

Constitution of “Plant Based Treaty UofT Student Association”

1. Article One – Name and Purpose

- 1.1. The official name of the recognized student group is “Plant Based Treaty UofT Student Association”
- 1.2. The official acronym or abbreviation of the group is “PBT UofT SA”
- 1.3. The purpose, objectives, mission and/or mandate of the organization is to promote a plant-based, vegan lifestyle to reduce environmental harm and animal exploitation. Climate change and animal exploitation are urgent crises, and we need all hands on deck to create a sustainable, peaceful future. Promoting and advocating for a vegan lifestyle will help lower environmental degradation and reduce animal suffering. As one of our core activities, we will promote the plant-based treaty globally as well as the plant-based treaty made specifically for the University of Toronto. In addition, we aim to collaborate with university stakeholders like students, staff, faculty, student groups, chefs etc, to create plant-powered initiatives, menus and creative educational solutions. Also, we strive to foster a compassionate, equitable and just plant-based food system to reach & surpass sustainability goals on campus. To further elaborate, the club is centred on values of environmental responsibility & sustainability, animal liberation (solidarity with animals) and anti-oppression for humans and animals alike. The club is an inclusive, pro-feminist, pro-choice, pro-LGBTQ2S+, pro-animal liberation and pro-environmentalism space.

2. Article Two – Membership and Membership Fee

- 2.1. The group executives shall maintain a list of group members.
- 2.2. The group executives shall maintain a list of current and old versions of the constitution. Notes should be kept on changes that were made to the constitution, from one version to the next, and the reasoning behind those changes.
- 2.3. Voting membership is open to all registered students of the University of Toronto.
- 2.4. Voting membership is open only to registered students of the University of Toronto.
- 2.5. Non-voting membership is open to University of Toronto staff, faculty, alumni, and to persons from outside the University. Unless otherwise stated, non-voting members do not hold any rights awarded to voting members.
- 2.6. There is no membership fee.

3. Article Three – Rights of Members

- 3.1. All members have a right to attend all general meetings of members.
- 3.2. All voting members have a right to cast votes at all general meetings of members.
- 3.3. All voting members have a right to stand for election for any position unless otherwise stated in this document.
- 3.4. All non-voting members have a right to stand for election for positions that do not require voting power (e.g. non-voting executive) unless otherwise stated in this document.
- 3.5. All voting members have a right to cast votes in all group elections and referenda.

- 3.6. All members have a right to propose changes to this constitution.
- 3.7. All voting members have a right to vote on amendments to this constitution.
- 3.8. Each member shall be afforded the following rights through membership:
 - 3.8.1. The right to communicate and to discuss and explore all ideas,
 - 3.8.2. The right to organize/engage in activities/events that are reasonable and lawful,
 - 3.8.3. The right to freedom from discrimination on the basis of sex, race, disability, religion, gender or sexual orientation,
 - 3.8.4. The right to be free from censorship, control, or interference by the University on the basis of the organization's philosophy, beliefs, interests or opinions unless and until these lead to activities which are illegal or which infringe on the rights and freedoms already mentioned above,
 - 3.8.5. General members (non-executive) may have titles (e.g. Graphic Designer, etc), based on the tasks they complete or their primary duties,
 - 3.8.6. Executive members have the right to hire volunteers (volunteers hired will become general members of the club) to help or aid the executive with their duties. Executive members can advertise the volunteer position (through official PBT UofT SA accounts), and conduct interviews to select and hire a volunteer for the volunteer position. The executive wanting to hire a volunteer must inform and discuss this action with all other executives prior to hiring, advertising and conducting interviews for the position. Note: Anyone wanting to be a general member need not to apply for a volunteer position, they can obtain the membership directly as well,
 - 3.8.7. The right to distribute on campus, in a responsible way, published material provided that it is not unlawful.
- 3.9. Each member shall possess the following responsibilities relative to participation:
 - 3.9.1. Support the purpose of the organization,
 - 3.9.2. Uphold the values of the organization,
 - 3.9.3. Contribute constructively to the programs and activities offered by the organization,
 - 3.9.4. Abide by the constitution and subsequent official organizational documents,
 - 3.9.5. Respect the rights of peers and fellow members.

4. Article Four - Executive Committee

- 4.1. Although executive and general membership is open to everyone, it is recommended that all executive members & general members are vegan or are transitioning towards a vegan lifestyle.
- 4.2. The term for all positions on the Executive Committee shall be from June 1st to May 31st.
- 4.3. The Executive Committee shall be comprised of a maximum of five (5) positions.
- 4.4. All voting members of the Executive Committee must be currently registered students of the University of Toronto.
- 4.5. Non-voting members may hold only non-voting positions on the Executive Committee.

- 4.6. The maximum amount of non-voting positions on the Executive Committee shall be one (1) position or ten per cent (10%) of the positions on the Executive Committee, whichever is greatest.
- 4.7. Persons holding non-voting positions on the Executive Committee cannot serve as an officer, financial authority, signing authority, primary contact, or secondary contact.
- 4.8. No person may serve as a financial authority or signing authority for the group if they are currently serving as a financial authority or signing authority for another recognized student group at the University of Toronto.

5. Article Five - Executive Committee Composition and Duties

5.1. The President shall:

- 5.1.1. Be eligible to cast votes at meetings of the Executive Committee
- 5.1.2. The official spokesperson of the organization
- 5.1.3. Oversee the operations, management, and success of the group,
- 5.1.4. Provide directions for all components of the organization in a manner consistent with the organization's constitution and policies,
- 5.1.5. Hold signing and financial authority along with the Vice President of Finance,
- 5.1.6. Preside over meetings of the Executive Committee and/or members,
- 5.1.7. Lobby the university and governments to transition to veganism,
- 5.1.8. Lobby the university and governments to transition to veganism by promoting plant-based treaty global and plant-based treaty specifically for University of Toronto,
- 5.1.9. Advocate and promote veganism,
- 5.1.10. Ensure a transition of office from one year to the next.

5.2. The Executive Vice-President shall:

- 5.2.1. Similar to President, lobby and advocate for plant-based treaty and veganism,
- 5.2.2. Act as a liaison and build relationships with other clubs and organizations,
- 5.2.3. Provide direction and advice to other executives/members (based on the constitution and its policies), and if needed, aid the President and other executives with their duties,
- 5.2.4. Ensure a transition of office from one year to the next,

5.3. The Vice-President of Communications shall:

- 5.3.1. Act as a liaison between the organization and other student clubs, societies, organizations, and groups on and off campus,
- 5.3.2. Be responsible for managing external communications, including social media of the club,
- 5.3.3. Maintain the group's website,
- 5.3.4. Record notes and motions for meetings. If they are unable to attend, delegate this task to someone else on the team,
- 5.3.5. Similar to the President, lobby and advocate for plant-based treaty and veganism,
- 5.3.6. Notify all members of general meetings.

5.4. The Vice-President of Finance shall:

- 5.4.1. Be eligible to cast votes at meetings of the Executive Committee,
- 5.4.2. If at any point, the executive cannot fill one or more of the responsibilities/duties they can delegate the task(s) to the President, as they also have Financial authority in the club,
- 5.4.3. Record all financial transactions of the group,
- 5.4.4. Hold signing and financial authority along with the President,
- 5.4.5. Maintain a budget of income and expenses,
- 5.4.6. Advise members on the financial position of the group,
- 5.4.7. Prepare an annual budget and financial reports for the group,
- 5.4.8. Present budget or reports to the club or if needed, to external members,
- 5.4.9. Submit any financial paperwork needed to the university,
- 5.4.10. Similar to President, lobby and advocate for plant-based treaty and veganism,
- 5.4.11. Present possible sources of club funding if additional funds are required for the club's operations.

5.5. The Vice-President of Operations shall:

- 5.5.1. Be eligible to cast votes at meetings of the Executive Committee,
- 5.5.2. Responsible for event executions, room bookings, ensuring events run smoothly,
- 5.5.3. Developing practices and policies to maintain a positive, safe, and equitable working environment for group members,
- 5.5.4. Maintain a list of group members,
- 5.5.5. Maintain member contact list,
- 5.5.6. Similar to President, lobby and advocate for plant-based treaty and veganism.

6. Article Six – Elections, Positions & Resignations

- 6.1. All voting positions on the Executive Committee shall be filled through an annual election.
- 6.2. All voting group members shall be eligible to seek nomination to and cast a ballot for each voting position.
- 6.3. All non-voting group members shall be eligible to seek nomination only for non-voting positions on the Executive Committee.
- 6.4. Non-voting group members shall not be eligible to cast a ballot for any elected position.
- 6.5. The nominee winning the plurality of votes cast in the election for each position shall be deemed the winner.
- 6.6. On the condition that multiple candidates are to be elected for a single position, the nominees winning the largest share of the votes cast shall be deemed the winners until all positions are filled.
- 6.7. The elections must be held in a nonbiased manner. No individual who is seeking election may participate in planning or administering the election.
- 6.8. If no person is running for a particular executive position listed in the constitution, that unfilled position's associated responsibilities could be delegated to another executive member until that position is filled through a by-election.
- 6.9. Any general member of the organization may resign, at any time, provided they gave notice to any executive member, and no ratification by the organization shall be required

to make the resignation official. Unless any such resignation is, by its terms, effective on a later date, it shall be effective on delivery.

- 6.10. Any executive of the organization may resign, provided that such resignation is made in writing and delivered to the President. Unless any such resignation is, by its terms, effective on a later date, it shall be effective on delivery to the President, and no ratification by the organization shall be required to make the resignation official.
- 6.11. If the President resigns, a notice of such resignation must be submitted in writing and delivered to the executive committee at a valid executive meeting. Unless any such resignation is, by its terms, effective on a later date, it shall be effective on delivery to the executive committee, and no ratification by the organization shall be required to make the resignation official.
- 6.12. For the vacancy of the President's position, its associated responsibilities shall be filled by another executive committee member appointed by a simple and clear majority of the executive committee until such a time when a by-election is held to fill the vacancy.
- 6.13. For any other vacancy of the executive positions, their associated responsibilities shall be filled by the President or another executive or designate of the organization until such a time when a by-election is held to fill such vacancy.

7. Article Seven – Finances

- 7.1. The Vice-President of Finance shall keep an active record of income and expenses.
- 7.2. The Vice-President of Finance shall present the group's financial position at annual general meetings.
- 7.3. The Executive Committee must approve all expenditures over \$100.00 through a majority vote at a meeting of the Executive Committee.
- 7.4. The group may not engage in activities that are essentially commercial in nature.
- 7.5. The group will not have as a major activity a function that makes it an on-campus chapter of a commercial organization.
- 7.6. The group will not provide services and goods at a profit when that profit is used for purposes other than those of the group.
- 7.7. The group will not pay salaries to any of its officers.

8. Article Eight – Meetings

- 8.1. The Executive Committee shall at least meet once a month. The quorum for Executive Committee meetings shall be 50%+1 of the voting members of the Executive Committee.
- 8.2. The group shall hold general meetings at least twice per year to provide the general membership an opportunity to review the group's annual activity plan, and financial health and propose or vote on constitutional amendments.
- 8.3. The Executive Committee must announce the date of a general meeting to the general membership at least two (2) weeks prior to the date of the meeting.

9. Article Nine - Termination of Membership

- 9.1. The Executive Committee may revoke the membership of any member of the club who commits an act negatively affecting the interests of the club and its members. This includes non-disclosure of a significant or continuing conflict of interest, violating the rights of a fellow member, or violating the constitution.
- 9.2. A vote to revoke membership must be held at a meeting of the Executive Committee.
- 9.3. A two-thirds majority of the Executive Committee is required to approve any motion to revoke membership.
- 9.4. Any member facing removal shall have the right to appeal the decision of the Executive Committee to the general membership.
- 9.5. In the case of an appeal, a simple majority vote at a meeting of the general membership shall be required to sustain the revocation of membership.
- 9.6. Following a termination of membership, the member will be removed from the club's membership and will lose any privileges associated with being a member of the club.
- 9.7. Executive Committee members are subject to the same termination of the membership process as general members.

10. Article Ten – Amendments

- 10.1. All constitutional amendments shall require a 2/3 majority vote to be passed at a general meeting.
- 10.2. All members (voting or non-voting members) may propose changes to the constitution.
- 10.3. All voting members may vote on amendments to the constitution.
- 10.4. The Executive Committee shall submit the revised constitution to staff in the Division of Student Life at the University of Toronto within two (2) weeks.
- 10.5. Amendments to the constitution shall take effect only once the revised constitution has been approved by staff in the Division of Student Life at the University of Toronto.