

# Constitution and By-Laws

# Liberal

Liberal Party of Newfoundland and Labrador  
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CONSTITUTION  
LIBERAL PARTY  
OF  
NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

Revised and Consolidated as of August 2020

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## Preamble

The Liberal Party strives for a society in which every individual is valued equally under the law regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, religion, disability culture or sexual orientation, and has an equal opportunity to reach their full potential. A fundamental core Liberal value is a fair balance between respect for individual rights and freedoms, and caring for the needs of each individual and of society as a whole. Liberals take pride in having implemented fundamental changes in Canada including the Charter of Rights and Freedoms and universal Health Care. But for Liberals the focus is not on such profound achievements but rather a future of continuous renewal and improvement including not just legislation and essential services such as education and healthcare but also renewal of the democratic process itself. Liberals are committed to openness and transparency in government and the opportunity for all to participate in the political process. Liberals believe in sustainable economic development and the necessity of protecting the natural environment for future generations. Liberals recognize the rights and unique character of each Province within the Canadian confederation and are committed to Newfoundland and Labrador playing a full and constructive role within Canada.

## ARTICLE I - NAME

The Name of the Party shall be the Liberal Party of Newfoundland and Labrador.

## ARTICLE II – DEFINITIONS

In the Constitution, By-Laws, and Standing Rules, the following words and phrases shall have the meaning indicated:

- “Aboriginal” means a member who is a recognized status aboriginal, or an Aboriginal member of the Innu Nation, or the Labrador Inuit Association.
- “Area Vice-President” means the Vice-president of a Provincial District Association.
- “Association” means Provincial District Association, Commission of Young Liberals, Women’s Liberal Commission or Indigenous People Liberal Commission.
- “Day” when expressed as a number of days means clear days. (Multiple of 24 hours, i.e. 7 days expressed as 168 hours, 21 days expressed as 504 hours).
- “District” means a Provincial Electoral District established under the Electoral Boundaries Act, R.S.N.L.
- “District Association” means a Provincial District Association.
- “Executive” means the Executive of the District Association, Commission or Club as indicated by the context.
- “Executive Board” means the Executive Board of the Liberal Party of Newfoundland and Labrador.
- “Executive Committee” means the Executive Committee of the Executive Board of the Liberal Party of Newfoundland and Labrador.
- “Vice-President” means the person elected Vice-President of the Party.

- “Member”, except when used in the context of the Executive Board, the Executive Committee and the Appeal Committee, means any person, fourteen (14) years of age and older, who:
  - Except for those persons specified in Article X[3(b)] through to Article X[3(i)] of the By-Laws, has made a non-refundable payment for a membership in the Party in an amount and for a term determined by the Executive Board;
  - Has agreed to a statement of liberal principles; and
  - Is not a member of any other provincial political party at the time of holding his or her membership in the Party.
- “Party” means the Liberal Party of Newfoundland and Labrador.
- “Post-Secondary” means a post high school educational institution recognized by the Province.
- “Province” means the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador.
- “Resident/Residence” means the ordinary place of permanent residence within the boundaries of a District.
- “Rules of Order” means “Roberts Rules of Order”, the standard guide to parliamentary procedure.
- “Senior” means a member who is sixty-five (65) year of age or older.
- “Youth” means a member who is between the ages of fourteen (14) and twenty-five (25) inclusive.

### **ARTICLE III – AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

1. The Aims and Objectives of the Party shall be:
  - (a) To advocate and support Liberal political philosophies, principles, and policies.
  - (b) To develop Party policies.
  - (c) To organize the Party in each District in the Province.
  - (d) To promote the election of Party candidates in Provincial elections.
  - (e) To ensure the opportunity for fair and equitable participation by members in the structure and operation of the Party.

### **ARTICLE IV – MEMBERS AND SUPPORTERS**

Membership in the Party shall be open to any resident of the Province who is a Canadian citizen and supports the aims and objectives of the party and satisfies any membership requirements which the Party may establish.

Any resident of the Province who is a Canadian citizen and supports the aims and objectives of the Party may alternately register as a supporter of the Liberal Party provided that he or she satisfies any requirements that the Party may establish.

### **ARTICLE V – MANAGEMENT**

The Party shall be managed by an Executive Board who shall be responsible for the Affairs of the Party and who may delegate such responsibility.

#### **ARTICLE VI – PROVINCIAL DISTRICT ASSOCIATIONS**

There may be a District Association for each District within the Province.

#### **ARTICLE VII – COMMISSION OF YOUNG LIBERALS**

There may be established a Commission of Young Liberals comprising youth members resident in the Province.

#### **ARTICLE VIII – WOMEN'S LIBERAL COMMISSION**

There may be established a Women's Liberal Commission comprising women members resident in the Province.

#### **ARTICLE IX – INDIGENOUS PEOPLE LIBERAL COMMISSION**

There may be established an Indigenous People Liberal Commission comprising aboriginal members resident in the Province.

#### **ARTICLE X – SENIORS' LIBERAL COMMISSION**

There may be established a Seniors' Liberal Commission comprising senior members resident in the Province.



### **ARTICLE XI – PROVINCIAL DISTRICT WOMEN’S LIBERAL CLUBS**

There may be established a District Women’s Liberal Club comprising women members resident in the District for each District within the Province.

### **ARTICLE XII – PROVINCIAL DISTRICT YOUTH LIBERAL CLUB**

There may be established a Provincial District Youth Liberal Club comprising youth members resident in the District for each Provincial District within the Province.

### **ARTICLE XIII – COMMITTEES**

The Executive Board may establish such Standing Committees and Select Committees as it deems necessary.

### **ARTICLE XIV – CONVENTIONS**

1. (a) The Plenary Authority of the Party shall be vested in the Party in Convention, and Conventions shall be held at such times and places, for such purposes and by such means as the Executive Board may determine, provided there shall normally be at least one (1) Convention annually. The Executive Board may extend the period between conventions but this period shall never exceed two (2) years. The Executive Board may determine that a Convention take place in person at a single location, electronically or any combination of these means that may involve multiple locations. The Executive Board shall ensure that all registered delegates have an equal opportunity to vote on all matters and in all elections at the Convention.
- (b) The Policies of the Party shall be established by the Party assembled in Convention.

### **ARTICLE XV – LEADERSHIP ELECTIONS**

The Executive Board may call a Leadership Election when there is a vacancy, or about to be a vacancy, in the leadership of the Party.

### **ARTICLE XVI – PROVINCIAL ELECTIONS**

1. There may be established Campaign Committees to conduct Provincial Election Campaigns.
2. Party Candidates shall be nominated and, where more than one has been nominated for a District, the Executive Board shall approve the calling of one or more nominating meeting(s) for that District.

### **ARTICLE XVII – STANDING RULES**

1. The Standing Rules of the Party, which are to be appended to the By-Laws and approved by a vote of at least seventy-five (75) percent of the total Executive Board, shall provide the regulating procedure for various activities of the Party.
2. Amendments to the Standing Rules shall be adopted by a vote of at least seventy-five (75) percent of the total Executive Board.

### **ARTICLE XVIII – BY-LAWS**

1. The By-Laws of the Party which are to be appended to the Constitution, and approved by a vote of at least seventy-five (75) percent of the total Executive Board and ratified by the Party in Convention, shall provide for the management and organization of the Party and the means by which the activities of the Party are directed and the aims and objectives attained.
2. (a) The Executive Board may amend any existing By-Law and make new By-Laws by resolution adopted by a vote of at least seventy-five (75) percent of the members of the Executive Board eligible to vote and such amendment or new By-Law shall remain in effect until it is submitted to the Party in Convention at the next Annual General Meeting where by an ordinary resolution, the delegates present and voting may confirm, amend or reject the amendment or

new By-Law by a vote of 50% plus one. Otherwise, amendments to the By-Laws or the making of a new By-law shall be adopted by a vote of at least 50% plus one of the delegates present and voting at an Annual General Meeting.

- (b) Notice of the proposed amendments shall be provided in writing to the Secretary of the Party at least forty-five (45) days prior to the Convention. The Secretary shall refer forthwith all such proposed amendments to the Standing Committee on Constitution and Legal Affairs who shall provide all amendments to be considered at the Convention to all registered delegates at least fourteen (14) days prior the Convention.

#### **ARTICLE XIX – CONSTITUTION**

1. The Constitution, By-Laws, and Standing Rules shall govern the affairs of the Party and in the event of conflict between the Constitution, By-Laws, Standing Rules or any Constitutional document of any of the Party's constituent bodies, this Constitution shall prevail insofar as the provincial affairs of the Party are concerned.
2.
  - (a) Amendments to this Constitution shall require a minimum two-thirds (2/3) vote of the registered delegates participating and voting at a Convention, whether in person or by electronic means.
  - (b) Notice of proposed amendments shall be provided in writing to the Secretary of the Party at least forty-five (45) days prior to the Convention. The Secretary shall refer forthwith all such proposed amendments to the Standing Committee on Constitution and Legal Affairs.
  - (c) The Standing Committee on Constitution and Legal Affairs may suggest revision or consolidation of proposed amendments or propose amendments itself. The proposers of amendments are not obliged to accept the suggestions of the Standing Committee and Legal Affairs and may proceed to propose the amendments to Convention.
  - (d) All amendments to be considered at the convention shall be provided to those eligible to register as delegates fourteen (days) prior to the Convention.

## **ARTICLE XX – INTERPRETATIONS**

Unless there is something in the subject matter or context inconsistent therewith, words importing the singular or plural, a person or corporation, or the masculine, feminine or neuter gender shall include the other or others of them respectively as the context indicates, or requires.

## **ARTICLE XXI – EFFECTIVE DATE**

Unless the implementation date and time is specified in an addendum to a constitutional amendment passed by a two-thirds (2/3) vote at Convention, all amendments shall come into effect immediately upon the conclusion of the Convention at which it is passed.

## **ARTICLE XXII – CORRECTIONS TO MATTERS OF FORM**

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Constitution, the Standing Committee on Constitution and Legal Affairs may make such corrections and alterations to this Constitution and to the By-Laws as it considers necessary, provide that such corrections and changes relate only to matters of form and not to matters of substance, and provided further that any such corrections or alterations shall be reported to the next Convention and may be set aside by a majority of the members present and voting.

BY-LAWS  
LIBERAL PARTY  
OF  
NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

## ARTICLE 1 – MEMBERSHIP AND SUPPORTERS

1. The Party shall be open to all who desire to support the Party and who wish to be known as Liberals. To this end, all individuals who are residents of the Province and are Canadian Citizens, aged fourteen (14) years of age or older, who meet the criteria for membership established by the Constitution shall be eligible to register as a member or supporter of the Party without discrimination.
  - (a) Members fourteen (14) years of age and older shall be entitled to vote at all proceedings of the Party who which they have been delegated or otherwise qualified. Members who are qualified as youth delegates are entitled to vote at all proceedings of the Commission of Young Liberals to which they are delegated or otherwise qualified.
  - (b) Subject to Article 1(a), at any Convention, meeting or election for the purpose of determining delegates, candidates, officers, Party Leader, Party policies or other matters, the following requirements shall apply with respect to members and supporters:
    - (i) For Party activities, only members shall be eligible to:
      - a. Be a delegate to a convention or vote for officers and other positions within the Liberal Party;
      - b. Stand as a candidate for election to a position within the Liberal Party;
      - c. Stand for election as Party candidate in a Provincial election.
    - (ii) For the Leadership of the Party, both registered members and registered supporters shall be eligible to nominate potential candidates and vote in the Leadership election.
    - (iii) For selection of the Party's candidates for provincial elections, both registered members and registered supporters shall be eligible to vote;
  - (c) The Executive Board shall be responsible for establishing and maintaining an up-to-date database of members and supporters of the party. Membership shall be subject to annual renewal, including payment of any applicable membership fee. The Executive Board may establish rules and procedures regarding the establishment and maintenance of databases of members and supporters. Registration as a member or supporter shall require the

individual's name, address, telephone number, email address, and provincial electoral district.

2. A member in good standing may vote, make proposals, propose resolutions, nominate, second, seek delegate status, or seek office at any level of the Party.
3. Subject to the provision of the Elections Act 1991 R.S.N.L. a member may seek candidacy and election as the Liberal Candidate at a Provincial General Election or by-election.
4. Where a member, including a member of the Executive Board, is required to reside in a district or region or be a member of an association in order to hold an office and subsequently ceases to reside in that district or region ceases to be a member of that association, her or she shall be deemed to have resigned from that office immediately upon that contingency.
5. (a) Any person of whom the removal from office or the suspension or expulsion from membership is proposed shall be given (10) days' notice of the right to be heard at the Meeting of the Executive Board at which the removal, suspension, or expulsion is considered.  
  
(b) The Executive Board, after ten (10) days written notice to the person affected and by a two-thirds majority vote of the members of the Board present at the meeting and voting, may remove from office any officer, and/or suspend or expel any person from membership in the Party.  
  
(c) Any person removed from office or suspended or expelled from membership in the party shall be entitled to appeal to the next Convention of the Party, upon giving written notice to the Secretary of the party, with a copy to the Executive Director at least thirty (30) days prior to the meeting. Provision shall be made for the appeal to be heard at a Plenary Session. The removal, suspension or expulsion shall only be overturned by a majority of delegates attending and voting at the said plenary session.
6. The Executive Board may establish a membership fee.

7. The Executive Board shall have the power to award voting status Honorary membership in the Party.

8. The Executive Board shall be responsible for:

- (a) Recruiting members and supporters of the Party;
- (b) Encouraging participation in Liberal Party activities;
- (c) Maintaining an up-to-date database of members and supporters of the Party;
- (d) Ensuring that all members and supporters receive regular communication from the Party and that such communications include:
  - i. Opportunities for members and supporters to express their views and ask questions;
  - ii. Information about Party activities;
  - iii. Opportunities to volunteer to help the Party;
  - iv. Opportunities to contribute to the development of policies and organization;
  - v. Opportunities to stand for election or attend Party events;
  - vi. Methods for contributing financially to the Party or for organizing fundraising activities;
  - vii. Collecting any applicable membership fees;
  - viii. Maintaining information on members and supporters.
- (e) Delegating such membership responsibilities as it shall determine to District Associations, Commissions, committees and individuals, including the collection of any fees, annual renewal of contact information of members and supporters, and recruiting.

## **ARTICLE II – EXECUTIVE BOARD – EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

- 1. (a) There shall be an Executive Board consisting of:
  - (i) Executive Committee;



- (ii) Seven (7) Provincial Regional Directors as per Appendix “A”;
  - (iii) The President of the Commission of Young Liberals;
  - (iv) The President of the Women’s Liberal Commission;
  - (v) The President of the Seniors’ Liberal Commission;
  - (vi) The President of the Indigenous People Liberal Commission;
  - (vii) One representative from, and to be elected by the Liberal Caucus in the Newfoundland and Labrador House of Assembly;
  - (viii) Director, representing Post-Secondary students; and,
  - (ix) The Immediate Past President.
- (b) The Executive Board in addition to any other powers and responsibilities otherwise referred to shall:
- (i) Promote the objectives of the Party and when the Party is not in Convention, be responsible for the affairs of the Party, develop plans and administrative policies for the Party, make administrative decisions in accordance with the Constitution, By-Laws, Standing Rules and policies of the Party, and oversee their implementation;
  - (ii) Have power to delegate such authority and responsibility to the Executive Committee or to Standing Committees, or to such other Committees as may be determined;
  - (iii) Meet at least once each year at such time and place as shall be determined by the Secretary upon direction of the President, Acting President or written direction of seven (7) or more members of the Executive Board, ten (10) days’ notice of which shall be given to each member, except with respect to meetings of an emergency nature which may be called with twenty-four (24) hours’ notice to each member;
  - (iv) Have a quorum constituted by a majority of its Members;
  - (v) Unless otherwise provided by the Constitution, decide any question coming before it by a majority vote of those present and voting;

- (vi) Consider whether any member of the Executive Board who misses three meetings of the Executive Board within a twelve month period should be relieved of his or her position and may dismiss that member upon a motion to that effect if agreed to by a majority of the other board members.
  - (vii) Fill any Executive Board office or position that becomes vacant unless otherwise provided for in the Constitution, by appointment for the lesser of the balance of the term thereof, or until the next Convention of the Party when a by-election shall be held;
  - (viii) Establish rules and regulations of fundraising activities;
  - (ix) Be responsible for the financial management of the Party; and,
  - (x) Notwithstanding Article XI(1) and Article XI(2) elect the Leader of the Party upon a vacancy occurring in Leadership of the Party where the Board is of the opinion it is not possible to elect the Leader of the Liberal Party through the Leadership Election process set out in Article XI of these By-Laws due to the date set for a General Election.
2. (a) There shall be an Executive Committee consisting of the President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Party Leader; all of whom, except the Party Leader, shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting of the Party in years which end in even numbers. The Regional Directors shall be elected at the Convention of the Party in years which end in uneven numbers. The Director representing post-secondary students shall be elected annually.
- (b) the Executive Committee shall:
- (i) Implement the decisions of the Executive Board and shall administer the day-to-day affairs of the Party;

- (ii) Meet at the Call of the President, Vice-President or any two (2) members;
  - (iii) Have a quorum of three (3) members; and
  - (iv) Decide any question coming before it by majority vote of members present and voting.
- (c) The President shall have the following duties and responsibilities:
- (i) Be the Chief Operating Officer of the Party;
  - (ii) Be the official spokesperson for the Party for all matters relating to Party and management;
  - (iii) Preside at Conventions of the Party and meetings of the Executive Board and Executive Committee; and
  - (iv) Be an ex officio member of all Committees of the Party.
- (d) The Vice-President shall:
- (i) Assist the President as required;
  - (ii) Assume the duties and responsibilities of the President in the President's absence, and in the event of the President's resignation, expulsion or demise, assume the office of President for the lesser of the balance of the term thereof, or until the next Convention of the party, when a by-election shall be held.
  - (iii) In the event of the Vice-President assuming the office of President, the office of the Vice-President shall be declared vacant; and
  - (iv) Perform such other duties as may be assigned by the Executive Board.
- (e) The Treasurer shall have the following duties and responsibilities:
- (i) Be the Chief Financial Officer of the Party with responsibility for the financial administration of the Party;

- (ii) Ensure that all income of the Party is deposited forthwith to the Party's bank account at a financial institution authorized by the Executive Board and further ensure that no disbursement is made without authorization of the Executive Committee;
  - (iii) Serve as the Executive Board's representative on the Standing Committee on Fund-raising;
  - (iv) Liaise with the District Associations, and with the Commission of Young Liberals, Women's Liberal Commissions, Indigenous People Liberal Commission, Seniors' Liberal Commission and with election financing committees at all levels and generally liaise on all matters concerning fund-raising and financing;
  - (v) Have available at all appropriate times and present to the Convention, audited financial statement, including a Statement of Income and Expenses with a Balance Sheet for the preceding fiscal year, and an up-dated accounting with a Statement of Income and Expenses with Balance Sheet to the end of the month preceding the Convention;
  - (vi) Report to the Executive Board and Executive Committee on the finances of the Party as required but not less than quarterly;
  - (vii) Prepare an Annual Budget for presentation to and approval by the Executive Board not later than December 15<sup>th</sup> each year; and
  - (viii) Preside at meetings of the Party, Executive Board and Executive Committee in the absence or inability of the President and Vice-President;
- (f) The Secretary shall have the following duties and responsibilities:
- (i) Keep a record of all proceedings of the meetings of the Executive Board and the Executive Committee, and other meetings as directed by the Executive Committee;
  - (ii) Make available for viewing by the Executive Board minutes of all such meetings within fifteen (15) days of such meeting(s); and

- (iii) Be responsible for the records and correspondence of the Executive Board and the Executive Committee and carry out such other duties as the Executive Board and the Executive Committee may from time to time direct.
- (g) The Regional Directors shall:
- (i) Attend the meetings of each Provincial Liberal District Association contained within the boundaries of the region for which the Regional Director has been elected;
  - (ii) Liaise between the District Associations in his/her Region and the Executive Board of the Party;
  - (iii) Assist District Associations as necessary with their organization and governance;
  - (iv) Encourage and support District Associations with their fundraising efforts;
  - (v) Report to the Executive Board of the Party no less than quarterly on the status of District Associations within the Region;
  - (ii) To carry out such other duties as may be assigned from time to time by the President of the Party or the Executive Board.

### **ARTICLE III – PROVINCIAL DISTRICT ASSOCIATIONS**

1. There shall be an association of Members of the Party residing in each of the Districts established by the Electoral Boundaries Act, R.S.N.L. District Association Executive Officers shall consist of the Immediate Past President and the following Executive officers who shall be elected for a two (2) year term at its Annual General Meeting in years which end in even numbers:

- (a) President;
  - (b) Vice-President;
  - (c) Treasurer;
  - (d) Secretary;
  - (e) Six (6) Directors, one of whom is to be a director of membership
  - (f) A person, fourteen (14) years or older, eligible for Membership in the Young Liberals Commission;
  - (g) A woman eligible for membership in the Women's Liberal Commission;
  - (h) A person sixty-five (65) years of age or older who is eligible for membership in the Seniors' Commission;
  - (i) A person who is eligible for membership in the Indigenous People Liberal Commission.
2. (a) In the event of the President being unwilling or unable to act, or upon the President's resignation, expulsion or demise, the Vice-President shall assume the duties and responsibilities of the President.
- (b) In the event that a vacancy occurs in the position of any office, except the President, such vacancy shall be filled by the Executive of the District Association after consultation with the Liberal Member of the House of Assembly for the District, and ratification by the Executive Board.
3. District Associations may establish a membership coordinator in various communities within the District.
4. Each District Association shall, upon at least five (5) days public notice, hold its Annual Meeting between March 1<sup>st</sup> and May 1<sup>st</sup>, after consultation with the Liberal Member of the House of Assembly for the District and written notification to the Liberal Party Office, with Officers being elected for a two year term in years ending in even numbers, failing which the Executive Board shall arrange for the calling of such Annual Meeting for no later than August 31<sup>st</sup>. In the event such an Annual Meeting,

in years when election of Officers is to take place, fails to elect persons to any or all positions then such positions may be filled by appointment by the Executive Board.

**ARTICLE IV – COMMISSION OF YOUNG LIBERALS, WOMEN’S LIBERAL COMMISSION  
ABORIGINALS’ LIBERAL COMMISSION AND SENIORS’ LIBERAL COMMISSION**

1. The following Commissions may be established.
  - (a) Commission of Young Liberals comprised of Liberals between the ages of fourteen (14) and twenty-five (25) inclusive resident in the Province.
  - (b) Women’s’ Liberal Commission comprised of women Liberals resident in the Province.
  - (c) Indigenous People Liberal Commission comprised of Aboriginal Liberals resident in the Province.
  - (d) Seniors’ Liberal Commission comprised of Liberals sixty-five (65) years of age or older resident in the Province.
  
2. The Executive Officers of each Commission shall be elected by secret ballot, except for the Immediate Past President and Committee chairs, for a two (2) year term at Annual Meetings of the Commission ending in uneven numbers, except for a one (1) year term for the Commission of Young Liberals. The Executive Officers shall be:
  - (a) President;
  - (b) Vice-President;
  - (c) Treasurer;
  - (d) Secretary;
  - (e) Three Committee chairs;
  - (f) The Immediate Past President;
  - (g) The Committee Executive.

#### **ARTICLE V – PROVINCIAL DISTRICT CLUBS**

1. There may be established Provincial District Liberal Clubs as follows:
  - (a) A Provincial District Women’s Club in each Provincial District comprising women members resident in the district.
  - (b) A Provincial District Youth Liberal Club in each Provincial District comprising youth members resident in the district.
  - (c) A Provincial District Seniors’ Liberal Club in each Provincial District comprising senior members, sixty-five (65) years of age or older, resident in the district.

#### **ARTICLE VI – EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

1. There shall be established an Executive Council of the Liberal Party of Newfoundland and Labrador which shall act in an advisory capacity consisting of:
  - (a) Executive Board.
  - (b) District Association Presidents.
  - (c) Chairs of all Standing Committees.
  - (d) Liberal Members of the Newfoundland and Labrador House of Assembly.
2. The Executive Council shall meet at least annually, and may be held in conjunction with a Convention.

#### **ARTICLE VII - COMMITTEES**

1. There may be established by the Executive Board Standing Committees, including:
  - (a) Standing Committee on Constitution and Legal Affairs.



(b) Standing Committee on Policy and Research.

(c) Standing Committee on Membership, party Structure and Organization.

(d) Standing Committee on Communications and Public Relations.

(e) Standing Committee on Finance.

(f) Standing Committee on Election Readiness.

2. Each Committee shall consist of a Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary who shall be appointed by the Executive Committee subject to ratification by the Executive Board.
3. Each Standing Committee may appoint up to six (6) additional members, one (1) of whom shall be a Youth sixteen (16) years of age or older, if nominated by the Commission of Young Liberals and one (1) of whom shall be a woman if nominated by the Women's Liberal Commission
4. Each Standing Committee shall meet at the Call of the Chair or upon written request to the Chair or the Vice-Chair of at least two (2) members thereof, or upon request from the Executive Board.
5. At least three (3) days' notice of a meeting of a Standing Committee shall be given by the Secretary of that Committee to each member of that Committee.
6. Each Standing Committee shall meet at least once a year.
7. Each Standing Committee shall present an Annual Report to the Executive Board and to the Convention of the Party.
8. The Executive Board may from time to time establish Ad hoc Committees for specific purposes with such powers and duties as the Board may determine. The Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary of such Committees shall be appointed by the Executive Committee subject to ratification of the Executive Board.

### ARTICLE VIII – CONVENTIONS

1. The plenary authority of the Party is vested in the Party in Convention, and Conventions shall be held at such times and places within the Province, and for such purposes as the Executive Board may from time to time determine, provided that there shall normally be at least one (1) Convention annually but the Executive Board may extend the period between conventions but this period shall never exceed two (2) years;
  - (a) The policies of the Party, other than policies adopted by policy rallies, shall be established by the Party assembled in Convention and time for consideration of such shall be allocated at all Conventions;
  - (b) Except in urgent circumstances, where the provisions of this paragraph may be waived, policy resolutions shall be submitted in writing to the Secretary of the Party at least forty-five (45) days prior to the Convention opening. The Secretary shall forthwith refer all such policy resolutions to the Standing Committee on Policy and Research who shall ensure that all such policy resolutions to be considered at the convention are provided to all registered delegates at least fourteen (14) days prior to the Convention.
  - (c) Policy resolutions ratified by the Convention shall be submitted forthwith to the Leader for communication to party members elected to the House of Assembly. The Provincial Leader or a member of Caucus appointed by the Leader, or where the Party forms the Government, a member of Cabinet appointed by the Leader, shall report to the next Convention of the party on the position of Caucus and/or Cabinet on each ratified resolution.

2. Notice in writing stating the location, date and time of a Convention shall be sent at least forty-five (45) days prior to the Convention to all Presidents and Secretaries of all District Associations and Provincial Liberal organizations within the Province.
3. Subject to the provisions of Article I, the following shall be delegates entitled to attend and vote at all Conventions of the Party.
  - (a) The Executive Officers from each of the District Associations, Women's Liberal Commission, Commission of Young Liberals, Indigenous People Liberal Commission and Seniors' Liberal Commission in the Province which have been officially endorsed by the Executive Board. Should any Executive Officer not be able to attend a Convention, the Executive of that Organization may meet and appoint, in writing, a member of that Organization who is registered with the Party, as an alternate delegate for any such Executive Officer and upon such appointment and notification to the Party office at least ninety-six (96) hours prior to the commencement of the Convention, that member shall become the delegate qualified to attend the Convention.
  - (b) Liberal Members of the House of Commons and Senate from the Province and Liberal candidates in the last General Election or any subsequent by-election, provided however, that if since the last general election or by-election a new Liberal candidate has been elected to contest the next election or by-election, he or she shall be the qualified delegate.
  - (c) Liberal Members of the Newfoundland and Labrador House of Assembly and Liberal candidates in the last general election or subsequent by-election, provided however that if since the last general election or by-election a new Liberal candidate has been elected to contest the next election or by-election, he or she shall be the qualified delegate.
  - (d) Former Leaders of the Party who reside in the Province and still support Party principles.

- (e) Former Presidents of the Party who still support Party principles.
  - (f) The members of the Executive Board of the Party.
  - (g) Former Liberal Members of the Parliament of Canada from the Province and former Liberal Members of the Newfoundland and Labrador House of Assembly who still support Party principles.
  - (h) Members of Standing Committees, provided they are members of the Standing Committee at least ninety (90) days prior to the Call of the Convention.
  - (i) One member from each of the established Provincial District Women's Liberal Club or, where no such club exists, in an election called by the Provincial District Association.
  - (j) One member from each of the established Provincial District Youth Liberal Club or, where no such club exists, in an election called by the Provincial District Association.
  - (k) One member from each of the established Provincial Seniors' Clubs, or where no such Clubs exist, in an election called by the Provincial District Liberal Association.
4. Only qualified delegates present shall be entitled to vote.
  5. All other members of the Party as set forth in Article 1 shall be entitled to attend the Convention as observers and shall have no vote.
  6. (a) Subject to Article VIII 6(b), a question asking "Do you wish to review the Leadership of the Liberal Party of Newfoundland and Labrador" shall be placed automatically before the delegates at every Convention of the Party. If the question is answered affirmatively by a majority of the delegates voting, the Executive Board shall call a Leadership election within one (1) year of such vote.

6. (b) Article VIII 6(a) shall not apply where:
  - a. The Liberal Party of Newfoundland and Labrador forms the government of the day; or
  - b. There has been a Leadership Election within the twelve (12) months prior to the Convention being held.

#### **ARTICLE IX – LEADERSHIP ELECTIONS**

1. The Leader of the Party shall be elected as hereinafter provided. In the event there is only one candidate for the position, a Leadership election may be dispensed with the candidate declared elected, by acclamation, by the Executive Board.
2. Subject to Article VIII(1), the Executive Board of the Party shall call a Leadership election where there is or is about to be a vacancy in the Leadership of the Party, or when directed to do so under Article VIII(6).
3. Candidates for Leader shall be nominated in writing over the signatures of not less than 50 persons who are members or supporters of the Party, including one member or registered supporter from at least 10 electoral districts.
4. Any member qualified under the Election Act, 1991, shall be eligible for election as Leader.
5. The Executive Board shall have full authority to determine the rules governing the Leadership election including spending limits and deadlines for registering of members and supporters eligible to vote.
6. Any registered member or registered supporter shall be eligible to vote in the Leadership election.

7. Each electoral district shall be allocated 1000 electoral votes, regardless of the number of registered members and registered supporters in the district, and the percentage of votes cast for each candidate in each district, rounded to three decimal places, shall be converted into the number of votes and portion of votes rounded again to three decimal places.
8. Electronic secret ballot by use of the internet will be permitted.
9. At least one in-person electronic or paper ballot voting station shall be provided in each electoral district for eligible voters who may not have access to the internet or in the event that technological problems arise with internet voting.
10. In the event there are more than two (2) candidates for the Leadership, the Executive Board may permit each voter to designate on the ballot a first preference and subsequent preferences amongst the candidates for the Leadership so that if a candidate does not receive a majority of the electoral votes, the candidate receiving the lowest number of electoral votes and all candidates receiving less than 5% of all electoral votes shall retire; whereupon the next preference of all voters for those candidates will be counted instead for the purpose of calculating the number of electoral votes in each district that each of the remaining candidates shall receive. Voting shall continue in this manner until one of the candidates receives a majority of the electoral votes whereupon that candidate shall be declared elected.

#### **ARTICLE X – PROVINCIAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN COMMITTEES**

1. There shall be established a select Campaign Committee to conduct each Provincial Election Campaign.
2. The Provincial Campaign Committee shall be comprised of:

- (a) The Chair to be appointed by the Leader of the Party.
- (b) The Chief Financial Officer of the Party;
- (c) Two (2) members of the Executive Board chosen by the Board; and
- (d) Such other persons as may be added at the discretion of the Leader and the Chair.

#### **ARTICLE XI – NOMINATION OF THE PARTY’S CANDIDATES**

1. (a) At any time following approval by the Executive Board of a request from a District Association for the call of nominations in the district to nominate a candidate for the next following general election or by-election, the District Association shall give at least (5) days public notice of the time and date of the close of nominations. If at the close of nominations there is more than one nominee seeking the candidacy, the District Association shall request the Executive Board to approve the calling of a nomination meeting(s). Upon approval by the Executive Board and upon at least (5) day public notice having been given setting out the time, date and place(s), a nomination meeting(s) shall be held.
  - (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of Article XI(1)(a), the Executive Board may, where it deems expedient, close nominations and call a nominating meeting(s) prior to a request from the District Association.
2. The nomination may take place at one (1) or more meetings in one (1) or more locations throughout the District. Voting shall be by secret ballot at polling stations strategically located within the district.
3. Subject to the provisions of Article I, any member qualified to be elected pursuant to the Election Act 1991, R.S.N.L. and who is nominated in writing by not less than

twenty-five (25) members eligible to vote at the nomination in a District shall be recognized as a nominee for the Liberal candidacy in that District.

4. Subject to the provisions of Article I, only members and registered supporters as of a date set by the Executive Board in the notice calling the nomination meeting(s), which date shall be no earlier than the date set for the close of nominations, and who are resident in the District may vote at the nomination.
5. In the event there are more than two (2) candidates for the District, each voter may designate on the ballot a first preference and subsequent preferences amongst the candidates for the District so that if a candidate receiving the most votes does not receive a majority of the votes cast, the candidate receiving the lowest number of votes shall retire; whereupon the next preference of all voters for that candidate will be counted instead. Voting shall continue in this manner until one of the candidates receives a majority of the votes whereupon that candidate shall be declared elected.
6. Subject to the Constitution, the Executive Board of the Party shall be responsible for ensuring that the Liberal Candidates or nominees are chosen by members and registered supporters resident in the District concerned.
7. In any District where a Writ is issued for a general election or by-election and no candidate has been nominated through the District Association, then the Executive Board shall provide for the nomination of a candidate in sufficient time to permit a reasonable election campaign.

#### **ARTICLE XII – APPEALS COMMITTEE**

1. There shall be an Appeal Committee of the Party appointed by the Executive Board comprised of a Chair and four additional members.
2. The Appeal Committee shall be responsible for establishing rules of procedure related to appeals arising from candidate nominations, leadership selection and delegate selection to conventions.



3. Members of the Appeal Committee shall be responsible for adjudicating appeals arising from candidate nominations, leadership selection and delegate selection to any convention.
4. The Appeal Committee shall, in consultation with the Executive Board, have authority to appoint additional persons to conduct adjudications pursuant to Article XII (3) arising from candidate nominations, leadership selection and delegate selection to any convention.
5. Decisions of the Appeal Committee adjudicators shall be based on rules and regulations adopted in accordance with the Constitution and shall be final and not subject to appeal.
6. Each member of the Appeal Committee, and any adjudicators appointed under the provisions of Article XII(4) shall agree in writing to remain neutral in the nomination of candidates, the election of a leader or the selection of delegates to any convention.