

**PARLIAMENTARY
FRIENDS OF TIBET**

Parliament of Canada
Ottawa, Canada K1A 0A4



**PARLEMENTAIRES
FAVORABLES AU TIBET**

Parlement du Canada
Ottawa, Canada K1A 0A4

**CONSTITUTION
OF THE
PARLIAMENTARY FRIENDS OF TIBET**

(As adopted at a Meeting of the General Membership on November 30, 2004)

ARTICLE I. NAME:

The organization shall be known as the “Parliamentary Friends of Tibet”.

ARTICLE II. PURPOSE:

The purpose of the Parliamentary Friends of Tibet is to:

- A. represent the views of Canadians on the issue of Tibet within the Parliament of Canada and various multilateral parliamentary associations, such as the Inter-Parliamentary Union;
- B. conduct research by various means (including through, but not limited to, fact-finding missions) and to publish reports on policy issues of relevance to the Tibetan people;
- C. encourage the Chinese government to respect the fundamental human rights in Tibet and China;
- D. encourage the Canadian government to broker negotiations on Tibet between representatives of the Dalai Lama and China;
- E. promote His Holiness the Dalai Lama’s non-violent strategies for conflict resolution and peace building; and
- F. network with Tibet-specific parliamentary associations in other countries, including the International Parliamentary Convention on Tibet.

ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP:

Members of the Canadian Senate and the House of Commons are entitled to become members of the Parliamentary Friends of Tibet upon application and payment of the annual fee as determined from time to time by the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE IV. FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS AND OPERATIVE YEAR:

1. The operating year of the Group is the federal fiscal year commencing on the first day of April and ending on the thirty first day of March.
2. The Group shall maintain a comprehensive financial reporting and auditing system of accounts as approved from time to time by the Speakers of the Senate and House of Commons.
3. The Executive Secretary shall be the custodian of the records of the Group including the financial accounts and shall report regularly thereon to the Executive.

ARTICLE V. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:

1. An Annual General Meeting of the membership shall be held at least once in each fiscal year when Parliament is in Session at the call of the Executive Committee or any ten members of the Group. Notice of the Annual General Meeting shall be given in writing and mailed at least two weeks in advance of the proposed date to the parliamentary office of each member.
2. It shall:
 - A. elect the Executive Committee; the Annual Meeting, in its Choice, shall take into account the representative nature of the recognized parties of both Houses;
 - B. receive and act on an Annual Financial Statement for the preceding year;
 - C. receive and approve any proposals for amending the Constitution;
 - D. receive the report of activities of the preceding year.
3. Following a general election, the Executive Committee duly elected during the previous Parliament shall be required to call an Annual General Meeting in order to elect a new Executive Committee.

ARTICLE VI. SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING:

A Special General Meeting of the membership may be called at any time by the Chairman or any ten members of the Group. It shall transact only such business as was designated in the notice of the meeting.

ARTICLE VII. QUORUM:

1. Ten members shall constitute a Quorum at an Annual General or Special General Meeting.
2. Four members shall constitute a Quorum at an Executive Committee Meeting.

ARTICLE VIII. THE EXECUTIVE:

1. The Executive shall have the responsibility for the general management of the affairs of the Group and shall report thereon at each Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting.
2. The Executive shall be elected for a period of two years at an Annual General Meeting.
3. The Executive shall consist of:
 - A. two co-chairs, one from the House of Commons and one from the Senate;
 - B. fourteen vice chairs, with at least two members from each political party of the House of Commons, and at least two members from each political party of the Senate.
4. The Executive shall meet at least twice in each fiscal year. Its responsibilities include the preparation and presentation of the Annual budget, financial statement and program activities for the ensuing year.
5. Following a general Federal election, the Executive Committee shall be duly elected at the first Annual General Meeting to be held in the new Parliament.

ARTICLE IX. NOMINATIONS:

Nominations for any position on the Executive Committee may be received from the floor.

ARTICLE X. RULES OF PROCEDURE:

Meetings of the Group shall be conducted in accordance with the procedures and practices of the Canadian Parliament as applicable to public meetings in Canada.

ARTICLE XI.

VOTING:

Voting at meetings shall be by show of hands unless a written ballot is demanded by at least five members present (two in the case of an Executive Committee meeting).