



 [Log out](#)

[SUBSCRIBE](#)

[Featured News](#) [Topics](#) [Podcast](#) [Election 2018](#) [Careers](#)

[Seen, Heard, Happening](#) [Events](#) [Media Kit & Testimonials](#) [Resources](#)

[Contact](#)

DISSENT BREAKS OUT OVER PC POLICY PROCESS 'FARCE'

[Home](#) > [Election 2018](#) > [Dissent Breaks Out Over PC Policy Process 'Farce'](#)



Dissent breaks out over PC policy process 'farce'

🕒 12.10.2017 👤 Christopher Reynolds 💬 0

[Print](#) [Email](#) [Share](#) [Republish](#)

Finance Minister **Charles Sousa** says the Progressive Conservative leader's muffling of climate change and abortion issues at his party's upcoming policy convention reveals indifference at the top and division in the ranks.

Patrick Brown told *The Canadian Press* in [an interview published Wednesday](#) that the topics of abortion and carbon tax were "off limits" at the November convention, restating that he is in favour of same-sex marriage and a woman's right to choose, as well as putting a price on carbon.

On Thursday morning, Sousa told reporters that "Patrick Brown doesn't want to address the imminent concern of climate change." He also said socially conservative priorities are "obviously taboo to him and his party, because his party's fractured on those issues."

The PCs fired back that its newly unveiled policy resolutions – [to be voted on online vote in November](#) – leave no wedge issue unturned and emerged from a grassroots process free from

executive interference, regardless of rank-and-file rumblings.

"All I can say is that 130,000 members for the first time in our party's history – the first time in the province, maybe the first time in the country – a one-member-one-vote approach and a policy resolution process, that's pretty inclusive," convention co-chair **Kevin Gaudet** told *QP Briefing* in an interview Thursday.

"This is actually totally distinct from headquarters."

Following broad consultations with party members, 17 PC political committees – each co-chaired by a caucus member and an industry expert – produced the resolutions. These were then voted on by a 45-person head policy committee, Gaudet said.

However, some discontented members of the party called out what they see as suppression of debate on controversial issues and an opaque, top-down policy machine.

"The policy process is a sham, it's a farce," said **Jim Karahalios**, who co-chairs the Take Back Our PC Party group. "In one breath it's inclusive, but then he says we can't have an opinion on the largest tax increase in the country's history," he said, referring to Brown's carbon tax.

"The guy's at war with his own party members," added Karahalios, who also speaks for Axe the Carbon Tax, a group that boasts more than 23,000 Facebook followers.

Other said they're not pleased Brown said abortion is a no-go zone at the convention.

"He did exactly what he promised not to," said **Jim Hughes**, president of Campaign Life Coalition (CLC).

"He wrote the policy platform in a backroom at Queen's Park and is now trying to fool members into thinking they will have a genuine vote when all he's giving them is an illusion – to choose from among his own predetermined favourite policies."

Added CLC strategist **Jack Fonseca**: "He has personally scuttled member-driven, grassroots-driven policy resolutions."

Those include scores of party-member submissions to repeal the Liberal sex education curriculum, which incorporates same-sex marriage and gender identity, according to Ontario CLC president **Mary Ellen Douglas**.

However, Gaudet said Brown has learned from the mistakes of PC leaders past, namely **Tim Hudak** and **John Tory**, who went down after pledging to fully fund all faith-based schools and chop 100,000 public-sector jobs, respectively. "The last number of platforms, which caused political headaches and outcomes that weren't very positive for the campaigns, those platforms didn't get initial support or contribution from the members," Gaudet said.

The policy convention is scheduled for Nov. 25 at the Toronto Congress Centre in Etobicoke. There, party members will find out the results of an online vote, open to all members between Nov. 2 and 6, on the 139 resolutions.

Rick Dykstra has told *QP Briefing* that Brown and party leadership "reserve the right to adopt further policies" after the conference.

The last time the PCs held a convention – in March 2016 – the party had only 12,000 members, Brown has said. Now, its ranks have swelled to more than 126,000, according to Dykstra, despite recent alienation among some of the Tories' most socially conservative wings.

To contact the reporter on this story:

creynolds@qpbriefing.com

416-212-5816

Twitter: [@ChrisAReynolds](https://twitter.com/ChrisAReynolds)

Click here for reuse options!
Copyright 2017 QP Briefing

[Election 2018, News](#)

♥ 0



PREVIOUS ARTICLE
Giant rubber duck helped
bring in \$11.2 million in

NEXT ARTICLE
Your morning briefing

economic impact, says study

CHRISTOPHER REYNOLDS

QP BRIEFING Reporter



Leave a Reply

Logged in as Christopher Reynolds. [Log out?](#)

*Your Message **

Submit

Search



POLITICAL EVENTS CALENDAR

< >

OCTOBER 2017

TODAY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11



ON TWITTER

Queen's Park

A Twitter list by @QPbriefing



Michael Coteau @coteau

The world truly belongs 2 our young people.
Offering opportunities to youth 2day = a better tomorrow 🌍💪🙌 #OntarioBlackYouthActionPlan



[Embed](#)

[View on Twitter](#)

POLLS

Contrary to statements made by TB President, Liz Sandals, is it time to lift the wage freeze on MPP salaries?

- Not until the budget is balanced, citing the 2014 omnibus bill.
- Yes, and it is long overdue.

Vote

[View Results](#)

- [Polls Archive](#)

ABOUT QP BRIEFING

QP Briefing is a membership-based news source, covering all political and legislative movements at the provincial level.

QP Briefing is an invaluable information tool and a dispassionate resource for members of the Ontario Public Service, Public Affairs Firms and Strategists, Government Agencies, MPPs and all those claiming a stake in provincial politics.

SPONSORS



QP Briefing is a proud sponsor of the Public Affairs Association of Canada.

CONTACT US

Membership, Corporate Affairs and GR Inquiries:

Alexandria Shannon

Manager, Corporate Affairs and Government Relations

ashannon@qpbriefing.com

416-707-7443

Editorial Inquiries:

service@qpbriefing.com

Have a tip?

Send in confidence to

tips@qpbriefing.com

OUR AUTHORS

Jessica Smith Cross

Editor

jscross@torstar.ca

416-212-5913

Christopher Reynolds

Reporter

creynolds@qpbriefing.com

416-212-5816

David Hains

Reporter

dav.hains@gmail.com

416-880-4321

Copyright © 2017 QP Briefing. All rights reserved.

Social Media Auto Publish Powered By : XYZScripts.com