

Thank you!

A whopping 1287 delegates voted in the election for the four Ontario representatives on the CPC National Council. I have been told that this was a record high turnout. Thank you!

Each Ontario delegate was required by the rules to vote for exactly four candidates. Contrary to the Conservative Party constitution, there was no opportunity to “rank” the candidates with a “preferential ballot”, as in some previous conventions. (More on this “Team O’Toole” constitutional violation in a future email.)

Here are the results, with the top four being elected:

#### ONTARIO CPC NATIONAL COUNCILLORS

Candidate	Votes	Percentage
<b>Aarssen, Pete</b>	<b>822</b>	<b>63.87%</b>
<b>Chen, Bert</b> (incumbent)	<b>663</b>	<b>51.52 %</b>
<b>Barzilay, Shir</b> (incumbent)	<b>643</b>	<b>49.96 %</b>
<b>Johnson, Kara</b>	<b>643</b>	<b>49.96 %</b>
Van Gaalen, Matthijs (incumbent)	629	48.87 %
Melek, Ghada	593	46.08 %
Kiff, Stewart	486	37.76 %
Gorel, Jason	252	19.58 %
MacNeill, Mary	233	18.10 %
Yu, Bruce	184	14.3 %

**TOTAL VOTES CAST: 1287**

What do these results mean? Why did Pete Aarssen get so many more votes than all the others? And what effect did the endorsements (PAFE, Campaign Life Coalition, Right Now etc.) have on the results? And what happened to the so-called “Red Tory” candidates?

There are a few things that you need to know to make sense of these numbers. First of all, of the 1400 or so Ontario delegates, PAFE identified approximately 800 “socially conservative” or otherwise parental rights sympathetic delegates. Indeed, PAFE encouraged most of these to attend in the first place, and helped them get elected as delegates in their ridings. This effort was building upon the successful delegate effort and turnout we undertook at the Ontario PC provincial convention in 2018. If you ran to be a delegate this time, or even simply voted in your riding for the PAFE delegates, THANK YOU AGAIN!

PAFE endorsed three candidates: Pete Aarssen, Kara Johnson, and Ghada Melek. All three were outstanding pro-family, social conservatives, and in our opinion, were far and away the best candidates for National Council in Ontario. We did not endorse a fourth candidate because there were pros and cons with each of the remaining candidates including some we completely ruled out. None of the remaining candidates were clear green lights, like Kara, Ghada and Pete. We did suggest that Bert Chen, Matthijs Van Gaalen, Stewart Kiff and Jason Gorel had good and bad points, and out of them delegates could select a fourth choice- but we did not endorse them.

So, with such a great many PAFE supporters and other socially conservative delegates, how is it that Pete Aarssen got slightly in excess of the 800-total number of social conservatives, while Kara Johnson and Ghada Melek lagged behind? Kara Johnson narrowly won (by 14 votes) and Ghada Melek narrowly lost (by 50 votes).

The short answer is “vote-splitting”. The awkward truth is that while PAFE, Vote Family, Tanya Granic Allen, and MP Derek Sloan all supported the three best pro-family candidates, two other groups – Campaign Life Coalition (CLC) and Right Now supported a different list of four candidates. They endorsed the three Conservative Party National Council incumbents – Bert Chen, Shir Barzilay, and Matthijs Van Gaalen- and then added Pete Aarssen as a fourth choice. Two of the CLC / Right Now picks are very weak social conservatives, at best, and one (Shir Barzilay) was, by CLC’s Jack Fonseca’s own admission, not even pro-life. Because the CLC/ Right Now slate was so aggressively promoted by these two groups, many social conservatives were confused and misled into voting for weak or bad candidates, and missed the chance to vote for Kara Johnson and Ghada Melek.

Luckily for Pete Aarssen, he received the endorsements of all of the above-named groups, so there was no “vote-splitting” for him; he received virtually 100% of the socially conservative vote, and then a few extra.

But Pete Aarssen was the *only candidate* to receive all of the “social conservative” endorsements, and he was the only candidate to get to the 800-vote number- the number of social conservative delegates in Ontario.

Reports from many of you have flooded in that CLC was warning all of the socially conservative delegates under their influence that they really had no choice, that they

had to vote for their four endorsed candidates. CLC insisted that unless delegates followed their advice, then the socially conservative vote would split and that the Erin O'Toole "Red Tories" would win and all would be lost.

PAFE was disturbed to receive your reports.

So, who were these "Red Tories"? CLC repeatedly held out the examples of Michael Wilson and Mary MacNeill. But Michael Wilson dropped out of the race in early March and wasn't even on the ballot. As for Mary MacNeill, we agree that she would have been a bad choice, but she only received 233 votes and never had a shot. And PAFE knew that based on our high delegate count. Other than Pete Aarssen, those candidates endorsed by one or another of the above-named groups all received between 593 and 663 votes. That's over double and almost triple the number of votes from the one identified "Red Tory" Mary MacNeill.

There was NEVER a Red Tory threat. Even as newspapers reported, there were so many social conservative delegates signed up for the convention that it was ours to lose. Any vote splitting that was to occur would have been among "social conservative" leaning candidates. And with a spectrum of these candidates, and with our pick of the litter, why wouldn't all the groups out there endorse the very best candidates? The crème de la crème?

Truly, it is the great irony of this convention that the socially conservative vote was split AGAINST the strongest socially conservative, principled candidates, with clean track records.

Despite not receiving CLC's endorsement, Kara Johnson was successful in her comeback bid, but only by 14 votes. PAFE had to really work hard to ensure all the social conservative delegates knew she was running, and that she was the best possible candidate. I cannot go into all the details here, of the alarming treatment of Kara Johnson by groups such as CLC, and their exclusion of her from list of endorsements. There may very well have to be a follow-up report only on that point. We shall see.

But what about Ghada Melek? Perhaps even more of a scandal is Jack Fonseca's betrayal of Ghada, a true social conservative and parental rights hero. Back in early February Jack Fonseca promised Ghada that she would receive CLC's endorsement. But as soon as Erin O'Toole's team illegally "cancelled" Ghada and refused to put her on the ballot, Jack Fonseca and CLC dropped Ghada completely. Though CLC abandoned Ghada, PAFE continued to support and promote her through her most difficult moments. PAFE even financially contributed to Ghada's lawsuit, and included her on all of our convention update Zoom calls. After Ghada won her historic lawsuit which many are calling a David and Goliath battle (read the decision by [CLICKING HERE](#)), Ghada asked Jack Fonseca to honour CLC's previous commitment to her, and

endorse her. Jack refused. The CLC endorsements wouldn't change or expand to include Ghada. What was written, was written.

And when it comes to the record of the three Conservative Party incumbents – Chen, Barzilay, and Van Gaalen – CLC shamelessly misrepresented their supposedly “solid” records, especially when it came to Shir Barzilay. In the hours leading up to the convention, and in the days following, PAFE has obtained new information regarding just how bad some of the CLC/Right Now-endorsed candidates have behaved, especially in recent months. There are so many red flags here, that it's simply too much to disclose in this email. This too might require a separate analysis.

In summary, CLC misrepresented the political situation, and there was no danger of Red Tories getting elected in Ontario this time. CLC's insistence on supporting the three incumbents with questionable voting records including one who isn't even pro-life, led to a terrible splitting of the socially conservative vote, and nearly cost Kara Johnson her victory, and denied Ghada Melek her opportunity to continue to fight for the Conservative Party grassroots from a position on the National Council. These are scandals, and you need to be aware of them.

Thank you for standing with us.

Thank you for trusting us.

Thank you for voting for Ghada Melek, Kara Johnson and Pete Aarssen.

Working with PAFE, you helped to make sure that almost 60% of the Ontario delegates to this convention were “our people”. We did exceedingly well in these elections, and were it not for the misleading, vote-splitting advice from CLC and Right Now, grassroots hero Ghada Melek would also have won, and would be advocating for you and your democratic rights on National Council.

Next time!

Best regards,



Teresa Pierre, Ph.D.

P.S. If you were one of those delegates who did not vote for all three of Pete Aarssen, Kara Johnson, and Ghada Melek, and you now regret your vote, please send us a note and let us know at [teresa@pafe.ca](mailto:teresa@pafe.ca).