



**DOMINION COMMAND
CONSTITUTION & LAWS COMMITTEE
12 OCTOBER 2023, 15:30 Hrs
MEETING MINUTES**

In Attendance:	Dave Gordon	Chair
	David Eaton	Vice Chair
	George O'Dair	Member
	Bill Chafe	Member
	Craig Thompson	Member
	Randy Hayley	Committee Coordinator
	Ty Backer	Assistant Committee Coordinator
Regrets:	Gerald Budden	Member

1. OPENING REMARKS

The meeting convened at 1530 hours (EST) by zoom video conference. The Chair welcomed all.

2. SUMMARY REVIEW OF ARTICLE III SUBMISSIONS RECEIVED FROM PROVINCIAL COMMANDS

The Committee members previously reviewed the fifty-one recommendations received from eight Provincial Commands in early June. Two Commands stated they had no recommendations for changes/updates to the current Article III process and two Commands submitted only one recommendation for consideration.

The most common recommendations received:

- Consideration for Mandatory Mediation Process
- Article III/Mediation Training
- Reviewing of Timelines

The Committee discussed the challenges of implementing changes/updates/improvements and measuring success or lack of success. The Dominion C&L Committee lacks any data on the volume or type of Article III's currently filed on an annual basis, and as a result was cognizant that changes/updates to current processes would be difficult to measure regarding their impact.

The Committee agreed to proceed focusing on the most common recommendations received from Commands.

3. DISCUSSION OF COMMON ARTICLE III SUGGESTIONS

1. Mandatory Mediation:

- The most common recommendation received from the responding Provincial Commands was a request for mandatory mediation as a first step to the complaint process.
- The Committee agreed an initial screening process of complaints submitted coupled with mandatory mediation could play a role in removing 'frivolous' personal conflicts from the Article III process.
- To start, the Committee discussed separating 304 a. i and ii into their own 'category' as these are the less serious offences of section 304 a. and then these could be considered for the mandatory mediation process.
- Sections 304 a iii to vii could then be handled slightly differently through a process as these are the more serious offences of section 304 a.
- The Committee discussed the potential for these two 'categories' to be handled differently if using mandatory mediation and to potentially divide the mediation responsibility between the local Branch and the Zone or District level depending on the type of complaint filed.
- The Committee believed the mediation process would reduce the formal Article III's currently being submitted but currently has no way to measure the results.
- Based on the above, The Committee asked the Coordinator and Assistant Coordinator to draft a proposed revision of section 304 for Committee consideration at the next meeting.

2. Additional Training:

- During the March 2023 Committee meeting the consensus was Article III was one of the most open GBL Articles to abuse through misapplication, incorrect interpretation, misuse, improper procedure, etc. and as a process/tool open to all members it should be reviewed. As a result, a PPT flowchart was created and was presented as a tool to assist members in navigating the current Article III process. It is a clear, concise step-by-step visual guide to aid in properly filing a complaint. This proposed flowchart will need to incorporate any proposed changes to section 304.

- The Committee also discussed developing a training presentation to be posted online and shared with Commands as ON Command currently has a version which could be used as a foundation for an updated presentation tool.
- The Committee would also consider a Dominion Convention workshop and online seminar with the Committee of the Whole members.

3. Timelines:

- Although there were suggested timeline updates received from Commands the Committee agreed to defer these specific decisions until the first two common themes are reviewed further.

ACTION: Committee Coordinator


4. OTHER BUSINESS

The Committee briefly discussed updating a Video Conferencing policy for hearings which will be reviewed at next C&L Meeting.

5. CLOSING

The Chair thanked all for their valuable input and the meeting was adjourned at 16:45 hrs (EST).

The recommendations contained within these minutes are subject to the approval of Dominion Executive Council or Dominion Convention as appropriate.



Dave Gordon
Chair



Randy Hayley
Coordinator