



# RIGHT NOW EDA GUIDE

How to easily and effectively get elected to your Electoral District Association in your local riding.

1

BECOME A MEMBER OF THE PARTY



2

FILL OUT A NOMINATION FORM



3

MAKE A SLATE



4

VOTE AT THE AGM



## WHAT IS AN EDA?

An EDA (electoral district association) board of directors is a group of party members that run the affairs of the party within the electoral district, also known colloquially as a riding.

There are 338 federal ridings across Canada which means that the major political parties have 338 EDA boards of directors. For the Conservative Party of Canada, each EDA can have up to 30 people on their board of directors.

To sit on the board of directors one must be a member of the party and elected at the Annual General Meeting (AGM). Typically, the term for a board member is approximately one year (from AGM to AGM), but some boards have two-year terms. There are no term limits for board members.



## THE EDA BOARD IS RESPONSIBLE FOR:

- Fundraising for the next election campaign
- Engaging in the party's policy development process
- Increasing and maintaining the membership of the party in the riding
- Promoting the party in the riding

## HOW EDAs VOTE FOR POLICIES FOR CONVENTION



1. Each EDA has a policy committee where members of the committee gather policy ideas from members of the party in the riding.
2. The policy committee will then craft policy proposals to be approved by the board of directors. If **pro-lifers constitute a majority on this committee**, they can help ensure that pro-life policies are proposed to the EDA board of directors.
3. The EDA board of directors will vote on which policies the EDA will post on IdeasLab. Each EDA can sponsor or co-sponsor up to ten policy proposals. Each policy proposal must have three co-sponsors from at least two provinces or territories
4. After consulting with the membership in the riding each EDA will vote on how to allocate their 25 votes on IdeasLab

## WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT TO PRO-LIFERS?



It is important for pro-lifers to sit on the EDA board of directors and hold specific positions on the EDA board of directors to ensure that the pro-life voice is appropriately represented at this level. The EDA board of directors acts as a conduit between the members of the party in the riding and party headquarters.

Pro-lifers on an EDA board of directors can help ensure:

1. That feedback is fed to party headquarters on pro-life issues
2. That pro-life nomination contestants are approved by the EDA's candidate nomination committee
3. That pro-life policies are written, approved, and voted on during the party's policy development process
4. Promotion of the party and candidate in the riding includes the promotion of reasonable and popular pro-life policies found in the party's policy declaration

## TIME COMMITMENT ON BEING ON THE EDA

There are some time commitments to being on the EDA board of directors, but they are not overly burdensome.

Most EDAs meet once a month or every second month. These meetings typically last 60-90 minutes and are on weeknights or Saturday afternoons.

EDA board members are also expected to assist with a fundraising event (typically once or twice a year) and with the election campaign (such as doorknocking one night a week).

Committees of the EDA will meet about once every two months and those meetings last approximately 60 minutes. Sometimes committees will meet cyclically (i.e. election readiness committee will start meeting once every two weeks a few months before an election whereas the committee would otherwise meet perhaps a few times during the year prior).

If you sat on the EDA board of directors for four years (in between elections), your total volunteer time would amount to around 150 hours (or 37.5 hours/year, **approximately 3 hours/month**).



## POSITIONS ON THE EDA

There are four positions that constitute the executive of an EDA board of directors:



### PRESIDENT

Chairs meetings, votes for members of National Policy Committee and National Constitution Committee, votes for National Council by-elections to fill vacancies, has access to CIMS (Conservative database), contact person for the EDA with the party, granted initial access to IdeasLab.



### VICE PRESIDENT

Chairs meetings when the President is not available.



### FINANCIAL AGENT

Ensures that the EDA is compliant with requirements from Elections Canada.



### SECRETARY

Records the meeting minutes and distributes to the members of the EDA.

***\*\* The president of the EDA board of directors is limited to three consecutive terms. The remaining members of the executive do not have term limits.***

## COMMITTEES ON THE EDA

In addition to the executive, there are also a number of committees of the EDA board of directors that typically have approximately five members, including:



### MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Helps increase and maintain the level of active members in the riding.



### POLICY COMMITTEE

Gathers policy ideas from members of the party in the riding and proposes policies to the EDA board for approval.



### CANDIDATE NOMINATION COMMITTEE

Runs the nomination in the riding, interviews candidates, chaired by the Financial Agent.  
***\*Members cannot support a nomination contestant.***



### ELECTIONS READINESS COMMITTEE

Ensures that the riding is properly prepared for an election through volunteer recruitment, campaign team recruitment, volunteer training, and vendor contracts.



### FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

Seeks to raise funds to fight an election campaign – most candidates can spend up to around \$150,000 on an election campaign

## FORMING THE SLATE

Now that we know that EDA boards of directors are key parts of pro-lifers' participation in the political process, it is imperative that pro-lifers work to ensure that there are **pro-life majorities on these boards**. Since there are up to 30 members on an EDA board of directors, an ideal goal would be to **create a team of 20 pro-lifers to run as a slate** for the EDA board of directors, using the following steps:



1. Contact RightNow to connect with the current pro-life members of the board. We would want to ensure that we do not displace pro-life board members and retain their institutional knowledge.
2. Work with the current pro-life EDA board members to create a slate of 20 pro-lifers
3. Reach out to personal contacts who you think would be good EDA board members:

- Pro-lifers at your place of worship
- Pro-lifers at other places of worship in the riding (think of ten large pro-life places of worship in your riding and find a candidate from each)
- Pro-life family members, neighbours, and co-workers

**Each person on the pro-life slate must:**

- a) be a member of the party
- b) reside in the riding

**Each person on the slate should have the following attributes:**

- a) be strongly pro-life
- b) have an excellent work ethic
- c) be dependable (we do not want pro-life EDA board members missing votes at meetings)

**... AND FINALLY**



**GETTING**

**ELECTED**

The election to the EDA board of directors is a simply first past the post, meaning that the 30 candidates that receive the most votes (whether it was a majority of the votes cast or not) win their seats on the EDA board of directors. After you have created your team and slate to run for the EDA board of directors, you must earn votes.

Only those who are **members of the party at least 21 days prior to the vote can cast a ballot**. EDA board of director candidates do not have access to the list of members in the riding. Therefore, it is safest to **sign up your own supporters as members of the party in the riding to vote for you** and your slate, by doing the following steps:

1. Each member of the slate (20 people) sign up 20 people to RightNow (20 candidates x 20 people/candidate = 400 potential party members)
  - Potential party members can be found at places of worship, family members, co-workers, neighbours, and friends
  - People can sign up for RightNow here: [www.itstartsrightnow.ca/join\\_us](http://www.itstartsrightnow.ca/join_us) or through one of our many petitions (like sex-selective abortion: [www.itstartsrightnow.ca/sex\\_selective\\_abortion\\_petition](http://www.itstartsrightnow.ca/sex_selective_abortion_petition))
2. RightNow will email, text, and live call the people each pro-life EDA board of director candidate signed up to encourage them to sign up as party members, register to vote at the AGM, and to vote for the pro-life slate at the AGM
  - Those as young as 14 years old can be party members and both citizens and permanent residents are eligible to be party members
3. Help RightNow with live phone calls



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