



Educational Resources

VEGETABLE HARMONY ACT

Chair Instructions

The chair of the committee is a parliamentarian who has a very important job. The chair runs the meetings in an organized and fair way. Use the script below to organize what you will do and say at each stage of the meeting. When the words below are in *italics*, these are the words that you will actually say. You may change the wording slightly if you like.

Introductions

At the beginning of the meeting, introduce the work that the committee is going to do today, the speakers and the rules.

Good morning (or afternoon), parliamentarians, honourable minister, honoured guests, ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to the Standing Committee on Food and Nutrition.

Today we will be studying an act to regulate the serving of vegetables at dinner in Canadian households in the interests of family peace and harmony.

The Minister of Food will introduce this bill to our committee, and then we will hear speeches from:

- *The Canadian Vegetable Growers Association;*
- *The Parents' Council of Canada;*
- *The Committee for the Rights of Children; and*
- *The Restaurant Association of Canada*

We will then study and vote on each of the clauses in the bill and then have a final vote on whether or not to refer the bill back to the other Chamber.

Here are some rules for the meeting:

1. *Only parliamentarians on the committee are allowed to vote and to ask questions.*
2. *If you would like to speak or ask a question, raise your hand. The clerk will keep a list of people who would like to speak.*
3. *You may only speak or ask a question during certain times in the meeting, and when I have called your name.*
4. *Do not talk or whisper to each other during the meeting.*
5. *Speak respectfully to each other. You will call me Mr. / Madam Chair. You will call parliamentarians and the minister by their title and name, for example "Senator Smith", "MP Bilodeau", or "Minister Chan." You will call the witnesses Mr. or Ms. and their last name.*

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Witnesses

Introduce the part of the meeting where the witnesses offer their presentations.

We will now hear from our very welcome guests. Thank you for taking the time to travel here today to share your opinions and expertise with us. When I call on you, please come and sit in the witness seats to make your presentation.

Let's begin with the Minister of Food. Minister, you have up to four minutes to speak.

Invite the minister to come up to the table to speak. When he or she is finished, ask the committee members if they have any questions or comments for the minister.

Do any members of the committee have questions for the minister?

After the minister has answered any questions, call up all the representatives from ONE of the witness groups.

We will now hear from _____ and _____, representing the _____. You have up to three minutes in total for your presentation.

At the end of the witnesses' presentations, say:

Do any members of the committee have questions for these witnesses?

Repeat the procedures for inviting witness groups to make their presentations and answer questions from the committee until all the groups have been heard.

Clause-by-clause examination of the bill

You will now lead the committee through the clauses in the bill. They will have a chance to talk about the specific words in each clause and then will have to vote on whether or not to approve each clause. You will skip the first two clauses that are simply about the title and definitions and will begin at clause 3.

We will now begin our clause-by-clause examination of the bill, starting with clause 3. For each clause, I will ask if there is any discussion. If you want to make an amendment, that is the time to introduce it. You introduce an amendment by saying “I propose that we amend this clause.” You then explain the amendment and hand a written copy of it to the clerk. If you introduce an amendment, we will discuss and vote on it first. If the amendment passes, the clerk will change the wording of the clause. If it does not, the wording will remain the same.

We will vote on each clause by raising hands. I will say:

“If you want this clause to pass, please raise your hands” and then

“If you want to defeat this clause, please raise your hands.”

The clerk will count the votes. If more of you vote for the clause to pass, it will stay in the bill. If more of you vote to defeat it, the clerk will remove it from the bill.

Final vote

The final vote on the bill is whether or not to report the bill back to the Senate/House of Commons. That means the committee is finished with the bill, and it is time to move it on to the next step.

Members of the committee, is it agreed that I report this bill to the Senate/House of Commons?

Conclusion

Thank everyone for their time and effort and say that the meeting is adjourned.