

GTWA Policy on Participation, Voting and Disruption

1. Each session of the Assembly will be facilitated by designated chair people, who are responsible for ensuring productive and inclusive discussions. Members of the Assembly will have voice and vote in all sessions of the Assembly. Observers will have voice in educational sessions of Assembly meetings only.
2. All members of the Assembly are asked to ensure a cooperative and inclusive atmosphere for all discussions and decision-making. Chair people will make every effort to ensure recognition of speakers from diverse sectors, and particularly from groups commonly denied equal representation. We understand that all members will attend to equity concerns during Assembly discussions and events.
3. To facilitate constructive discussion and an efficient process, the following simple procedures are suggested: 1) each proposal will be motivated by an Assembly member, seconded by an Assembly member, and discussed, followed by a vote; 2) all members of the Assembly may vote, indicated by a show of hands with voting cards; 3) friendly amendments – acceptable to the mover of the proposal -- do not require a vote; 4) alternative proposals may be presented during the designated time periods; 5) proposals will be considered to pass if they achieve a simple majority (50% plus one) of votes cast; 6) proposals passed by a narrow majority, or any discussions that call for revisiting beyond the designated time frame, may be tabled for future discussions.

(NOTE: Points 1, 2 and 3 are adapted from “Welcome to the Assembly” from past two Assemblies).

4. Assembly procedures – including logistics, implementing agreed-upon policies and practices (including those related to discrimination and harassment), and trouble-shooting unanticipated challenges – will be addressed by designated stewards. All members are asked to cooperate with and support Assembly stewards, and to help in promoting collective procedures that ensure a positive and inclusive atmosphere.
5. We understand that we are embarking on a project to build a new type of politics. To this end, we anticipate lively debate and discussion. While sharp debates are expected, bullying, aggressive behaviour, and/or disrespecting the chair and stewards will not be tolerated. Individuals who disrupt the Assembly will receive an initial warning from the chair; refusal to cooperate will be followed by a second warning from the chair. If disruptive behaviour continues after the second warning, the chair will ask the member to leave the Assembly.
6. We anticipate that extreme disruption will be exceptional. Our aim is to educate all members – from the newly radicalized to the most experienced, and from diverse sectors of the community – in a new style of collaboration and communication, consistent with our political goals. We are not motivated to target or punish negative behaviour. However, if there is a repeated pattern of disruption, subsequent consequences will be determined on a case-by-case basis, subject to the recommendations of stewards and the coordinating committee.
7. Each coordinating committee should designate two members with skills in addressing equity and conduct issues who can address such cases should they arise, at Workers’ Assembly general meetings, or at any point and in any area of work related to Workers’ Assembly activities. Meeting chairs, stewards and Assembly processes will enact the Assembly’s policy on Harassment and Discrimination and each co-ordinating committee will incorporate this work into its mandate.