

# **PROPOSED BY-LAWS STOP THE CUTS SASKATOON**

**Prepared for the 1<sup>st</sup> AGM -- October 5, 2017**

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

These by-laws were developed over the summer of 2017. They are intended to be a living document, evolving over time as the organizations grows and evolves.

## **2. PRINCIPLES, GOALS, AND VALUES**

- a. The organizational structure should be non-partisan, horizontal (non-hierarchical) and a safe space for all.
- b. The organizational structure should seek to articulate and represent:
  - i. a structural approach;
  - ii. a “big tent” approach – respecting the autonomy of individual committees and chapters;
  - iii. alternatives to austerity;
  - iv. a vision, structures, and tactics that persist post-austerity;
  - v. a four-year vision and plan;
  - vi. a reshaping and repositioning of dialogue with civil society.
- c. The organizational structure should ensure:
  - i. respect and support for multiple strategies;
  - ii. actions and ways of doing things that are self-defined by local groups/initiatives, provided they are non-discriminatory (i.e. guided by our ‘Safer Space’ policy);
  - iii. that every voice counts through an agreed upon democratic decision-making process;
  - iv. that at our meetings and events, we explicitly welcome people of all ethnicities, genders, abilities, sexual orientations, languages, faiths, immigration statuses, and all other forms of human difference. We will not tolerate abuse, hatred, or disrespect on these or other grounds. We are committed to working out other conflicts or disagreements that may arise in a respectful manner if and when they occur. (This is referred to as the ‘Safer Space’ policy.)

- d. It shall be a goal of Stop The Cuts Saskatoon that a legacy of the work of the next few years will be a network of skilled and experienced activists. To that end, membership on the Executive Committee will have a skill sharing aspect to it as explained in section 6.a.

### **3. MEMBERSHIP**

#### a. Definition:

- i. A member of Stop The Cuts Saskatoon is considered to be a voting member after attendance at one meeting and providing some form of contact information;
- ii. In order to determine membership, at the start of each meeting it will be asked who is a new member, and contact information shall be requested;
- iii. If a person arrives mid-meeting, it is the role of a member of the Executive Committee to check for membership and, if required, to get contact information for the new member.

#### b. Voting rights:

- i. One member, one vote.

#### c. Revocation of Membership

- i. If a person violates the Safer Space policy, that person can be asked to leave the meeting by suggestion from the floor, voiced to the Chair.
- ii. If this occurs a second time, the person will be asked to leave the organization permanently.

- d. Stop the Cuts Saskatoon refuses all formal alliances with any political parties or anti-political sects, and disclaims responsibility for any individual opinion or act which may be at variance with the purposes herein expressed.

### **4. GOVERNANCE - EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

The role of the Executive Committee shall be to:

- i. facilitate implementation of decisions made by mass meetings;
- ii. take emergency decisions between mass meetings if/as required;
- iii. select co-chairs for mass meetings who are well-versed in Rusty's Rules of Order;
- iv. manage the affairs of Stop The Cuts Saskatoon (e.g. organizational matters such as booking of meeting spaces, the website and mailing list, finances, liaison with groups elsewhere in the province, etc.);

- v. recognize new and existing members and manage membership lists.
- a. Executive Committee elections, quorum, term, and composition:
- i. The Executive Committee shall consist of nine members, elected by secret ballot at a mass annual general meeting. Nominations for the Executive Committee shall be received by the Executive Committee in the month preceding the election.
  - ii. Quorum for meetings of the Executive Committee shall be set at a simple majority of Executive Committee members.
  - iii. The term of the initial Executive Committee shall be until a mass meeting in the fall. However, members of the Executive Committee can be subject to recall by vote at the next mass meeting following the motion for recall.
  - iv. Stop The Cuts Saskatoon shall facilitate gender parity, diversity, and inclusivity on the Executive Committee.
  - v. The Executive Committee can appoint members to positions (e.g. Media Spokesperson, Recording Secretary, Financial Co-ordinator, etc.) as it sees fit.
  - vi. Vacancies in the Executive Committee shall be filled by election at the next mass meeting.
- b. Meetings of the Executive Committee:
- i. Members of the Executive Committee may participate in meetings by phone or by Skype if desired/necessary.
  - ii. The Executive Committee shall meet every second Thursday, on the weeks when there is no mass meeting.
  - iii. The Executive Committee can meet on time-sensitive issues with a notification sent to Saskatoon Chapter Committees. If there is enough time, a notification will be sent out earlier with feedback requests
  - iv. Any member of Stop The Cuts Saskatoon can attend a meeting of the Executive Committee but will not have voting rights.
  - v. Minutes will be kept of all Executive Committee meetings and will be circulated to all members of Stop The Cuts Saskatoon who wish to receive them.
- c. Finances:
- i. The finances of Stop The Cuts Saskatoon shall be managed in a transparent manner, with the details of how the bank accounts are managed (signing authorities, etc.) being left to the Executive Committee to determine.
  - ii. The Executive Committee and the mass meeting membership shall each receive a summary financial report at their respective first meetings of every month.

## **5. CHAPTERS / EXPANSION**

The organization will be Saskatoon-specific to start with, but the Executive Committee will be tasked with contacting and communicating with groups and individuals elsewhere in the province to explore the possibility of building a non-hierarchical province-wide body.

## **6. GENERAL MEETINGS**

- a. In order to achieve the skill sharing aspect of the organization and to facilitate building a capable and experienced network of activists, Stop The Cuts Saskatoon shall be committed to mentorship by pairing up new and practiced persons in necessary roles.
- b. This includes, but is not limited to, co-chairing meetings, keeping speaker lists, time-keeping, minute taking, monitoring membership lists, and serving in various roles on committees.
- b. To the greatest degree possible, mass meetings will be held on a regular basis, every second Thursday.
- c. All meetings of Stop The Cuts Saskatoon shall operate by Rusty's Rules of Order (<http://iww.org/oldbranches/US/CA/lagmb/lit/meeting.pdf>).
- d. Mass meetings shall be the highest decision-making body of Stop The Cuts Saskatoon .
- e. Quorum shall be eleven people, three of whom must be members of the Executive Committee.

## **7. COMMITTEES**

- a. Committees can be created or dissolved by a vote of either a mass meeting or the Executive Committee and shall manage their internal affairs as they deem appropriate.
- b. All committees shall be given 'mic time' at mass meetings.
- c. Any committee seeking funds from Stop The Cuts Saskatoon is required to submit in writing a request and a budget for said funds. Discussion and decisions regarding disbursement of such funds shall take place at the following mass meeting.