

Policy: Free Voting for Elected Representatives

*Adopted at the May 27, 2013 Annual General Meeting of the
Green Party of Vancouver*

Whereas we are a party that respects the right of members, candidates, and representatives to express differing opinion and beliefs in free and open debate and free from reprisals of any kind; and to make personal decisions in identified areas of moral uncertainty or of sufficient divisiveness, which may be different from other members.

Whereas issues may arise that:

- *are significantly divisive or contentious, or non-inclusive; or,*
- *a clear consensus does not exist in the party; or*
- *relate to issues of conscience, in which serious moral uncertainty exists, and potentially exclusive of major voting, social or religious groups.*

Whereas we are a party that empowers our members, candidates and representatives, to live our shared values and better represent their constituents.

Be it resolved, that, particularly with regard to significant “issues of conscience” or “issues without a clear consensus” or “issues sufficiently divisive”, members, candidates, and representatives are able to cast free votes and take free positions.

Be it resolved that a free vote be defined as a vote in which members, candidates, or representatives are trusted and free to apply Green Party values as they deem appropriate to the identified issues, particularly when the vote concerns “issues of conscience” or “issues without a clear consensus” or “issues sufficiently divisive.”

Be it resolved that the Green Party of Vancouver formalize and make public this policy.

Be it resolved that members, candidates, and representatives are free to exercise and to express their free vote positions publicly, and express how they would or would not support the identified issues.