

Developing Canadian Chamber of Commerce Policy Resolutions

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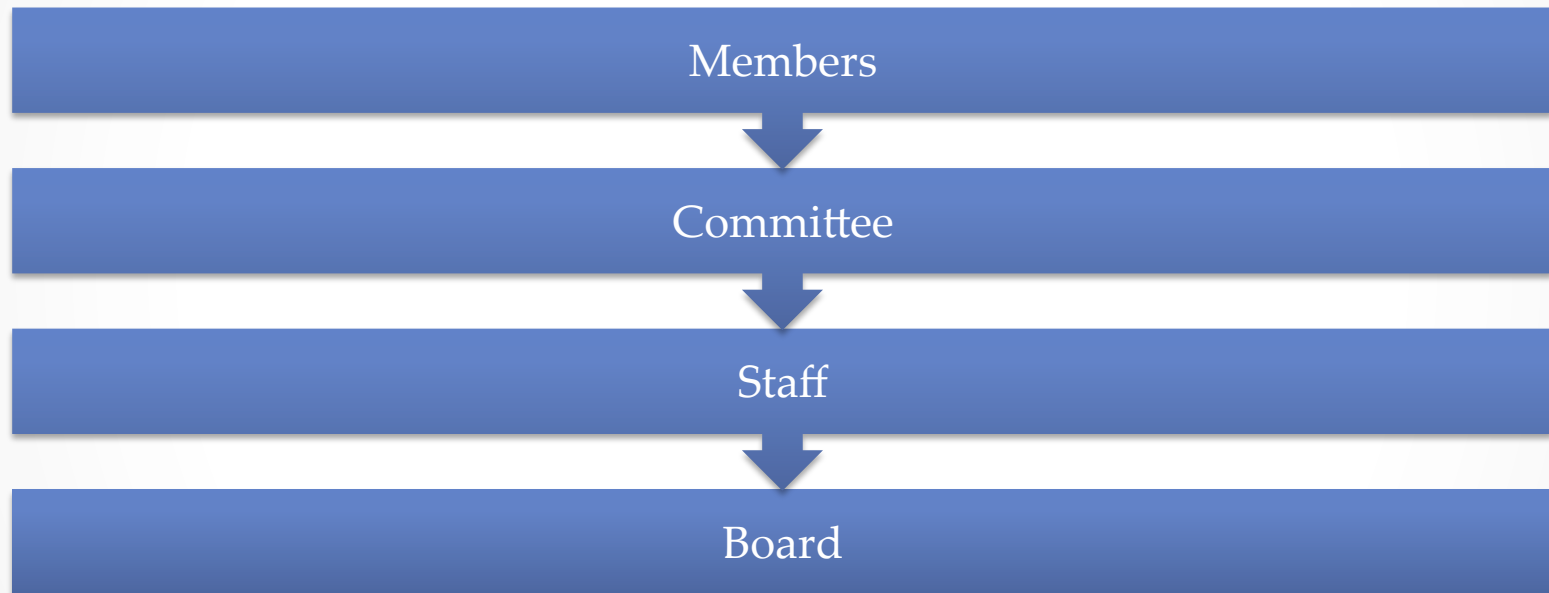
Overview

- Introduction
- Challenges
- Process
- Identifying Issues
- Developing Resolutions
- Advocating on the issues

Our Challenges

- Away from the action
 - Politicians
 - Civil servants
- Less organizational / member knowledge of federal issues than municipal/provincial
- Lack of resources
- Haphazardness

Setting up the right process



**Committee sometimes acts as place of members

Identifying Issues

- In many ways the most difficult part
- Often requires interpretation
 - Members don't speak/think in policy
 - Highlights importance of understanding your members
 - "Sell the problem you solve, not the product"
 - Not enough customers
- CCC/ACC priorities
- Members / Surveys
- Committee
- Board
- Staff
 - *Source of haphazardness

Identifying Issues

- Filter through Policy Committee
- Example: attracting and retaining international students
- Checks off a lot of boxes for us
 - Population growth
 - Demographics
 - Skilled labour

Developing the Resolution

- Broad nature of chamber work (challenge)
- Rely on your networks, members, but starting point for us is the committee
- Policy Committee
 - Internal expertise
 - Board
 - External expertise
 - Where the idea came from

Developing the Resolution

- Example – international students
 - NB Student Alliance (on the committee)
 - Connected with Canadian Alliance of Student Associations
 - Importance of a broad committee
- Seeking other chambers as co-sponsors, etc – leverage their expertise
 - *advocating as well

Developing the resolution

1. Allow international students to qualify for the Canada Summer Jobs program. - Original idea
2. Expand eligibility for off-campus employment to international students studying part-time. - NBSA
3. Modify student permits to allow international students to participate in co-op terms and internships without obtaining a separate work permit. NBSA
4. Extend post-graduate job-search period from 90 days to 6 months, thereby eliminating the need for a 'bridge' extension study permit. CASA
5. Count all time spent in Canada as an international student towards citizenship eligibility (i.e. increase from half time to full time). CASA
6. Change the length of time for which a post-graduation work permit can be valid to five years (from the current three years), regardless of the program of study, so long as it was at a recognized Canadian academic institution. Spruce Grove
7. Expedite the process for international students to receive visas as well as the processing times for their permanent residency applications so long as they graduated from a recognized Canadian institution and are currently employed within Canada. Spruce Grove

Advocating

- Federal issues challenging
 - Less access, especially to real decision makers
- Seek partners to amplify our voice
 - CCC
 - ACC
 - Other business groups – CFIB, CME
 - Other relevant groups – NBSA; CASA

Advocating

- Work with local MP
 - High variance situation – constantly shifting (not just at election time)
 - Regional approach lately – bringing in more MPs
 - Quarterly meetings with regional reps
- Engage other levels of government

Final thoughts

- Experience/ practice
 - Attend CCC (not just this year)
 - Participate in CCC calls
 - Participate in CCC campaigns
 - Get to know CCC staff
 - Reach out to other local chambers
 - Everyone gives their time

Thank you!

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