as a template,  
All three SLC resolutions were selected by the LPC process.

#### CONVENTION PROGRAM

Expanded for 2018

#### **Important factors and achievements**

#### LPC ALLOCATION FOR SLC

Increased from \$5,000 in 2014 to \$7,000 in 2015,  
Increased to \$25,000 in 2016 to 2018

#### EXPENDITURES

Survey software,  
Administrative software,  
Communications,  
Section activities, Promotional materials,  
Limited travel

#### SLC SUPPORT FOR SECTIONS

Attended Section General Meetings in BC, ON, QC, PEI, NL,  
Planned travel to more AGMs but funds not available,  
SLC conference line opened to Sections and committees,  
Annual work plans - process refined in 2017 - evolving,  
Allocation of funds for Section activity - initiated in 2017,  
Development of Club formation and governance packages

#### LPC LIAISON & SUPPORT

Steadily improving, stronger support is required

#### COMMUNICATION WITH MEMBERS

Gradually improving, more improvement is required  
Liberalist access, now available, will play a major role

**LIBERALIST ACCESS**

SLC input to By-law 4 - contact information made available,  
SLC Liberalist access - previously denied - now available,  
SLC Liberalist network - implementation is now possible

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