



Memorandum 3

To: Constituency Association Officers

From: Vitor Marciano, Executive Director

RE: Policy Ranking Process Leading Up to the AGM Policy Votes

Dear Friends,

First, my apologies for taking so long to discuss this important issue with you.

Our AGM is coming up and one of key tasks is to vote on substantive policy resolutions that will amend the published *Policy Statement of the Wildrose Alliance Party*. These resolutions have been proposed by grassroots members, CAs and the caucus. Unlike other parties whose policy resolutions disappear into the ether the moment their conventions end, the Policy Statement that our members will amend will appear on our website and be available to any Albertan who wants to know what the Wildrose Alliance stands for.

We need your help to make this process work. Attached to this document you will find 1) a copy of the current *Policy Statement of the Wildrose Alliance Party*, 2) a copy of the 86 Preliminary Policy Resolutions that have been sent in for possible consideration at the AGM; and 3) a Policy Resolution Ranking sheet.

You can also find the Preliminary Policy Resolutions at: www.wildrosealliance.ca/2010agm/draftpolicy

We need your help in moving from the 85 preliminary resolutions on the website down to 40 or so resolutions. We would like to do this in two ways: 1) through having members assess the resolutions at meetings to be held by Constituency Associations in May and the first week in June; and 2) through having members individually assess the resolutions and posting their responses on an online form (forthcoming). We will be giving much more weight to assessments that come via the CA meetings than to individual responses.

The goal is to arrive at a list of 40 or so resolutions to amend the Policy Statement which will be voted on at the AGM. We are setting aside almost 200 minutes (~3.5 hours) to deal with resolutions at the AGM, so we would have to move at a 4 minute per resolution average to get through 40 resolutions. A resolution needs a 50% vote of the attendees to pass.

We would like CAs to hold a Board meeting and invite (probably by email) their members to attend and assess the Proposed Policy Resolutions. It need not be a special general meeting, a meeting of the Board of Directors to which the members are invited as guests will suffice.

This can be done in about two hours with an effective chair and either a projector or lots of paper copies. The chair would read or summarize the proposal (as rewritten) and then straw poll the room (huge support is a 10, no support is a 0). The chair then announces the result and if someone has particularly strong feelings they get 30 seconds to persuade the room to either rate it higher or lower. At that point a final straw poll is done and the chair moves on to the next resolution. Since the voting is about whether or not to move the issue forward there is no need to debate in detail the specifics of the resolution. Please note: amendments to the resolutions are not allowed, either at the meeting or at the AGM. Items must be voted on as presented.

If a CA has already held a policy meeting to endorse policies in the format they were originally proposed in, you have the option of either 1) attempting to translate the results of your first meeting into an assessment of the rewritten resolutions or 2) (preferably) holding a new meeting to deal with the policies in the corrected format. We have had to rewrite the policy proposals to make them consistent with the look, feel and style of the *Policy Statement*. Many of the proposals were unworkable to add to the *Policy Statement* in the format originally proposed.

This solution is not perfect, but it should allow us to have a broad and useful discussion at the AGM and should leave us with an improved *Policy Statement of the Wildrose Alliance Party*. Since we have AGMs and get a chance to amend the *Policy Statement* every year, I ask for your patience with the stops and starts of the process so far.

If you need more information and assistance do not hesitate to call myself or Dave Shillington at the office or John Hilton-O'brien VP Policy at john.hiltonobrien@wildrosealliance.ca.

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Executive Director

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