



Elections Act

CYA ELECTIONS ACT

The following shall be published and enforced for all campaign and election events within the Canadian Youth Assembly. These Regulations shall be known as the “Canadian Youth Assembly Elections Act” or “CYA EA” in short.

SECTION I: Definitions

For the purposes of this act, the following definitions are to be established:

- i. “CYA”: The accepted acronym for the Canadian Youth Assembly; to be used throughout this document.
- ii. “CYA Party”: The Canadian Youth Assembly Elections Act defines a CYA Party as “An organization whose fundamental purpose is to support and promote, in a public manner, one or more of its members as candidates in Canadian Youth Assembly Elections.
- iii. “Party Member”: An individual between the ages of 10 (ten) to 25 (twenty-five) who have submitted a party member application form, which has been accepted by Canadian Youth Assembly and the relevant party.
- iv. “Youth Representative”: An elected member of the Canadian Youth Assembly.

SECTION II: Electoral Rights

Article I. All youth registered as per the CYA bylaws shall be eligible to vote.

Article II. The following individuals are not permitted to vote in an election:

- i. All CYA Staff;
- ii. Elections Coordinator;
- iii. Assistant Elections Coordinator;
- iv. Other volunteers or staff deemed in a conflict of interest in a case-by-case basis by the elections coordinator.

Article III. No person may:

- i. Vote or attempt to vote at an election knowing that they are not qualified as an elector; or
- ii. Induce or attempt to induce another person to vote at an election knowing that the other person is not qualified as an elector.

Article IV. Each eligible elector is only permitted to cast one ballot.

Article VI. All personal information provided to Canadian Youth Assembly for the purpose of registering as a candidate or voter will not be distributed at any time to any individual, other than relevant CYA staff or otherwise without express permission from the provider.

SECTION III: Electoral Districts

Article I. The Canadian Youth Assembly shall adopt the electoral district boundaries as defined by Elections Canada as of September 30th, 2008.

Article II. Some electoral districts are combined at which time Canadian electoral districts are treated as a single CYA electoral district.

SECTION IV: Registration of Electors

Article I. Youth who are eligible to vote as per the CYA bylaws may register only themselves to vote.

Article II. The Elections Coordinator shall maintain a register of youth residing in Canada who have registered as an elector and are qualified as such, to be known as the CYA Register of Electors.

Article III. The CYA Register of Electors shall contain, for each elector who is included in it:

- i. The elector's surname and given names;
- ii. Email Address;
- iii. Mailing Address and Civic Postal Code;
- iv. Electoral District;
- v. Internet Protocol (IP) Address.

Article IV. The Elections Coordinator shall delete from the Register of Electors the name of any person who:

- i. Ceases to be an eligible elector because of age, death, or address, upon informing the individual of such; or
- ii. Requests in writing to have his or her name deleted.

Article V. At the written request of an elector, the Elections Coordinator shall send the elector all the information in the Elections Coordinator's possession relating to him or her.

Article VI. No person shall:

- i. Knowingly make a false or misleading statement, orally or in writing, relating to their qualification as an elector;
- ii. Knowingly make a false or misleading statement, orally or in writing, relating to another person's qualification as an elector, surname, given names, sex, civic address or mailing address, or IP address for the purpose of having that person's name deleted from the Register of Electors;
- iii. Conspire to, or register any individual other than themselves;
- iv. Conspire to, or encourage any individual to make a false statement, verbal or in writing to CYA in any way, shape or form;
- v. Conspire, or attempt, whether successfully or otherwise, to tamper with the CYA registrar;
- vi. Request the listing in the Register of Electors of the name of a person who is not qualified as an elector, knowing that the person is not so qualified;
- vii. Fully apply to have included in the Register of Electors the name of an animal or thing; and
- viii. Knowingly use personal information that is obtained from the Register of Electors.

Article VII. Upon registration, each individual is required to provide a minimum of one (1) piece of photo identification. The Elections Coordinator may make a request for further identification to ensure

accuracy.

SECTION V: Conduct of an Election

Article I. The Elections Coordinator shall issue a proclamation in order for a general or by-election to be held.

Article II. The proclamation or order shall:

- i. Issue a writ of election for each electoral district to which the proclamation or order applies;
- ii. Fix the date of issue of the writ; and
- iii. Fix the dates for voting at the election, which must start at least 30 days after the issue of the writ.

Article III. The Elections Coordinator may order the withdrawal of a writ for any electoral district if it is impracticable to carry out the provisions of this Act.

- i. If such a withdrawal occurs, the Electoral Coordinator shall issue full reasoning in writing to the general membership within a reasonable time.

Article IV. Each General Election shall occur during the month of November every two years with the following exceptions:

- i. The Elections Coordinator dissolves the assembly based on a non-confidence vote being adopted.
- ii. The CYA Board of Directors dissolves the assembly due to severe issues that compromise, or could compromise the effectiveness, legitimacy, and repute of the CYA.

Article V. The Elections Coordinator shall, without unnecessary delay, after the closing of the polling stations, publish the results, giving the number of votes cast for each candidate and the number of rejected ballots.

Article VI. Youth Representatives shall be elected by means of First Past the Post (FPTP) in each riding.

Article VII. No person may tamper with the conduct of an election in any way, shape, or form.

SECTION VI: Candidates

Article I. The following persons are not eligible to be a candidate:

- i. A person who is not qualified as an elector;
- ii. Canadian Youth Assembly Staff and Volunteers;
- iii. Members of Provincial or Federal Parliament;
- iv. School Board Trustees;
- v. City Councillors.

Article II. Persons eligible to be a candidate shall complete a candidacy form, which includes:

- vi. The candidates surname and given names;
- vii. Email Address;
- viii. Phone Number;
- ix. Mailing Address and Civic Postal Code;
- x. Electoral District;
- xi. The party in which they wish to represent or that they wish to run as an Independent;
- xii. Acknowledge a statement of candidacy;
- xiii. Internet Protocol (IP) Address;
- xiv. Any other pertinent information.

Article III. The closing day for nominations shall be at least fifteen (15) days prior to the election.

Article IV. Candidates must make it expressly clear that they are a candidate for the Canadian Youth Assembly and not the Parliament of Canada or any other body.

Article VII. Candidates must be able to produce a record of donations and expenses at the request of the Elections Coordinator or the CYA/AJC Chief Financial Officer.

Article VII. Candidates may not erect signs or displays on public or private property except when written permission is received from the property owner/tenant.

Article X. Candidates must ensure that all signs and displays are taken down within seven (7) days after the General Election begins.

Article X. Candidates may canvas. Candidates, or candidates' representatives, may not enter buildings for the purpose of canvassing without written permission from the owner or their representative.

Article XI. Candidates may produce literature; all literature must include contact information (such as email) and contain the official logo of the CYA/AJC.

Article XII. Candidates may hold press conferences or media events only after obtaining consent from the CYA/AJC Communications Director or his/her designate.

Article XIII. Candidates may create websites. All websites must clearly and prominently display the official CYA/AJC Logo, making clear that the party/candidate is a youth party/candidate and not a party/candidate for the Parliament of Canada or any other entity.

Article XIV. The CYA/AJC Communications Director, or his/her designate, may ask for the removal or revision of any type of campaigning materials if the materials in question do not make clear that the candidate/party is a youth party/candidate and not a party/candidate for the Parliament of Canada or any other entity

SECTION VII: CYA Parties

Article I. Valid party members are approved electors who have submitted a party membership form to the relevant party, have been accepted by that party and whose name is on a party member list which has been submitted to the Elections Coordinator.

Article II. To be eligible to run in a CYA election, applications, unless expressly stated by the Elections Coordinator, for the registration of a CYA Party must be submitted a minimum of thirty (30) days before a writ of election is issued.

Article III. In an election, a Registered CYA Party's name may appear below the name of the candidate running for the party on the ballot.

Article IV. An application for registration must include:

- i. The full name of the political party in both official languages;
- ii. The short-form name of the party, or its abbreviation, if any, that is to be used;
- iii. Full information for the party's interim leader, and a declaration that a new elected leader will be chosen as soon as possible;
- iv. The address of the office of the party where records are maintained and to which communications may be addressed;
- v. The names, email addresses and residential addresses of candidates, currently listed as independents, which represent minimum of ten percent (10%) of the CYA electoral districts and their declarations in the prescribed form that they would like to be candidates of the party and support the party's application for registration.

Article IV. An application for registration may include:

- i. The party's logo;
- ii. The party's official colour;
- iii. Full information for the party president;
- iv. Full information for the party auditor;
- v. Full information for the party commissioner.

Article V. A party whose application was made after the 30 days referred to in Article II becomes a registered party for the next general election – or any by-election that precedes it.

Article IX. Officers of a party must be:

- i. Registered general or elected members of the CYA.

Article X. To be officially recognized by Canadian Youth Assembly as an officer of a party, the following must be provided to the Elections Coordinators:

- i. Full information of the individual and their position; and

- ii. A signed declaration form, from the potential officer.

A person must not act as an officer for an eligible or registered youth party if that person knows that the party is in violation or reasonably believes the party will commit a violation of the Canadian Youth Assembly Elections Act, Canadian Youth Assembly Code of Conduct, or any other official CYA/AJC document.

Article XI. The name, short name, or logo must not resemble that of another party to an extent that it would cause confusion amongst the general, reasonable voter, which is to be determined by the Elections Coordinator. The name “Independent” may not appear in any way in affiliation to a party, logo or any way whatsoever.

Article XII. A Canadian Youth Assembly party name, logo, or short form must also not be of such similarity to that of an official Provincial or Federal Party, or other entity, that it would be likely to cause confusion amongst reasonable voters, which is to be determined by the Elections Coordinator.

Article XV. CYA Parties are free to decide on all other matters, unless intervention by the Canadian Youth Assembly is requested or becomes necessary as determined by the CYA/AJC Executive Staff.

Article XVI. A party may be disallowed from applying if:

- i. Numerous incomplete or inaccurate applications have been submitted with the purpose of attempting to hinder the work of Canadian Youth Assembly or a member thereof;
- ii. Inappropriate comments were made on an application form, which constituted a violation of the CYA/AJC Code of Conduct;
- iii. The Elections Coordinator deems that the party is not capable of maintaining its structure for an extended period of time;
- iv. The Elections Coordinator feels that the allowance of the party would be detrimental to the CYA/AJC.

Article XVIII. Once a party is registered, it is entitled to the following benefits:

- i. Protection of name and logo;
- ii. Recognition on the Canadian Youth Assembly Website;
- iii. Unique colour coding within the candidates listing on the Canadian Youth Assembly Website;
- iv. Registered candidates of the party will be permitted to run under a party name and logo;
- v. The short-form name or abbreviation of the party name appears on the ballot, underneath the name of the confirmed candidate endorsed by the party;
- vi. A candidate endorsed by a registered party may transfer his or her surplus funds to a general account maintained by the federal CYA Party;
- vii. 30 Days before the writ is issued the Elections Coordinator provides registered parties (on request) with the updated lists of electors for electoral districts where they ran confirmed candidates in the previous election.

Article XX. There are certain obligations that all CYA parties must meet.

- i. Acquire a minimum of fifty-one percent (51%) turnout of eligible voters in the first leadership

- election;
- ii. Provide a statement of the party's assets and liabilities as well as a declaration concerning the statement, within six (6) months of becoming registered;
 - iii. Provide the Elections Coordinator or his/her designate with a written report, signed and submitted by the party leader, of any changes to be made to the information in the CYA Registry of CYA Parties within thirty (30) days of a change;
 - iv. On or before July 30th of each year, file an annual statement with the Elections Coordinator or his/her designate, confirming or making amendments to the information in the CYA Registry of CYA Parties;
 - v. Provide a return on financial transactions within six (6) months of the end of the fiscal period;
 - vi. Provide an audited return on election expenses within six (6) months of Election Day at a general election;
 - vii. Upon the issuance of a writ of election, the party must provide a full list of candidates to run in the election within ten (10) days of the issuance of such writ. The list of candidates must include the full name, riding, address, email, and phone number.

Article XXII. Two or more registered youth parties may apply to the Elections Coordinator or the Deputy Elections Coordinator acting on their behalf to merge parties. The merge must be approved by a majority of each party.

Article XXIII. At any point other than during an election, a youth party may apply to be deregistered. The application for deregistration must be submitted by the leader of the youth party and be approved by a majority of the party candidates. At the time of deregistration all associations registered to the youth party will also be deregistered.

Article XXVI. The leader, president, party commissioner, and two approving officials of the party applying must send amendments of any part of a party application to the Elections Coordinator. The Canadian Youth Assembly will not make any changes whatsoever on behalf of a party and will only accept complete documents.

Article XXVI. If a party or group wishes to make an addition to their party information, the leader of the group or party must send a copy of the document to be attached to the Elections Coordinator. The Elections Coordinator or his/her designate will reply once they have received the document, which will be subject to the aforementioned review process.

SECTION VIII: Enforcements and Amendments

Article I. The Commissioner for the CYA is responsible for ensuring that all Canadian Youth Assembly Elections Act provisions are complied with and enforced. If the Commissioner believes that there has been a violation of any requirement outlined in the Canadian Youth Assembly Elections Act they will inform the Elections Coordinator as soon as practicable. Once the Elections Coordinator determines there was an infraction, the party(ies) will be informed. The Commissioner will set out the term of agreement that will need to meet in order for further action to be avoided; these terms must be approved by the Elections Coordinator.

If the Commissioner is not satisfied that the party(ies) have met the requirement(s) and they are not rectified within the time allowed by the Commissioner, she/he may apply to the Elections coordinator in order to request an order to direct that he/she deregister the party(ies) and/or to liquidate the assets of the party(ies) and/or their associations. Before such a ruling can be made, the Elections Coordinator must consider all factors in regards to the violation and must establish a ruling. This ruling must be made available, within a reasonable period of time from its completion, to the general membership.

Article IV. The elections coordinator may alter these regulations.



(name)
Elections Coordinator
(date)

(name)
Chair, Board of Directors
(date)

(name)
Executive Director
(date)

(name)
Deputy Executive Director
(date)