

7.3.4 FC-2010.01.27 (Motion # to be added)

Title: Leadership Review

Sponsor: Richard Tyssen, Federal Council

Background:

1. There are some who feel that Bylaw 2.1.4.5 should be re-written. This by-law requires a fixed 4-year term for the Leader position, necessitating a 4 year Leadership contest cycle regardless of the electoral cycle. This 4-year requirement creates unnecessary risks to the GPC. These risks include the possibility of creating a period of uncertainty regarding GPC Leadership during the lead up to an election, and the risk of requiring the then present Leader to step down during the Leadership contest period. This may leave the GPC without an elected Leader during a Federal election.
2. Having a Leadership contest at the upcoming BGM in August, 2010 would require Elizabeth May to step down as Leader during the 3-5 month Leadership contest period before the August BGM. This creates a significant risk for the GPC. A Federal election may be called during this Leadership contest period, and the GPC would enter this election with either no Leader or at most an interim Leader.
3. It would be disruptive and distracting to have a Leadership contest in the current pre-election period when all our resources should be focused on preparing for the next election. Such a Leadership contest would be expensive, for the party, for party members supporting leadership candidates, and for the Leadership candidates themselves. All financial and human resources in the GPC should be made available for the upcoming election campaign rather than a Leadership contest.
4. Such a Leadership contest can be avoided, while at the same time testing the support of the GPC membership for Elizabeth May's leadership, by holding a Leadership review at the August BGM rather than a Leadership contest. This allows the membership to determine whether it desires an immediate Leadership contest, without prematurely triggering such a contest. It allows the membership to decide whether it wishes to risk having no elected Leader in a pre-election period. It avoids the necessity of Elizabeth May having to step down during a Leadership contest in advance of the BGM.
5. In addition, offering a motion at the August BGM to amend the current provision requiring a Leadership contest every 4 years allows the membership to decide whether the risks created by this provision are acceptable.
6. Should the GPC hold a Leadership review vote rather than a Leadership contest at the August BGM, and should the membership reject a motion to amend the current 4 year Leadership contest requirement, there is still time to hold a Leadership contest subsequent to the BGM within

the 4-year requirement. This Leadership contest would be informed by the results of the Leadership review at the August BGM.

MOTION:

That Federal Council circulate an amendment to GPC By-law 2.1.4.5 as part of the notice to the membership of the August 2010 BGM, and that this amendment include at least the following provisions:

- * A Leadership review vote by the GPC membership will be required within six (6) months of every Federal election, unless the Leader is elected Prime Minister.
- * In addition, if the Leader is not Prime Minister at the time, a Leadership review vote will be held within two years of the last Leadership review vote or Leadership election, whichever is later.
- * A Leadership review vote will be held to test the membership's support of the Leader.
- * A Leadership review vote may be held at a BGM or at a special meeting of members, or may take place by other means, including on-line and mail in votes.
- * The minimum level of membership support required in a Leadership review vote shall be 60% of the votes cast by eligible members, failing which the Leader will be required to resign as Leader, a Leadership contest held, and a Leadership convention convened.
- * Should the Leader be required to resign as a result of a Leadership review vote, Federal Council will appoint an Interim Leader to serve until another Leader is elected by the membership.

and, that Federal Council charge the appropriate Federal Council committee with the task of drafting the precise wording of this proposed amendment to be considered at the BGM.

MOTION:

That a Leadership contest be held and a Leadership convention be convened before the end of 2010 should an amendment to GPC By-law 2.1.4.5 fail to be passed by the membership at the August 2010 BGM.

MOTION:

That the Green Party of Canada hold a Leadership review vote as part of the August 2010 BGM, and that the minimum level of membership support required in this vote shall be 60% of the votes cast by eligible members, failing which the Leader will be required to resign as Leader, a Leadership contest held, and a Leadership convention convened before the end of 2010.