

Green Party of Canada

Ombuds and Appeals Committee

Report for 2020, 2021, and Q1 2022

At the beginning of 2020, the Committee consisted of three members.

During the year, one member was removed, and two resigned; we deemed one application unsuitable, but two former members returned and we acquired two new members, and we ended the year with four members.

The Ombuds and Appeals Committee received 13 complaints in 2020. Three were referred from Federal Council, of which the Committee accepted one, which was later withdrawn, one was not detailed upon request and one was accepted. Six were invalid: three were from non-members of the party, two were abuses of the complaint form, and one was a technical inability to complete the form via any method. There were four complaints from members, of which two were accepted.

Of the two member complaints which were accepted, the committee found in favour of the complainant in both cases, making a recommendation and a request to Council; see below.

April 2020: The Ombuds Committee of the Green Party of Canada strongly recommends that the recent election for one position on Federal Council be rerun in its entirety due to procedural issues.

October 2020: The OAC requests that the FC make the documents a member has requested available to him, or explain to us why this is not being done pursuant to our own Constitution.

Complaints data:

	Referred from Council:	Complaint from member	Invalid complaint
Total	3	4	6
Accepted	1	2	
Declined/withdrawn	2	2	

Update -- to November 10, 2021:

Membership:

One member resigned in the spring. Another member resigned in the early autumn; and Bill Matheson has re-joined the OAC. This leaves us with three members – Kathleen DeWitt, Sara Golling, and Bill Matheson.

Complaints:

Since we issued the 2020 report, we have issued reports on three complaints, but we subsequently retracted one report as it was found that we should not have reported on the conduct of an employee who did not report to Federal Council through the Executive Director. We will review in greater depth the issue of whether, and when, any complaint to the OAC may result in any comment on the conduct of an employee.

One report on a member's complaint resulted in legal action against the OAC members who submitted the report, by one of the parties to the complaint. The report has also been leaked by person(s) unknown to us to a national media outlet and published.

Given the fact that the matter is currently the subject of legal action we aren't able to provide further detail or comment.

We received one complaint about a member who was chosen as a candidate for an EDA, but were unable to investigate the complaint before the election, and sent the complainant a note to that effect.

We declined one complaint on the issue of vetting candidates for election to public office, issued a brief response to one other complaint on that topic, and two more complaints on the same issue were withdrawn before we began any investigation. Another complaint on the topic of what constitutes proper notice of a general meeting of members was withdrawn before we had completed a report.

We have also, very recently, sent a letter of advice to Federal Council regarding the Constitution and Federal Council's role as the governing body of the Party.

By the Ombuds and Appeals Committee:

Kathleen DeWitt, Bill Matheson, and Sara Golling

Update to March 2022:

Following the OAC elections during Phase I of the VGM in November, 2021, the OAC had gained seven new members. One subsequently resigned, and the OAC now consists of **Samuel Moisan-Domm, Krystal Brooks, Miranda Woodland, Michael Pilling, Nick Dickinson-Wilde, Jan Slakov, Sara Golling, Kathleen DeWitt, and Bill Matheson.**

The new OAC has resolved one complaint from a member, and is currently working on complaints received from five other members.

The OAC is revising its Terms of Reference and will make them available to GPC members in the OAC section of the GPC website. The OAC is also considering how best to make its work transparent and available to GPC members.

By the Ombuds and Appeals Committee: **Samuel Moisan-Domm, Krystal Brooks, Miranda Woodland, Michael Pilling, Nick Dickinson-Wilde, Jan Slakov, Sara Golling, Kathleen DeWitt, and Bill Matheson.**