



NORTHERN ONTARIO PARTY

General Meeting
Serpent River Campground
Spragge, ON
May 18th & 19, 2019

In attendance: Shawn Poirier (Interim Party Leader), Patricia Poirier (Interim Secretary), Kasey Jones (Candidate for Kiwetinoong/Member and Volunteer Coordinator), Jacques Ouellette (Candidate for Mushkegowuk-James), Brenda Honan (Member), Shawn Richard Gray (Technical support), Bob Parker (Member), Susan Parker (Member), Ed Eckert (Member), Glen Shelley (Member).

Please note: SP refers to Shawn Poirier and SRG refers to Shawn Richard Gray. Hopefully this will reduce confusion of which Shawn said what.

OPENING CEREMONIES (Saturday May 18th, 2019):

The NOP GM was official opened at 10:21 am. SP welcomed everybody and observed the Canadian anthem (bilingual version played on speaker off his computer). SP said he could sing it but he wanted people to stay. Ed Eckert asked if anybody present was ex-army/armed forces. Everybody replied "NO", some have relatives that served. SP introduced himself as Interim Party Leader and candidate for Timiskaming-Cochrane. He will remain party leader until a Leadership race is called sometime after the GM. SP reminded people about the reason we are here today is thanks to Ed Deibel's ground work in 1977 with the NOHP (Northern Ontario Heritage Party). Ed (original founder NOHP/past president NOP) was actually know for the guy who camped at Queen's Park to get his point across but now it's impossible to camp at Queen's Park anymore. Than Trevor Holliday (previous leader) came rattle the nest with the NOP (Northern Ontario Party). Recently NOP became a bilingual party with PON (Parti de l'Ontario Nord). SP talked about working on getting a Native liaison. We are here to help people. We need to get to work and get involve. We are not here for \$7 orange juice or \$300 plate dinner. We need serious volunteer, unfortunately it's all volunteer work right now, and no one gets paid. SP mentioned the coffee, tea, cookies and chips were donated by Timiskaming Cochrane RA. It's left over purchased for a fundraising event earlier this year. We are a mix from different parties but we have our own identity. We are open for suggestions to make it work for Northern Ontario, it is home. We need to do one step at a time and not put the buggy in front of the horse. Ed Eckert interrupted by questioning Timiskaming-Cochrane donated something but how about Elliot Lake? Ed feels there needs to be canvassing done for people in Elliot Lake to donate to the NOP. Ed also mentioned that Elliot Lake is sick and tired of the NDP, we need

to kick ass and get rid of Mike Mantha. Ed wants to know ASAP when a candidate is chosen for Algoma-Manitoulin, if we win Elliot Lake we will win the North.

SP said Gary Schaap (Party President / Timmins RA President / Timiskaming-Cochrane Vice President) would have like to be here right now but unfortunately he had to work this weekend. Gary wants people to know he has a passion for Northern Ontario and wishes everyone a happy weekend.

SP thanked all the hard working people who are doing their best like Jacques Ouellette and Kasey Jones. SP said we had 10 candidates the 2018 election compared to 2 in 2014. We were 3 candidates short because of the province adding 2 new ridings (Mushkegowuk-James and Kiwetinoong). Our Constitution helps us being a registered party, it is only an example from Election Ontario. It is based on the Conservative party but was adapted to Northern Ontario. SRG confirmed it is on the website.

We proceeded to review the new and improved Constitution.

Patricia read each Article starting with the current wording and then the recommended changes. Questions were answered as we went along and the votes were done at the end of all the changes (not after each articles).

Current Wording:

Article 5.4 All Membership fees collected by Associations are to be sent directly to the CFO of the Party to be deposited in the Party Bank Account. Sixty (60) percent of all membership fees will be reimbursed to the Riding Association under the following conditions:

Recommended Change

Article 5.4 Forty (40) percent of Membership fees collected by Associations are to be sent directly to the CFO of the Party to be deposited in the Party Bank Account.

SP confirmed this is to save money and help cover the expenses of the Executive Board. So far most of the expenses are paid by the RA. Eventually the CFO will make a budget for wages. RA take most of the expenses so more funding is needed. Eventually, the Executive can pay for ads on TV. Neighbourhood RA can help.

Current Wording:

Article 5.14 The Constituency Association Liaison will be the first point of contact between the Associations and the Executive Board. The Liaison will ensure that all rules, regulations, laws, by-laws and constitution are being followed and will provide direction and assistance to all associations as required. The Liaison will report any issues back to the Executive Board as well as recommendations.

Recommended Change:

REMOVE

SP explain this was removed since it would be better to have specific consulting committees (all RA president with Board president, all CFO with Board CFO, etc).

Current Wording:

NIL

Recommended Change:

ADD to Article 6:

6.7 Members will not negatively cause harm or unjust/illegal activity or comments that may impact the party. In doing so will affect article 6.4 and may result to their removal.

SP explain in the past there was people that “bashed” the party but since there was no legal department, there was little we could do. SRG recommends changing “may result TO” by “may result IN” (last phrase).

Current Wording:

6.6 All membership payments are to be made out to Northern Ontario Party.

Recommended Change:

6.6 All membership payments are to be made out to Northern Ontario Party or Riding Association.

Nothing to mention.

Current Wording:

8.2 The Executive of the Party shall consist of the following:

(j) Constituency Association Liaison

Recommended Change:

Remove 8.2 (j)

Nothing to mention.

Current Wording:

8.3 The Leader of the Northern Ontario Party shall be an honorary member of the Executive however, must be an active paid member.

Recommended Change:

Remove 8.3

SP explained the party leader must remain neutral. It is up to the president to run the way it should be to get to Queen’s Park. Gary Schaap is the current President so it up to him to run and the Leader steps in if the president is not doing the job. The previous Leader must still be a member to remain honorary.

Current Wording:

9.3 Vice President(s) –

The Vice President shall act in the place and stead of the President whenever the President is absent, resigns or is unable to discharge the duties imposed by this Constitution and the Vice-President shall perform such other duties as determined from time to time by the Executive. Ranking of the Vice Presidents shall be as follows. First Vice president shall be the one with the majority votes or in the case of appointments they may be appointed to First or second at the time of appointment. If the President spot becomes available then the First Vice President will move to the President position on the Interim and the second becomes the first on the interim until an election is conducted.

Recommended Change:

9.3

(a) Vice President(s) –

The Vice President shall act in the place and stead of the President whenever the President is absent, resigns or is unable to discharge the duties imposed by this Constitution and the Vice-President shall perform such other duties as determined from time to time by the Executive. Ranking of the Vice Presidents shall be as follows. First Vice president shall be the one with the majority votes or in the case of appointments they may be appointed to First or second at the time of appointment. If the President spot becomes available then the First Vice President will move to the President position on the Interim and the second becomes the first on the interim until an election is conducted.

(b) Second Vice President(s) –

Duties as assigned by executive board

SP explained it is to safe guard to avoid finding another one on very short notice.

Current Wording:

9.2 President –

The President shall preside over all meetings of the Party and over every party convention. The President shall enforce the observance of this Constitution. The President shall decide all questions of order, announce the results of all votes and give the casting vote in the case of a tie at all general, special general and Executive meetings of the Party and shall be a member of all Executive Committees. The President shall call meetings of the Executive. If the President seeks re-election at a general meeting, and is opposed for re-election, the Executive shall select another Chairman to preside during the general meeting and such Chairman shall have the casting vote in the case of a tie. The President shall attend meetings of Caucus to express the views of the membership to Caucus, when invited to do so.

Recommended Change:

9.2 The President shall preside over all meetings of the Party and over every party convention. The President shall enforce the observance of this Constitution. The President shall decide all questions of order, announce the results of all votes and give the casting vote in the case of a tie at all general, special general and shall be a member of all Executive Committees. The President shall call meetings of the Executive. If the President seeks re-election at a general meeting, and is opposed for re-election, the Executive shall select another Chairman to preside during the general meeting and such Chairman shall

have the casting vote in the case of a tie. The President shall attend meetings of Caucus to express the views of the membership to Caucus, when invited to do so.

We had to look closely at the paragraph to find the changes. The part “and Executive meetings of the Party” was removed from the 1st paragraph (current wording).

Current Wording:

8.2 The Executive of the Party shall consist of the following:

- (a) The Leader.
- (b) The President.
- (c) The Vice President(s). Max 2
- (d) The Chief Financial Officer.
- (e) The Party Campaign Manager.
- (f) The Secretary.
- (g) Fundraising & Donation Coordinator
- (h) Member and Volunteer Manager
- (l) Media Relations (Social & News)
- (j) Constituency Association Liaison

Recommended Change:

8.2 The Executive of the Party shall consist of the following:

- (a) The Leader.
- (b) The President.
- (c) The Vice President(s). Max 2
- (d) The Chief Financial Officer “to be appointed by the executive based off qualification and member in good standing/active”
- (e) The Party Campaign Manager “to be appointed by the executive based off qualification and member in good standing/active and in place during an election period.”
- (f) The Secretary “to be appointed by the executive based off qualification and member in good standing/active”
- (g) Fundraising & Donation Coordinator “to be appointed by the executive based off qualification and member in good standing/active”
- (h) Member and Volunteer Manager “to be appointed by the executive based off qualification and member in good standing/active”
- (l) Media Relations (Social & News) “to be appointed by the executive based off qualification and member in good standing/active”.

SRG resumed this means there will be elections for 4 positions but all other positions are to be appointed with interviews base on their passion and qualifications to get paid. SRG fells we should discuss “g” and other positions as required in the future (native liaison).

Current Wording:

8.4 Former Leaders of the Party shall be non-paying honorary Executive members, can still however donate to the party.

Recommended Change:

8.4 Former Leaders of the Party shall be non-paying honorary/Ex-Officio Executive members, a longstanding Leader or Executive member over the age of 70 Years young. Could be a lifetime member at no cost voted on by executive board.

Kasey mentioned he has talked to Ed Deibel recently. Ed has been re-admitted to the hospital again.

Current Wording:

NIL

Recommended Change:

Add 11.1(l) General Meeting Committee – The General Meeting Committee shall be chaired by the President. This committee shall organize and plan the General Meeting with provided direction from the executive board.

SP confirmed this is to improve doing things last minute.

Current Wording:

19.1 The Party shall maintain as Headquarters the central location where Party matters are administered. 19.2 The role of the Headquarters staff is to assist in the operation of the Party. 19.3 Members of the Headquarters staff must remain neutral in all leadership elections, nomination conventions and matters voted on at general meetings and meetings of Recognized Associations, and Headquarters shall only be used for neutral purposes.

Recommended Change:

19.1 The Party shall maintain as Headquarters the central location where Party matters are administered. 19.2 The role of the Headquarters staff is to assist in the operation of the Party. 19.3 Members of the Headquarters staff must remain neutral in all leadership elections, nomination conventions and matters voted on at general meetings and meetings of Recognized Associations, and Headquarters shall only be used for neutral purposes. If the party does now own, rent or lease an office then the office address will be at the CFO's address.

SP confirmed that Timiskaming-Cochrane's RA office is a spare bedroom in his basement. The executive board's CFO address is the NOP Headquarter address. Every time we change CFO, we change address. SRG noticed the last phrase in the recommended change paragraph should say "party does NOT own, rent or lease an office then the office address will be at the CFO's address" instead of saying "now". There was a question about Trevor having a campaign office. SP replied it was a donation made by John Wilson since he is a landlord of multiple buildings in North Bay. SP mentioned Timiskaming-Cochrane had suggested at some point to maybe get a minivan that can be used as a mobile office. Everyone seemed to think it would great.

Current Wording:

20.2 The responsibilities of the Leader include:

(d) Conducting the election campaign in a manner that best earns the support of all Ontarians, while respecting the principles and policies of the Party;

Recommended Change:

20.2 The responsibilities of the Leader include:

(d) Conducting the election campaign in a manner that best earns the support of all Northern Ontarians, while respecting the principles and policies of the Party;

Nothing to mention. It is obvious “Northern” was added in the recommended change paragraph.

Current Wording:

23.2 Voting in a leadership election shall be scheduled to conclude no later than six (6) months after the date on which the Executive called the election.

Recommended Change:

23.2 Voting in a leadership election shall be scheduled to conclude no earlier than sixty (60) day and no later than six (6) months after the date on which the Executive called the election.

SRG resumed by pointing out that now there is a specific time to run.

Current Wording:

25.1 Any ten (10) residents of an Electoral District who support the Principles and Objects of the Party may protest any matter respecting the conduct of the affairs of the Riding Association by submitting a complaint in writing to the President and Secretary of the Party.

Recommended Change:

25.1 Any ten (10) members of an Electoral District who support the Principles and Objects of the Party may protest any matter respecting the conduct of the affairs of the Riding Association by submitting a complaint in writing to the President and Secretary of the Party.

This clarifies that only members can complain. Kasey thought “objects” should be replaced by “objectives” but SRG confirmed “objects” is the official term.

The tallying of the votes started at 11:16am on Saturday May 18th, 2019. SRG read each vote in public views. The results are as follow:

Yes = 19

No = 1

Invalid = 1

TOTAL = 21

All the ballots were given to Patricia for safe keeping on file.

Some of the members present questioned if Tommy Lee (past president of the Party) was going to come back. SP confirmed Tommy has been very quiet since stepping down but he will try to get a hold of him to see what his intentions are going forward. SRG mentioned that Tommy collected 1366 votes. SP collected 1105 votes. 4 ridings had over 2% so they will qualify for quarterly payment from Elections Ontario.

The meeting was called to a halt for lunch break. Lots of discussions on various subject took places so it was difficult to follow and take notes.

During lunch, Ed Eckert left the GM.

After lunch break, the GM resumed with...

Presentations:

SRG went 1st stating he's been on the Executive Board since April 28th. He was interviewed for the position of technical support to build the website to replace the old "outdated" one. At first it was only for the election period but now he is permanently on to keep up with the website. He will keep it up to date to help us move forward. SRG wants to create way for the membership renewal to be sent by email.

SP confirmed at the present time the budget is not there for postal mail. With Doug Ford cutting RA's quarterly payment, it will put more pressure financially.

SRG will create a central form along with other various form to keep track of people on black list or on old fashion (postal) mail, help standardized the process.

SP confirmed that along HWY 11 and HWY 17, he came across a lot of small business struggling with the cost of operation. They can't keep up with the hikes in minimum wages. The biggest polluters don't do anything to control emission. We are losing the North Pole.

The province of Toronto Coalition might help us if they get a leadership race and the NOP governs the North of Toronto. Things could pass without support easier.

SP believes best scenario would be to have 3 parties close together but the reality is a minority government is better. Glen Shelley commented while working in real estate Andrew Stronick bought a lot of properties in Algoma-Manitoulin because he believes Ottawa to Winnipeg is a major market. Access to Ontario is through Hwy 11 and Hwy 17. The Nipigon Bridge put a huge strain on the Country (Canada, coast to coast).

Patricia spoke next saying it's a bittersweet moment for me to be here. When I thinks about August 2017 (last General Meeting) there is a lot of good memories that come to mind. Fast forward to

now = lost good people along the way. We didn't get to Queen's Park but I think it's still a victory since we are still here. My suggestion: I can't change the world all by myself but I can change the world one person at a time. People need to understand you can't complain if you're not involved. I went on to read an old article that Andy Wolff (CFO) wrote but most of it still applies to what we are fighting for. It's dated June 8th, 2017. I will copy and paste as it appeared in the email.

The following is the article I will submit to the Chronicle Journal. The first part of this was influenced by Donald Trump's inauguration speech. Please don't tell anyone. Anyway here it is. I'm a veg now!

The Northern Ontario Party will be a strong voice to speak on behalf of its citizens. Unlike the other Greater Toronto Area parties, we intend on having candidates that will represent you the citizen, rather than representing a political party's agenda or a special interest group.

There is no doubt we will face challenges, confront hardships, but we will prevail by exercising courage, confidence and conviction. Our ultimate goal is to elect 11 representatives from each riding and transfer power from the GTA and give a strong voice back to the citizens of Northern Ontario.

For too long, these special interests, major political parties and government bureaucrats have reaped the rewards, while the people have endured the cost. Northern Ontario has a great potential to be a wealthy region; yet, government practices deny the people to share in its wealth. The establishment continually protects itself, the special interest that support them, but not the citizens of our province. With rising hydro rates, taxes on utilities, the outsourcing of jobs, there is very little to celebrate for struggling families all across our province.

There needs to be a change, starting right here and right now. The Northern Ontario Party wants to be that change. The Northern Ontario Party wants to help you take back your province.

What truly matters is not which party governs, but whether our government is accountable to the people. The Northern Ontario Party will bring that accountability back by providing transparency of the province finances, fighting for the less fortunate citizens, uniting citizens to demand the truth be told. These are just and reasonable demands of righteous people and a righteous public.

For many years, we've enriched foreign industry at the expense of our local economy; by making exceptions to the Mining Act which requires raw materials to be processed in Canada if there are facilities available.

We are looking for dedicated people to join our party so we can achieve these very things. We are the only party that included our members to help shape our policy and platform through a democratic vote.

These are some of the issues the Northern Ontario Party will address:

- Hydro rates need to come down in our province. Since Thunder Bay Hydro rates are considerably lower, perhaps utilize this organization's policies and practices as a working model to restructure the finances of all of our other provincial power companies.
- There are many issues regarding healthcare we need to implement to make it more affordable for all families across our province. We need to expand the two major hospitals in Northern Ontario to accommodate the aging population. This also means focusing on improving and expanding our Long Term facilities.

- The Mining Act needs to be enforced so that we can have at least 50% of our raw materials processed in Northern Ontario.
- We need to place the Carbon Tax on where it truly belongs. This would be on imports from excessive carbon producing countries.
- While a rise in MINIMUM WAGE is inevitable, we believe a MAXIMUM WAGE of \$350,000 must be imposed on all public sector workers.
- We need a full review government finances to bring down the cost of living.
- With regards to the imbalance of industrial and residential municipal taxes we need to replace MPAC with a fair and realistic property evaluation system.

SP recommended I also read John Wilson's document "**A way forward 2018**" (This document will be enclosed as an attachment. It contains 8 pages therefore too big to copy and paste). SRG took over after a while since there was a few pages left and wanted me to give my voice a break. SRG and Bob Parker asked to get a copy of the document. I finished but saying let's rock this province again and get ready for 2022. I also thanked Kasey Jones and SRG for all the help they provided in help put together this GM. Kasey feels there is still issues with the fundraising.

Bob commented that "no party whip is definitely a plus". He also recommends that seniors will need printed handouts, handed down to them. SP said when creating the next platform, there will be sections made easily accessible. SRG thinks the pamphlets need to be redone also.

Kasey spoke next and introduced himself as the candidate for Kiwetinoong and interim Members and Volunteer coordinator. He had challenges since he needed a stronger volunteer base of 20-30 active members to win. He received help from other members but Election Ontario had trouble to fly the ballots. John Wilson helped out but he still needs volunteers. Word of mouth is very important. Our direction needs to get 13 candidates, expand RA's and avoid people having to leave the North for work in the South. The separation is being put on side burner since we need to see more growth and not move south. SP confirmed he might decide to run again unless a stronger candidate comes along. The main issues is sometimes media twist the words around. Kasey shared a story about a joke made in the media concerning a political party and it turned out to get more coverage than the Global News. SP mentioned

even if you get excluded from the debates, go and introduce yourself to the media afterwards so once you say you were excluded it provides good publicity. The next election, we try to notify every media as soon as possible.

NOP at the moment (local direction) is to build RAs. Let people know we are still here. We could start on YouTube to engage people in the far North. Getting the word out, get known, attract donations coming through. The more votes NOP gets, the more it can become a real job. SP mentioned that we tried to get Amanda Simard to join us when she quit her party but she choose to go independent.

Jacques Ouellette commented Greenstone Mayor wouldn't let Trevor on his property because he was going against a main party. We need to switch people who vote because of who their parents voted for (consistently voting for the same party for decades).

Kasey confirmed he sent approximately 200 emails, 35 replies can back but scaled back to 15 proxy votes. It makes it hard to have good representation.

Since the members present expressed the desire to go through the whole agenda on Saturday SP proceeded to start the discussion for the Electoral Committee set up. It was originally schedule for Sunday 2pm. SP explained Elections Ontario doesn't govern this election. There needs to be at least 3 people willing to work together. Guidelines for Leadership race has to be set up as soon as possible after the GM. Kasey expressed the desire to get involve on this. SRG want to help with technical support only. Gary, as President, will call out a 30 day limit to avoid it drags on.

Gary was contacted by phone at 3:31pm (Saturday, May 18th). He encouraged everyone to move forward and thanked everyone for making the trip out to the event.

The 3 main point of action now is...

#1 Leadership race after Electoral Committee is complete (30 days to set-up and 30 days to vote = mid-July, new leader is chosen).

#2 It will be brought to Executive for approval.

#3 Once the new leader is approved, elections for the Executive positions are next.

Kasey wants at least 1 mail out, especially to Kiwetinoong. SRG suggested that we proceed by way of a waterfall votes. This would put the person in each positions by highest amount of votes and the second highest vote would get the second highest positions, etc.).

SRG also suggested to resolve the issue of members getting the same number if 2 people sign on in the same day in 2 different ridings, a prefix RA number could be added in front of the membership number.

Trevor sent a message. I copied and paste as it appeared on the Facebook message chat.

Tell everyone thank you for attending the general meeting it means the world to me that they made the effort to attend I wish I could be there but I cannot as you know I'm still on probation on my job. So please thank them from the bottom of my heart and let them know I'm there with them in spirit and without them Ed's and my work and vision would have all been for nothing thank you again I love and appreciate everyone. Keep up the great work team.

SP called the meeting to break for dinner (4:05pm). It will resume in the morning, if new people show up. SP did a quick closing remark which was repeated at the official closing the next day.

SRG left the meeting to head back home. Glen Shelley had left during the afternoon after receiving a call from his wife, who needed help at Annette's Dinner (across the street from the campground).

The day ended with good times, stories and laughter by the campfire. Bob and Susan Parker also left later in the evening to head back home.

Sunday May 19th, 2019:

Kasey, SP and I waited all day for other people to show up but no one venture out in the rain so at 3pm, SP called the 2019 General Meeting officially adjourned.

Approved by: Patricia Poirier

Second by: Kasey Jones

CLOSING REMARKS: SP's last words are "promote as much as you can. If you can afford magnets or stickers go ahead. On behalf of the 3 executive members not here this weekend...thank you and especially thanks to Ed Deibel. I'm not just Team TC but also Team NOP and we have to be willing to attack issues to help our neighbours".

Again, the day ended with good times, stories and laughter by the campfire with Jacques Ouellette and his wife Brenda Honan, who had come back from spending the day in Sudbury.

Patricia Poirier

Interim Secretary

NOP