DEMOCRACY BETWEEN ELECTIONS

What we can build together, every day, not only on election day

WORKING GROUP • DISCUSSION DRAFT

A shared plan, built together

The working group's top ideas included: (votes)

Shared vision for democracy between elections	9
Information-sharing infrastructure	9
Policy Advocacy Campaign Pitching & Self-Organizing	6
Everyday Democracy Toolkit	5
Canada's First Democracy Festival	4
Vital Signs of Canadian Democracy / Civic Space Index	4+4
Collaborate with Existing Democracy Conferences (e.g. Ottawa Civic Space Summit)	4
Touring Exhibit of Real-Life Democracy Success Stories	3

Red = Year 1

Blue = Year 2 and Beyond

Three Areas to Discuss for Year 1

A proposed organizing structure—not a change to the group's original ideas.

01 IMAGINE THE DEMOCRACY WE WANT

Crowdsource a vision for Canadian democracy, and especially between elections, in collaboration with existing coalition members' events, bringing themes back to coalition to refine and validate

02 CONNECT & ENABLE

Creation of an information sharing and communication infrastructure, followed by an Everyday Democracy Toolkit (a shared repository of tools, resources, etc.)

03 FOCUS/CLARIFY

Co-develop a shared purpose statement and strategy/plan of action for the Canadian democracy coalition

Imagine the Democracy We Want

Crowdsource a vision for Canadian democracy, especially in between elections, in collaboration with existing coalition members' events, bringing themes back to coalition to refine and validate

NOW

Confirm prompting questions and create "dialogue in a box" so that anyone can host a workshop and collect data to contribute to the visioning process.

NEXT 3–6 MONTHS

Convene visioning dialogues at existing democracy events/conferences across Canada to build momentum with limited resources; invite existing visioning efforts to contribute their learnings.

WITHIN A YEAR

Bring themes back to coalition to refine and validate. Publish beta version of vision for feedback, while continuing to add new ideas as we extend engagement to new communities.

Suggested milestones are for discussion; not yet agreed commitments.

Connect and Enable: Create An Information Sharing Infrastructure and Everyday Democracy Toolkit

A common platform to connect and access shared resources, eventually working towards a shared, living collection of resources that organizations and eventually the public can use year-round.

NOW

Create a shared Drive and communication platform; invite tools, resources, etc. and ask contributors to maintain their own materials.

NEXT 3–6 MONTHS

Agree on categories, accessibility standards, stewardship and a lightweight searchable directory.

WITHIN A YEAR

Launch a sustainable, public-facing, searchable resource hub with a content steward.

Suggested milestones are for discussion; not yet agreed commitments.

Align and Focus/Clarify Network Purpose & Strategy

Build from existing work, identify gaps, and agree on a high level common purpose for the network.

NOW

Create a “good enough” set of principles that we can then be ready to launch the network.

NEXT 3–6 MONTHS

Governing body engages coalition members on mission and vision leading to a strategy

WITHIN A YEAR

Publish a co-developed high level purpose statement, and brought a strategy draft to the group.

Suggested milestones are for discussion; not yet agreed commitments.

Ideas for Year 2 and Beyond

New workstreams to build upon the visioning, strategic alignment and collaborative infrastructure from Year 1:

04 EXPAND ENGAGEMENT AND STORYTELLING ACROSS CANADA

· **Canada's first democracy festival** as a launchpad & celebration for coalition programming

· **Touring exhibit** to showcase and spread real-life success stories of the democracy we want

· **Build new convening partnerships for long-term success,** moving beyond existing conferences to underheard and overlooked spaces such as small town community halls, libraries, legions and beyond

05 MEASURE & LEARN

· **Vital Signs of Canadian Democracy** index, building upon existing projects & expanding to all provinces and territories

· **Opportunities for collective learning**

· **Policy advocacy campaign pitching and self-organizing** with like-minded orgs