

Special Resolution Regarding The Pact for a Green New Deal

WHEREAS, by-law 3.5.1 states:

"A Special Resolution may be brought by a member of the VTU in good standing to require a vote of the General Membership of the VTU at the next General Meeting on matters of significance to the VTU as a whole, including but not limited to:

... (c) endorsing political campaigns, coalitions, and candidates"¹

WHEREAS, The Pact for a Green New Deal ("The Pact") is a coalition that aims to implement a set of policies that would create a "rapid, inclusive and far-reaching transition, to slash emissions, protect critical biodiversity, meet the demands of the multiple crises we face, and create over a million jobs in the process" and recognizes that a part of that process is to "transform our systems of... housing..."², qualifying it as a matter of significance to the VTU;

WHEREAS, the Constitution of the Vancouver Tenants Union establishes seven Purposes and Objectives under section 2.1 and includes amongst them the need to (a) "reject corporate ownership and support initiatives like cooperative housing, land trusts and other alternatives to private ownership" and (b) "work and move in solidarity with other movements fighting for a more just society"³;

WHEREAS, by having a seat on The Pact's Steering Committee, the Vancouver Tenants Union can leverage its influence to ensure the transformation of our systems of housing centres the experiences and needs of tenants, not corporate ownership; and

WHEREAS, additionally, ensuring that The Pact's priorities reflect our Constitution's Purposes and Objectives under section 2.1 will present a bold, positive vision to build tenant power across Canada.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Vancouver Tenants Union endorse The Pact for a Green New Deal, so long as The Pact's coalition and priorities are aligned with our Constitution's Purposes and Objectives;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the Vancouver Tenants Union request representation on The Pact's Steering Committee and appoint a representative to that purpose; and

¹

https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/vancouvertenantsunion/pages/89/attachments/original/1547929404/Vancouver_Tenants_Union_Constitution__Bylaws_Post-AGM.pdf?1547929404

² <https://act.greennewdealcanada.ca/the-text/>

³

https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/vancouvertenantsunion/pages/89/attachments/original/1547929404/Vancouver_Tenants_Union_Constitution__Bylaws_Post-AGM.pdf?1547929404

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the Vancouver Tenants Union reserves the right to depart from The Pact's coalition and/or withdraw endorsement from The Pact's policy outcomes should The Pact's coalition and priorities not be aligned with our Constitution's Purposes and Objectives under section 2.1 at any time.

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Relevant by-laws:

“Special Resolutions

3.5.1 A Special Resolution may be brought by a member of the VTU in good standing to require a vote of the General Membership of the VTU at the next General Meeting on matters of significance to the VTU as a whole, including but not limited to:

- (a) challenging the decision of the Steering Committee to approve or disapprove a Working Group;
- (b) challenging the decision of the Steering Committee to revoke the membership of an individual;
- (c) endorsing political campaigns, coalitions, and candidates; and
- (d) amending the Constitution or the Bylaws.

...

3.5.5 A member of the VTU in good standing wishing to bring a Special Resolution must submit to the Steering Committee the following:

- (a) a written draft of the proposed Special Resolution;
- (b) the signatures of 2 other VTU members in good standing who support the proposed Special Resolution; and,
- (c) whether the Special Resolution requires immediate attention.

3.5.6 Upon receipt of a proposal that meets the above criteria, the Steering Committee shall include the Special Resolution in the business of the next General Meeting, or shall facilitate a vote of the membership on the Special Resolution at the earliest possible date.

3.5.7 Notice of a Special Resolution shall be given to members of the VTU at least 7 days before the date on which the vote will occur.

3.5.8 A Special Resolution must be passed by a vote of two-thirds of the Voting Members in attendance.

Notice of Special Resolutions

3.6 A notice of a General Meeting distributed by the Secretary must state the nature of any business, other than ordinary business, to be transacted at the meeting in sufficient detail to permit a member receiving the notice to form a reasoned judgment concerning that business.”