

**The Toronto Party  
Draft Constitution – July 16, 2008**

**ARTICLE ONE - NAME OF THE PARTY**

1.1 The name of the organization shall be The Toronto Party (the “Party”)

**ARTICLE TWO – POLITICAL NON-AFFILIATION**

2.1 The Party shall not be affiliated with any provincial or federal political party.

**ARTICLE THREE - OBJECTIVES**

3.1 The objectives of the Party are as follows:

- (a) To promote democratic participation at the municipal level, and to assist interested persons to become active in the political process.
- (b) To promote and establish democratic institutions, including civic parties, at the municipal level.
- (c) To assist only members of the Party running for elected civic office.
- (d) To provide a forum for the membership of the Party to participate in political discussion and to assist in the formation of municipal policies to be used as guidelines for Party platforms during and between elections.

**ARTICLE FOUR – GUIDING PARTY PRINCIPLES**

4. The operation of the party shall be guided by the following principles:

- (a) The Party derives its strength from its grassroots membership;
- (b) The Party shall be focused on serving the interests of Toronto;
- (c) The free expression of diverse views and opinions shall be encouraged;  
and
- (d) Collaboration shall be encouraged with diverse community groups and organizations from across various neighbourhoods.

**ARTICLE FIVE – GUIDING POLICY PRINCIPLES**

5. The Party shall be guided by the principles of providing responsible government, and its guiding policy principles shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- (a) To bring fiscal responsibility to city government;
- (b) To ensure that residents receive value for their tax dollars;

- (c) To ensure that Toronto's government prioritizes core services;
- (d) To ensure that residents are engaged in the civic government process so that future development is in keeping with the preservation of unique local neighbourhoods;
- (e) To recognize that modern infrastructure is a key component to a city.;
- (f) To create an open and transparent decision-making process;
- (g) To create a climate that fosters job creation and economic growth;
- (h) To protect people and property;
- (i) To support social, financial and environmental actions that lead to a sustainable city;
- (j) To preserve our city's heritage, to value our culture and to support our arts;
- (k) To build a city that encourages a healthy lifestyle through fitness, sports and recreation.

## **ARTICLE SIX – MEMBERSHIP**

6.1 Membership is open to all persons, 14 years old or older, resident in Canada, until such time as legislation may limit such jurisdictional designation.

6.2 A person is a member in good standing of the Party, if he or she has paid his or her annual membership dues and is in compliance with all other requirements of this Constitution.

6.3 The membership period shall be 00:01 hours January 1st, to 23:59 hours December 31st inclusive, unless this Constitution provides otherwise.

6.4 Every membership granted in the Party before 23:59 hours October 31st shall expire December 31st of the year in which the membership was granted

6.5 Every membership granted in the Party after 23:59 hours October 31st shall expire December 31st of the year following the year in which the membership was granted.

6.6 The Executive of the Party, as set out below, shall from time to time review the membership fees, application forms, registry process and record keeping. Annual membership fees shall be prescribed by the Executive and set out in a by-law of the Party

6.7.1 The Party shall maintain only one official central registry of all Party members, which shall be the list of members maintained by the Recording Secretary, and shall make available to each Party candidate a list of Party members in his or her ward, and make available a list of all Party members to a duly chosen Mayoral candidate, and may from time to time make such list available to local ward officials of the Party as deemed necessary by the Executive.

6.7.2 Although a person may be entitled to obtain membership in the Party by completing a Membership Form or registering for membership online, he/she will not become a member of the Party until such time as the Membership or online registration is received by the Vice-President, Membership, with verification of payment of the appropriate membership fee.

6.8 The central membership registry may be used for fundraising by the Executive for the purposes of raising funds for the Party

6.9 Any membership list created by the Party is a confidential asset of the Party.

6.10 A copy of the most current membership list shall be available to members of the Executive. A member in good standing shall be eligible to view a hard copy of the party's membership list upon providing the Secretary with written notice, 21 days in advance, of such request. No copy of the membership list shall be provided to a viewing member.

6.11 No person shall participate in Party business who is not a member in good standing.

## **ARTICLE SEVEN – PARTY EXECUTIVE**

7.1 The Executive of the Party (the “**Executive**”) shall consist of:

(i) the following 13 Officer positions:

- (a) President;
- (b) Executive Vice-President;
- (c) 6 Ward Vice-Presidents representing the following Wards as at the date of this Constitution: Wards 1-7; Wards 8-10, 23, 24, 33, 39-40; Wards 11-14 and 17-19; Wards 15-16, 20-22 and 27-28; Wards 25-26, 29-32, 34 and 37; and Ward 35-36, 38, and 41-44.;
- (d) Recording Secretary;
- (e) Treasurer;
- (f) Vice-President, Membership;
- (g) Vice-President, Communications
- (h) Vice-President, Fundraising; and

(ii) the following individuals:

- (a) The party's candidate for Mayor, if elected;
- (b) Immediate past-President;
- (c) Ex-officio Voting Members as set out herein;
- (d) Ex-officio non-Voting Members as set out herein; and
- (e) The Chairperson of each Committee established by the Executive.

7.2. The Ex-officio Voting Members of the Executive shall be as follows:

(a) Members of the initial Advisory Committee, who are set out in Schedule "A" and who did not seek election to the Executive at the first General Meeting of the Party. These members shall hold their position until the first General Meeting following the 2010 Municipal Election.

(b) The two founding members of the Party (the "**Co-founders**"), as set out and designated in Schedule "A". The Co-founders shall hold their position until the first General Meeting following the 2010 Municipal Election, and thereafter shall be Ex-Officio non-Voting Members until the first General Meeting following the 2014 Municipal Election.

7.3 In addition, to the ex-officio status granted to the Co-founders under section 7.2, the Ex-Officio non-Voting Members of the Executive shall include all former Mayors, who were elected to this position as a chosen representative of the Party.

7.4 Any party member in good standing who has purchased a membership a minimum of 90 days prior to a General Meeting date shall be eligible for nomination and election to any of the offices for which that member is qualified.

7.5 The election of Officers shall take place at a General Meeting.

7.6 All terms of office shall be one year or until a successor is elected or appointed in accordance with the Constitution.

7.7 No person shall be elected to a particular Officer position for more than 4 terms and shall not serve as an Officer for more than 8 years.

7.8 The six Ward Vice-presidents must either reside in or normally carry on business in the designated Ward for which they hold office as set out in section 6.1(i)(c), and only individuals that reside or normally carry on business in such Ward may cast a ballot for that position. A member may only be entitled to cast a ballot for one Ward Vice-president.

7.9.1 In the event of an Officer's resignation or absence from three consecutive meetings of the Executive, without reasonable excuse, the office held by that Officer is automatically vacant. The Executive, however, in its discretion, may reverse the automatic vacancy.

7.9.2 An Officer who fails to discharge his/her duties as set out in this Constitution may be sanctioned by a two-thirds vote of non-confidence of the entire Executive. A non-confidence vote cannot be held unless 30 days prior notice of such a motion is provided to the Executive. Resignation is not peremptory.

7.9.3 A vacancy may be filled by an appointee by the Executive for the balance of a term.

7.10.1 The following persons are not eligible to serve as Officers of the Party:

- (a) an employee of or a paid consultant engaged by the Party;
- (b) a member or employee of the political staff of any Toronto city councillor, school board trustee or the Mayor; and
- (c) a member of the National Executive of any provincial or federal political party.

7.10.2 Any member of the Executive who registers as a candidate for the municipal election, is nominated by the Party as a candidate for the municipal election or who is a duly nominated or registered candidate for a provincial or federal party must resign his/her Officer position. The vacancy created as a result of such resignation may be filled by appointment by the Executive.

## **ARTICLE EIGHT – DUTIES OF THE EXECUTIVE**

8.1 The Executive shall be responsible for carrying out the decisions of the Party, and carrying out and administering the business of the Party, including, but not limited to, its financial affairs. The Executive shall also be responsible for authorizing persons or committees, including committees to deal with fundraising, policy and organization, to act on behalf of the Party. The Chairs of each committee shall become non-voting members of the Party's Executive.

8.2 The Executive, in consultation with the respective Ward Vice-Presidents, shall appoint a ward official for each Ward.

8.2.1 A Ward Official will have the responsibility of gathering information about their Ward, including, without limitation, information about Ward demographics, active community organizations, and potential candidates, and work to increase the profile of the Party within the Ward and recruit new members. Ward Officials will liaise with and report to their respective Ward Vice-Presidents on a regular basis.

## **ARTICLE NINE – DUTIES OF THE OFFICERS**

9.1.1 President: The President shall:

- (a) abide by and enforce the Constitution of the Party;
- (b) preside over all meetings of the Party, unless otherwise directed by the Executive;
- (c) decide all questions of order, announce the results of all votes and cast the deciding vote in case of a tie at all meetings;
- (d) be an ex-officio member of all committees created by the Executive from time to time; and
- (e) call all meetings of the Executive.

9.1.2 If the President seeks re-election at a general meeting and is opposed for re-election, the Executive shall appoint another person to chair the general meeting, and such chair shall have the deciding vote in the case of any tie.

9.2 Executive Vice President: The Executive Vice-President shall act in the place and stead of the President whenever the President is absent, resigns or is unable to discharge the duties imposed by this Constitution.

9.3 Ward Vice Presidents shall:

- (a) be responsible for the promotion of the Party within their respective areas;
- (b) present to the Executive the specific concerns of their respective Wards;
- (c) be responsible for organization at the Ward level;
- (d) perform such other duties as determined from time to time by the Executive.

9.4.1 Recording Secretary: The Recording Secretary shall

- (a) ensure that a full and accurate record of the meetings of the Party and of the Executive be kept and communicated on a regular basis to the Executive and ward officials;
- (b) give notice of all Executive, special, and general meetings;
- (c) maintain the official central registry of Party members; and
- (d) in the absence of the availability of the Treasurer, be one of any two signing officers of the Party on all cheques and other bank documents.

9.4.2 If the Secretary is absent from an Executive meeting, the Executive shall appoint another Officer to take minutes.

9.5.1 Treasurer: The Treasurer shall:

- (a) administer the finances of the Party in conjunction with the Executive;
- (b) shall ensure that a full and correct record of the revenue and expenses of the Executive shall be kept;
- (c) cause a draft annual budget for the Party to be prepared no later than December 15<sup>th</sup> of the year preceding the financial year to which said budget relates and have it presented for ratification by the Executive elected in the financial year to which the said budget relates.
- (d) report on the finances of the Party at each meeting of the Executive and at each general meeting; and
- (e) be one of any two signing officers of the Party on all cheques and other bank documents.

9.6 Vice-President, Membership: The Vice-President, Membership shall:

- (a) create a current record of the names, addresses, phone numbers and e-mail addresses of all members of the Party and forward to the Recording Secretary the official central registry of Party members;
- (b) develop and present to the Executive a strategy for recruiting new members to the Party; and

(c) be an ex-officio member of any membership recruitment committee that is established by the Party.

9.7 Vice-President, Communications: The Vice-President, Communications shall

- (a) form a communications committee;
- (b) be responsible for preparing and co-ordinating the publication of a monthly newsletter and other material, including, but not limited to, press releases, opinion pieces and website material; and
- (c) be responsible for preparing and co-ordinating standard form election material for use by party candidates during the course of a municipal election.

9.8 Vice-President, Fundraising: The Vice-President, Fundraising shall

- (a) be responsible for creating and implementing a strategy for raising money for the Party;
- (b) create and maintain a list of all donors and potential donors to the Party which shall be forwarded to the Recording Secretary. This list shall be a confidential asset of the Party and shall be used by the Executive for fundraising purposes; and
- (c) be an ex-officio member of any Fundraising Committee that is established by the Party

#### **ARTICLE TEN – EXECUTIVE MEETINGS**

10.1 The Executive shall meet no less than 4 times annually, except in a year in which a municipal election is to be held, when the Executive must meet no less than 5 times.

10.2 A quorum for a meeting of the Executive shall be 50% of the Executive or 7 members, whichever is less, and must include the President or the Vice President and either the Secretary or Treasurer, and until the end of 2010 Municipal Election, one of the Co-Founders.

10.3 The President or the Vice President, as the case may be, when presiding at a meeting shall vote only to break a tie.

10.4.1 A meeting of the Executive may be called on a minimum of 21 days notice by the President. Such notice shall be given in writing and shall state the purpose of the meeting.

10.4.2 An emergency meeting of the Executive may be called by the President with no less than 24 hours notice to all Executive members.

10.5 Six or more voting members of the Executive may cause a meeting to be called by submitting a request in writing to the Secretary, who shall call a meeting within 7 days of receipt of such a request.

10.6 Meetings shall be conducted in person. However, persons unable to attend a meeting may participate via conference call or other electronic form of communication available to the Party.

#### **ARTICLE ELEVEN - GENERAL MEETINGS**

11.1 The Party shall hold a general meeting in the first four months of each calendar year which shall be advertised not less than 30 days in advance of its convening. In addition to the election of Officers, the agenda for a general meeting can include, but shall not be limited to, the selection of a Mayoral candidate, the adoption of policies, and the adoption of amendments to the Constitution.

11.2 The Executive shall have the authority to hold other meetings of members, which shall be advertised not less than 30 days in advance.

11.3 Quorum for any meeting of party members must be 10% of the membership as determined 90 days in advance of the meeting.

#### **ARTICLE TWELVE – CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS**

12.1 Any member in good standing may propose amendments to the Constitution, 60 days prior to the next general meeting or special meeting at which Constitutional amendments will be voted upon provided they are written so as to enable circulation to party members.

12.2 Proposed Constitutional amendments shall be posted on the Party's website and shall be included in the Notice of Meeting circulated to Party members.

12.3 Votes on proposed amendments shall take place following debate. A majority of two-thirds shall be required to pass any amendment

#### **ARTICLE THIRTEEN – VOTING**

13.1 All voting shall be by show of hands, except in the case of elections, when secret ballots shall be cast if there is more than one candidate for an elected office.

13.2 To vote at any meeting, a person must be a member in good standing of the Party 21 days prior to the meeting. However, an immediate past member who has not renewed his/her membership since the preceding year is eligible to vote upon renewal of his/her membership prior to the meeting.

13.3 For the election of Officers, the First-Past-the-Post method will be used to determine who will be elected.

#### **ARTICLE FOURTEEN – FINANCIAL AUTHORITY**

14. The Party shall be required to have at least a minimum of two signing officers for all bank accounts and other financial documents. At all times, the Party's Treasurer shall be one of the two required signing officers, and in his/her absence the Recording Secretary shall be one of the two required signing officers.

#### **ARTICLE FIFTEEN – ETHICS REQUIREMENT**

15.1 All persons nominated for or elected to civic office as a member of the Party shall adhere to the Party's Code of Ethics and Conduct. Failure to comply with the Party's Code of Ethics and Conduct shall result in disciplinary sanction, which may include termination as a member of the Party.

15.2 The Executive shall appoint an Ethics and Integrity Chair and work with him/her to draft and enforce the Code of Ethics and Conduct.

#### **ARTICLE SIXTEEN – MEMBERSHIP REVOCATION**

16.1 The Executive shall have the authority, upon a complaint signed by at least 5 members, to revoke the membership of any Party member.

16.2 Membership of a Party member can only be revoked on the following grounds:

- (a) conviction for a *Criminal Code* offence;
- (b) breach of the Party's Code of Ethics and Conduct; and
- (c) published public statements and comments that promote discrimination or hatred.

16.3 The procedure to revoke membership shall be determined from time to time by the Ethics and Integrity Chair, but shall at a minimum contain a process which permits the member facing revocation to respond to a complaint, orally or in writing, prior to a decision being made by the Executive.

#### **ARTICLE SEVENTEEN – APPEALS PROCEDURE**

17.1 A Member whose membership has been revoked shall have the right to appeal pursuant to the Party's appeal rules.

17.2 The Executive shall be responsible for drafting and implementing the Party's appeal rules. Until such time as the appeal rules are drafted and passed by the Executive, a membership cannot be revoked.

**THE TORONTO PARTY CONSTITUTION**

**JULY 16, 2008**

**SCHEDULE "A"**

**The Toronto Party Co-Founders are listed below:**

**Brian Roussie; and**

**Stephen Thiele**

**Members of The Toronto Party Steering Committee, which include the party Co-Founders listed above, are listed below in alphabetical order:**

**Anne Dawson;**

**David Carr;**

**Ed Sweet;**

**James Alcock;**

**John Eisan;**

**Maxwell Wynter;**

**Paul Henderson;**

**Steve Petrie;**

**Styli Pappas; and**

**Tony Dickins**