

The Honourable Speaker, with the consent of His Excellency the Governor General, in accordance with section 34(d) and section 74 of the Constitution Act, 2016, enacts as follows:

Backgrounder

In light of recent issues between members, it became clear that /r/cmhoc required a more comprehensive harassment policy. Currently, the subreddit is governed solely by the subreddit rules and some vague passages in the Constitution on what constitutes rule breaking. Given the issues, it would appear to me that those attempts are not enough at ensuring members are not subjected to harassment within /r/cmhoc.

This document will attempt to rectify those issues and codify a clear harassment policy and other general rules to ensure that moderators can act efficiently, fairly, and quickly on matters of harassment within /r/cmhoc.

The Speaker is responsible for interpreting and enforcing this policy according to section 33 of the Constitution Act, 2016. Any complaint should be made to the Speaker or appropriate authority according to Part VI of the Constitution Act, 2016.

The Parliament refers to /r/CMHoC in this policy. This policy is applicable to affiliated subreddits unless indicated otherwise. Moderators refer to the Governor General, the Speaker and other users designated by the Speaker to enforce this policy (e.g. Deputy Speakers).

Anything in violation of criminal law is absolutely not tolerated in the Model Canada.

Rule Changes

- 1.) The first change is the moving of Rule 1 to further down on the list. The anti-spam rule is important, and will be discussed further down in this document, but we should be focusing on member-to-member behaviour interactions first before focusing on general sub rules.
- 2.) Rules 2 and 3 (don't flame, don't start arguments over nothing) are going to be combined into the new Rule 1.
- 3.) Rule 4 is combined with Rule 5.
- 4.) Rule 6 may remain as written.
- 5.) Rule 7 is being struck completely.
- 6.) A specific harassment guideline sheet, including offenses that are recognized as harassment, has been constructed.
- 7.) Limitations to the harassment policy have also been noted; including situations wherein the moderation team would and would not act on a complaint.
- 8.) Rule forbidding downvoting is added March 6, 2016.

Rule 1: Parliamentary Etiquette Will Be Enforced

SHORT RULE: Parliamentary etiquette will be enforced in the subreddit; this means that flaming, trolling, and harassment of other members will not be tolerated on the subreddit.

LONG RULE: The Standing Orders provide a long list of acceptable Parliamentary Etiquette; it gives the Speaker room to prevent members from engaging in repetition, irrelevance, and from besmirching or attacking the character of another Member of the Commons.

As such, this gives the Speaker and the Moderators room to maneuver in a lot of different situations. Members can be rebuked for repetition and irrelevance, effectively trolling, but also for attacking another Member's character, effectively flaming and harassment. It is up to the Speaker and the Moderation team to be vigilant to these instances and call for correction, or enforce correction, when needed.

The call against irrelevance also covers the current rule of not starting arguments over nothing; as the Speaker can rule such comments out of order.

This rule applies solely to the Parliament and subreddits designated by the Speaker; it DOES NOT apply to the Skype Chat, as that is an entirely separate beast where communications are expected to be more informal.

Rule 2: Derogatory Statements are not tolerated on any /r/cmhoc related areas.

SHORT RULE: Derogatory statements are not tolerated on any /r/cmhoc subreddit or within the Skype Chat. These include, but are not limited to, statements that are: racist, homophobic, sexist, transphobic, or other comments specifically made to be discouraging or disparaging of any group.

LONG RULE: Most of this should be self-explanatory; if it's racist, sexist, homophobic, or draws on stereotypes in a manner designed to be hurtful, it cannot be said in any associated /r/cmhoc forum, including the Skype Chat.

An exception to this rule would be context and argument within a debate in /r/cmhoc. Since there are parties that do oppose furthering transgender rights, for example, a comment that speaks against expanding those rights within context of a debate would not be considered a breach of this rule.

However, it is possible to go past the exception provided for debate if the comments go outside debate and stray into what can be classified as hate speech and a violation of the subreddit's rules. As such, debates on issues like this must be carefully watched by the Speaker and the moderation team; and any potential violations of the rule must be reviewed carefully.

It is worth noting, however, that all comments of this nature that take place OUTSIDE of debate will be considered a violation of this rule.

Satirical or humourous remarks will be decided by the moderators on a case-by-case basis.

Rule 3: Don't spam in the sub, and don't spam for the sub.

SHORT RULE: Any post that isn't a debate, party announcement, or membership change announcement must be cleared with the moderation team. Advertising for other subs must always be cleared with the moderators; and any promotion of /r/cmhoc must be cleared with the moderators of this sub and the sub you are promoting in.

LONG RULE: Again, mostly self-explanatory. If it's not a direct matter for /r/cmhoc, the poster should be asking us if it's okay to post it in the main sub.

They should also be reminded that they need to **ask permission of moderators in other subs** before posting a call to arms for /r/cmhoc. It's respectful and it keeps the entirety of /r/cmhoc from getting into trouble with another subreddit.

Any advertising for /r/CMHoC in **subreddits of general interest** (e.g. /r/Canada, /r/Toronto, /r/gaming, /r/ualberta) needs **prior permission from the Speaker**.

Rule 4: Be friendly and helpful to new members.

SHORT RULE: Be friendly and helpful to all new members; even if they're not in your party, we're all here to have fun.

LONG RULE: Again, mostly self-explanatory here.

Members should be helpful to other members, even if they're not party colleagues. There will be some degree of animosity between parties, that's the nature of politics, but we should encourage people to at least be as civil as possible, especially towards new members.

Rule 5: No downvoting

SHORT RULE: Do not downvote; report rule-breaking posts.

LONG RULE:

Downvoting does not contribute discussion, it may even hinder discussion if a post's points fell below certain level. If a post breaks some rule, report it to the moderators.

Harassment Guideline Sheet

This guideline sheet is meant to define what is considered to be harassment, both on the subreddit and in the Skype Chat. It is not a complete list, as there will always be unprovided for cases, but it will be a good starting point for Members to identify whether they are being harassed and for moderators to reference.

Harassment policy applies to the use of private messaging, Skype and other chat groups if the use is reasonably connected to the Model.

What is Harassment?

Harassment is defined with /r/cmhoc as follows:

Any improper conduct by an individual, that is directed at and offensive to another individual in the subreddit, including at any event or any location related to the subreddit, and that the individual knew or ought reasonably to have known would cause offence or harm. It comprises objectionable act(s), comment(s) or display(s) that demean, belittle, or cause personal humiliation or embarrassment, and any act of intimidation or threat.

Harassment is normally a series of incidents but can be one severe incident which has a lasting impact on the individual.

Unprovoked vs. Provoked Cases

- 1.) Unprovoked cases: This refers to a person, who through no action of their own, is being harassed by a fellow member. An example of this would be a member who is receiving repeated disparaging messages from another member due to their race, religion, gender, sexuality, or other personal characteristic.
- 2.) Provoked cases: This refers to a person, who through action of their own, is being harassed by a fellow member. An example of this would be a continuing 'flame war' between two members.

Specific Harassment Cases

- 1.) Any specific attack on a Member's race, religion, gender, sexuality, or other personal characteristic (this can include party affiliation).
- 2.) Any non-consensual sharing of content that is designed to offend, or provoke, an individual. This includes, but is not limited to: shock memes, pornographic content, any content containing nudity, any content containing violence/horrific scenes, etc. This also includes inappropriate messaging, such as "sexting", to another member without their consent. **NSFW warnings are always needed even if the material is presented in a consensual context (e.g. in a debate regarding sexual education).**

- 3.) Baseless accusations of cheating, impropriety, or rule-breaking. Obviously, this is not considered harassment in situations where rules have indeed been broken; but in situations where the moderators are being called to investigate a member simply as a means to annoy, intimidate, or undermine the member in question will be considered harassment.
- 4.) Creation of rumours, slander, and inaccurate statements about another member.

Limitations to the Policy

- 1.) The Moderation Team only has the authority to act within the confines of /r/cmhoc. If the harassment is occurring in a different subreddit, we would encourage you to inform the moderators of that subreddit. (Example: If a member from /r/canadapolitics is harassing you due to comments or a situation there, it would be more appropriate to ask the /r/canadapolitics mods to intervene.)
- 2.) Exceptions to this limitation are if the harassment is occurring via e-mail or other digital contact methods, and the only shared connection between the two members is /r/cmhoc and no other subreddit; then it will be considered within the realm of /r/cmhoc moderators to take action against the harasser.
- 3.) The Moderation Team also has limited authority to act on matters that existed prior to /r/cmhoc. If you have a long standing feud or harassment issues with a fellow member that existed prior to both of you joining /r/cmhoc, we cannot act based on past behaviour that occurred outside of the sub. If the harassment continues in any /r/cmhoc related forum, or Skype Chat, we will consider the limitation removed; but we cannot take retroactive action.
- 4.) Statements made in good faith will be considered as a partial or absolute defence when applying this policy.

Penalty guidelines for violation of this policy and some other rules

See:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1YjfGDk01jjeKqvyzWPKFD_oezW3pOyS4xfjPxVIKsZQ/edit

The Speaker may modify this policy at will, or with the consent of the Governor General when the policy details are regarding private messaging, Skype and chat groups.