

# who we are

## Why what happens at the Calgary SGM is critical to the success of Electoral Reform and the Green Party of Canada

We believe that we must earn the public trust. We believe we have a responsibility to offer an alternative to the current economic model of ever expanding consumption. We believe in a sustainable future that puts quality of life ahead of profit, innovation ahead of greed, long term national interest ahead of short term political gain. We believe in putting the Eco back into our Economy because we know that we live in a finite ecosphere.

And because we live in a finite ecosphere, we have to find ways of working together so that our civilization can thrive. That's why we believe in consensus based governance models that put an end to the winner take all mentality of first-past-the-post. That's why we recognize the historic opportunity for updating our electoral system and why we believe it matters to every Canadian.

We have a responsibility not just to our 20,000 members but to the 600,000 Canadians who voted for us and the countless thousands who wanted to but couldn't because the ideological extremism of the previous government had to be stopped. We have a responsibility to every Canadian who knows climate change is a real and a serious threat to their children's future. We have a responsibility to earn the right to govern and influence policy.

To earn that right we, as a political party, have to ensure that everything we do and all our party policies affirm our commitment to our collective values. We must insure that our commitment to participatory democracy does not allow us to be detracted by special interest groups seeking a platform for their cause. To do so would not only erode public confidence in our party but threaten the credibility of Greens in Parliament.

The events of last summer's convention have cast a spotlight on our internal affairs. They have highlighted a vulnerability created by a fixation on efficiency and exacerbated by post campaign fatigue. If a small and random representation of our membership at a convention can have the final say on a highly controversial and divisive policy resolution, we may run the risk of jeopardizing our hard won advances on Electoral Reform. To successfully champion the migration from a majoritarian oppositional voting system to consensus based governance our internal procedures must also be proportional and rooted in consensus.

So we owe it to ourselves, we owe it to our voters, and we owe it to the Canadian public, to build consensus around contentious issues. This is a fantastic opportunity to review our internal processes. This is the time to ensure that any resolutions passed as policy or entrenched in our constitution has the full support of our membership and our leadership, and meets our overall objectives of representing a Green Vision, for a sustainable future, in the House of Commons.