



CANADIAN
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DU CANADA

Study Resolution on Democracy

The Canadian Unitarian Council, assembled at its Annual General Meeting in Winnipeg, Manitoba, on May 17-19, 2003,

Observing a decline in voter turnout at recent provincial and federal elections,

Noting that youth, in particular, appear to be disillusioned with politics and elections,

Remembering our 5th principle: “The right of conscience and use of the democratic process in our congregations and in society at large”,

And realizing that the above principle does not define the characteristics of democracy desirable in our modern society,

Realizing that some of our democratic processes (such as our system of voting, funding political parties, etc.) are not inclusive of the whole electorate, in contravention of our UU values and principles,

Realizing further that the above are but a few of the symptoms of a weakening or ineffective democracy in Canada,

And noting that some of these deficiencies might be ameliorated through reforms (e.g., to our electoral system, to parliamentary Committee structure, etc.), or by legislating new processes (e.g., citizen’s deliberative councils, rights to initiatives and recall, etc.),

RESOLVES

That this AGM direct a group of individuals to begin a two-year study of democratic processes in Canada. The purposes of this study in which all congregations are invited to participate are:

a) to raise awareness in our congregations of the strengths and weaknesses of democracy in Canada,

b) to undertake a critical analysis of our democratic procedures, and identify the deficiencies that impede the proper functioning of democracy,

c) to engage Unitarian and Universalist congregations in the development of policies and actions that will strengthen democracy in Canada,



d) and to propose a resolution at the CUC AGM in 2005 that will establish a monitoring group to implement any recommended actions resulting from this 2-yr study, modified as the need arises.

**Passed by delegates at the Annual General Meeting in Winnipeg, May 2003
Canadian Unitarian Council**