

Rules Governing the 2025 Liberal Party of Newfoundland and Labrador (“NL”) Leadership Convention

These Rules have been prepared by the NL Liberal Leadership Election Special Committee (“NLEC”) and adopted by the Executive Board of the Liberal Party of NL. They govern all matters related to the process whereby Registered Liberals of the Liberal Party of NL (“LPNL”) will select their next Leader through a Leadership Election to be held on May 3, 2025, including, without limiting the foregoing: the call, nomination procedures, voting procedures, convention procedures and all such matters that relate to the Leadership Election.

ARTICLE 1 – DEFINITION

In these Rules,

“**Call**” means the decision of the Executive Board of the LPNL to call a Leadership Election;

“**Candidate**” means any person who, having filed the required documentation with the LPNL (in accordance with these rules and such further requirements established by the NLEC), lets their name stand as a candidate for the leadership of the LPNL in the Leadership Election, has met all eligibility criteria, and has been approved to stand as a candidate after all vetting procedures;

“**Chief Returning Officer**” means the person appointed under Article 11 of the LPNL’s By-Laws who is responsible and authorized to make all arrangements necessary for the conduct of the balloting and shall be authorized and responsible to adjudicate all disputes over the accreditation of Registered Voters and the right to vote in the Leadership Election;

“**Close of Call**” means the date by when a person must have filed the required documentation with the LPNL to let their name stand as a candidate for the leadership of the LPNL in the Leadership Election. The Close of Call is March 24, 2025 at 12:00 P.M.;

“**Leader**” means the Candidate who receives not less than 50 percent plus one of the total number of points assigned to the Candidates following any round of voting during the Leadership Election;

“**Leadership Candidate Nomination Form**” or “**LCNF**” means the official form duly approved and issued by the NLEC upon which any applicant to become a Candidate must provide all requested information relating to their candidacy, and shall include a list of original signatures of Registered Liberals of the LPNL who have executed a prescribed form on or after January 1, 2024, in such number as is required by these rules, in support of that person’s candidacy;

“**Leadership Convention**” means the convention called by the LPNL to be held in conjunction with the Leadership Election between May 2, 2025 and May 3, 2025 in St. John’s, NL;

“**Leadership Election**” means the election called by the LPNL for the selection of its next Leader;

“**LPNL**” means the Liberal Party of NL;

“**LPNL Constitution**” means the Constitution adopted by the LPNL and any amendments thereto;

“Registered Liberal” means any person, fourteen (14) years of age and older, who:

- (i) has agreed to the Aims and Objectives of the Party and any further statement of liberal principles, as required at the time of sign up;
- (ii) is not a member of any other provincial political party at the time they are a Registered Liberal of the Party; and
- (iii) is in good standing with the LPNL as of January 1, 2024.

However, to become a Registered Voter, a Registered Liberal must meet any and all additional criteria as established by the NLEC. There shall be no fee to become a Registered Liberal or Registered Voter.

“NLEC” means the NL Leadership Election Special Committee established pursuant to Article 16 of the Constitution and comprised of the members that have been duly appointed by the LPNL Executive Board, which Committee shall have all the powers and authority established by the said Constitution and the within Rules adopted in accordance with Article 11.2 of the Party’s By-Laws;

“PIN” means a Personal Identification Number provided to each Registered Voter by the LPNL and/or its agent which shall identify each eligible voter for the Leadership Election, and which shall be required to cast a vote;

“Provincial District” means any of the 40 provincial electoral districts;

“Cut-Off Date” The date by which an individual must be a Registered Liberal of the Party to be eligible to vote in the election of a new leader. To be eligible to vote, a person must be a Registered Liberal as of 11:59 P.M. (NST) on March 31, 2025.

“Registered Voter” means a Registered Liberal who has signed up as a Registered Liberal between January 1, 2024 and the Cut-Off Date, has complied with all registration procedures and requirements, has been assigned a PIN for the purpose of registering their vote in the Leadership Election, and has not been disqualified from voting. There is no fee to become a Registered Voter;

“Remote Voting” means any electronic, internet or telephone-based method of registering a vote in the Leadership Election, as adopted by the NLEC, which allows a Registered Voter to cast their vote; and

“Satellite Voting Location” means any physical locations throughout the Province of NL, as determined necessary by the NLEC, to allow for greater access for Registered Voters to cast their votes in the Leadership Election.

ARTICLE 2 – NLEC

2.01 The NLEC may delegate all or part of its powers under these Rules to any person or sub-committee as it, in its sole and unfettered discretion, may see fit.

2.02 The NLEC has all of the authority and power to prepare and enact these Rules and to do all such other things required hereunder for the nomination of Candidates and for the selection of the LPNL Leader, including without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the power and authority to:

- (1) confirm the appointment of the Executive Board of a person to act as the Chief Returning Officer, and to assign such powers as may be determined by the NLEC;
- (2) appoint persons to act as officials to ensure the proper registration of Registered Voters in every Provincial District, including the appointment of a Deputy Returning Officers for the Leadership Election;
- (3) appoint persons to act as members of an Appeals Committee for the duration of the Leadership Election and members of a Green Light Committee to vet individuals who have submitted a LCNF;
- (4) make such additional rules or amendments hereto as it deems appropriate, and to issue further written directives regarding the application of these Rules and any such directives will be binding as if part of the within Rules; and
- (5) exercise all powers provided to it under these Rules and pursuant to the LPNL Constitution.

2.03 The NLEC shall remain seized of its authority, as set out in the preceding paragraphs and as provided for in these Rules, until its mandate is completed, and its authority shall specifically survive the announcement of the final results at the Leadership Convention, and it shall have the powers and authorities set out in these Rules.

ARTICLE 3 – CANDIDATES FOR LEADERSHIP

3.01 The NLEC has adopted the following as the Rules governing the nomination of Candidates:

3.02 To be eligible to be a Candidate, a person must:

- (1) be a Registered Liberal of the LPNL as of the date of their application for candidacy to the LPNL, with said registration being dated on or after January 1, 2024 and to remain a Registered Liberal until the results of the Leadership Convention are announced;
- (2) deliver to the LPNL a written nomination signed by at least 50 Registered Liberals including one Registered Liberal from at least 10 electoral districts;
- (3) be eligible for election to the Legislature of NL in accordance with the *Elections Act*; and
- (4) Consent to any background checks as required, including but not limited to credit, bankruptcy, criminal and vulnerable sector.

3.03 The NLEC may disclose and discuss the results of any and all background checks with the Executive Board and/or Legal Counsel but shall otherwise keep the results of any and all background checks confidential. The NLEC may only disclose such information when the person's candidacy is rejected or revoked and the person claims to have been disallowed without good reason.

3.04 If a person, after having been declared a Candidate, is later found not to be eligible for any reason, the NLEC shall be empowered to declare such Candidate ineligible for election as LPNL Leader, or may determine in its sole and unfettered discretion what steps, if any, such Candidate may take in order to become eligible for election in accordance with these Rules.

3.05 In order to become a Candidate, a person who meets the eligibility requirements set out at article 3.02 hereof, shall file with the President of the LPNL, or their designate, on or before March 24, 2025 at 12:00 P.M. (NST), a duly completed Leadership Candidate Nomination Form ("LCNF") in the format determined and issued by the NLEC, which must contain the signatures of not less than fifty (50) persons who are Registered Liberals of the LPNL. A Registered Liberal may sign the LCNF of more than one Candidate, and the signing of one or more LCNFs shall not be construed as a commitment or obligation on such person to vote in any specific manner in the Leadership Election.

3.06 A nomination fee of \$50,000.00 will be paid to the LPNL by each Candidate. The nomination fee is payable in four (4) instalments. The first instalment of \$12,500.00 is due at the time of filing the LCNF. The second instalment of \$12,500.00 is due by March 31, 2025 at 5:00 P.M. (NST). The third instalment of \$12,500.00 is due by April 14, 2025 at 5:00 P.M. (NST). The fourth instalment of \$12,500.00 is due by April 21, 2025 at 5:00 P.M. (NST).

Payment of the nomination fee shall be by certified cheque, money order, or bank draft (or another form acceptable to the LPNL), in Canadian funds, and shall be payable to the "Liberal Party of Newfoundland and Labrador."

Failure to make these instalments by date and time outlined herein shall result in a Candidate being disqualified from the Leadership Election.

3.07 The NLEC or its nominee(s) shall, within three (3) business days of the receipt, verify each LCNF and the accompanying payment of the first instalment of the nomination fee and advise the applicant as to its completeness. In the event of a properly completed LCNF, the applicant shall be advised that they are a Candidate upon completion of any vetting procedures. In the event that that LCNF is incomplete or deficient, the applicant will be notified accordingly and the reason for its incompleteness or deficiency shall be stated. Incomplete or deficient LCNFs may be corrected by the applicant within 48 hours of the notice from the NLEC or its nominee(s) of its incompleteness or deficiency without submitting a new LCNF. Thereafter, a new LCNF shall be required. If, after submitting corrections, a LCNF remains incomplete or deficient, the LCNF shall be rejected and a new LCNF shall be required, provided the deadline stated in 3.08 hereof has not passed.

3.08 LCNFs will not be accepted after 12:00 P.M. (NST) on March 24, 2025 but incomplete or deficient LCNFs submitted in accordance with Article 3.05 may be corrected in accordance with

Article 3.07.

3.09 LCNFs shall be made available through the LPNL office in the City of St. John's, NL, from March 3, 2025 at 9:00 A.M. (NST) to March 24, 2025 at 11:59 A.M. (NST)

3.10 The LPNL logo, trademarks and any other official mark duly owned and/or utilized by the LPNL shall not be utilized by any Candidate as part of their campaign.

3.11 In the event that two or more Candidates are approved, each Candidate shall be required to pay an equal share of the estimated overall cost of the electronic voting system and any costs associated with same prior to April 28, 2025 at 5:00 P.M. (NST). For further certainty, the payment of each Candidate's share of the electronic voting system and any costs associated with same is in addition to each Candidate's nomination fee in 3.06 hereof. The cost of the electronic voting system shall fluctuate depending on the number of registered voters and services rendered by the third-party vendor. In the event that the total cost fluctuates following payment of the estimated cost, LPNL shall advise each Candidate of same, and each candidate shall continue to be responsible for an equal share of a cost overrun.

Payment of the estimated overall cost of the electronic voting system and any costs associated with same shall be by certified cheque, money order, or bank draft (or another form acceptable to the LPNL), in Canadian funds, and shall be payable to the "Liberal Party of Newfoundland and Labrador."

Failure to pay the cost of the electronic voting system and any costs associated with same shall result in a Candidate being disqualified from the Leadership Election.

ARTICLE 4 - REGISTERED VOTERS & VOTING PROCEDURE

4.01 The vote to select the LPNL Leader shall be a preferential one person one vote system, weighted by Provincial District. All Registered Liberals registered by the Cut-Off Date shall be eligible to become a Registered Voter. Only Registered Voters, in accordance with these Rules, shall be entitled to cast a vote in the Leadership Election.

4.02 Every person who:

- (1) is a Registered Liberal, having registered as a Registered Liberal, with the LPNL between January 1, 2024 and the Cut-Off Date; and
- (2) complies with the procedures and requirements as established under these Rules;

shall be a Registered Voter and shall be eligible to cast one vote to select the LPNL Leader. Only Registered Voters may vote in the Leadership Election.

4.03 The LPNL shall publish on its website the procedure which Registered Liberals must follow in order to become a Registered Voter. Such procedures may include identification verification tools prescribed by the NLEC.

4.04 Each Registered Voter may vote in the Leadership Election.

4.05 Votes shall be cast electronically, either by internet access (through a computer, smart phone, or similar device) or by telephone.

4.06 Each Registered Voter shall record their vote in respect of the Provincial District with which they are affiliated, in accordance with the records of the LPNL by May 3, 2025, at 12:00 P.M. (NST).

4.07 Each Registered Voter shall record their vote during the voting period that will be distributed to Registered Voters.

4.08 The Executive Board of the LPNL, as confirmed by the NLEC, shall appoint a Chief Returning Officer who will be responsible and authorized to make all arrangements necessary for the conduct of the balloting and shall be authorized and responsible to adjudicate all disputes over the accreditation of Registered Voters and the right to vote in the Leadership Election.

4.09 The Chief Returning Officer appointed hereunder shall act independently of the LPNL Executive Board, the NLEC and all Candidates.

4.10 The Chief Returning Officer will compile a list of Registered Voters and cause a Master List of such Registered Voters to be generated. The Master List shall be in alphabetical order and divided by Provincial District to which each Registered Voter is affiliated.

4.11 The Chief Returning Officer will have the discretion to take whatever steps are necessary to ensure the accuracy of the Master List of Registered Voters. Verification programs may be random or as otherwise determined by the Chief Returning Officer. Verification by the Chief Returning Officer of Registered Liberal status, eligibility to vote, and accuracy of information may take place at any time.

4.12 Votes shall be cast by a preferential ballot, in that each Registered Voter shall be asked to rank the Candidates in order of preference, from number one (1) to such other number commensurate with the number of Candidates, so that each Registered Voter shall have ranked the Candidates in the order of their preference. There shall only be one PIN assigned to one Registered Voter and accordingly, each Registered Voter may vote only once for the purpose of selecting and ranking the preferred LPNL Leader of their choice as aforesaid.

4.13 The ballots shall be counted, under the direction of the Chief Returning Officer, in accordance with the following procedure:

- (1) Results of the vote shall be calculated by, if necessary, a series of counts to be undertaken by the NLEC, as set out below;
- (2) Each Provincial District shall be allocated 1,000 points per count, for a Province-wide total of 40,000 points per count;
- (3) Votes shall be allocated and counted in the Provincial District where the Registered Voter

is affiliated, as per these Rules;

- (4) On the first count, the first preference for each ballot submitted shall be tabulated, by Provincial District, with each Candidate being awarded a number of points per Provincial District commensurate with the percentage of first preference votes received by such Candidate rounded to two decimal places, converted to points, and the portion of points rounded to three decimal places. [By way of illustration only, if Candidate A receives 15% of the first preference ballots in a Provincial District on the first count, then Candidate A will receive 150 points for that Provincial District on the first count];
- (5) The points allocated to each Candidate in the 40 Provincial Districts will be totalled, and that total shall be the Candidate's result for the first count;
- (6) Should any Candidate receive 20,001 points or more on the first count, i.e. 50% plus one vote, they shall be declared the LPNL Leader;
- (7) Should no Candidate receive 20,001 points or more on the first count, then the votes shall be tabulated on a second count and the Candidate(s) who received the lowest number of points on the first count and/or received less than 5% of total points on the first count shall not be included in the list of Candidates for the second count;
- (8) On a second count, if applicable, the first preference ballots cast for the Candidate with the lowest total of points on the first count and each candidate receiving less than five percent (5%) of total points on the first count will be redistributed to the remaining Candidates in accordance with the second preference selected on those ballots that were cast for the Candidate that is no longer on the list as per the preceding paragraph, and the second vote shall be tabulated in accordance with paragraphs (2) through (6) hereof, with necessary modifications;
- (9) Should no Candidate receive 20,001 points or more on the second count, successive counts shall be carried out in the same manner as prescribed in paragraphs 7 and 8 hereof, with necessary modifications, until such time as a Candidate receives 20,001 or more points and is declared the LPNL Leader; and
- (10) Results of each count shall remain confidential until such time as the Chief Returning Officer or such other person authorized by the NLEC announces the results during the Leadership Convention. For the purpose of clarification only, there shall be one vote only in the Leadership Election and the reference to counts in the Rules refers to the process whereby such votes are allocated by the NLEC.

ARTICLE 5 - GENERAL RULES AND PROCEDURES

5.01 Effective the date of the Call, the Rules shall apply and govern all matters relating to the selection of the LPNL Leader, and without limiting the generality of the foregoing, including all matters relating to voting, voter eligibility, the procedures for becoming a Candidate, the voting procedures, the Leadership Convention and all such matters that relate to the Leadership Election.

5.02 The Rules shall apply, without limitation, to all Candidates and generally to their campaign volunteers and activities. Anything done on behalf of a Candidate shall, unless proven by the Candidate to have been done without their knowledge and consent, be deemed to have been done by the Candidate.

5.03 The Leadership Convention shall take place between May 2, 2025 and May 3, 2025 in St. John's, NL with the results of the Leadership Election being announced on May 3, 2025. Each Candidate may be afforded an opportunity to deliver a speech in advance of the Leadership Convention at a time and in the order determined by the NLEC. A time limit for speeches, to be determined by the NLEC, will apply.

5.04 The LPNL Leader shall be announced upon the final tabulation of the results during the Leadership Convention.

5.05 A fee, in an amount to be determined by the NLEC, may be charged and remitted by any person wishing to attend the Leadership Convention.

5.06 Upon payment of the requisite fee, anyone may attend the Leadership Convention and need not be a Registered Liberal or a Registered Voter.

5.07 Each Registered Voter shall be provided with a PIN. A PIN, a unique number for each Registered Voter, shall be assigned and will be required in order to vote in the Leadership Election.

5.08 Only the Registered Voter may secure and obtain their PIN. That is, Candidates and/or anyone acting on their behalf are prohibited from taking steps to secure, obtain and or assign the PIN of a Registered Voter, either directly or indirectly, by any means, and any such improper intervention by any of the Candidates and/or anyone acting on their behalf shall be deemed to be a violation of these Rules which is subject to sanction. Nothing in this section shall be interpreted as precluding a Registered Voter who requires the aid of another person for medical or other bona fide reasons to seek and obtain the assistance of any other person to secure and be assigned such Registered Voter's PIN.

5.09 Details regarding the location of any Satellite Voting Offices, if deemed necessary, will be announced by the NLEC.**5.10** By no later than April 14, 2025 at 5:00 P.M. (NST), the Chief Returning Officer shall issue to each Candidate or their designate the list of all Registered Voters, sorted alphabetically by Provincial District. Subject only to amendments made by the Chief Returning Officer in accordance with challenges to the eligibility or Provincial District affiliation of any Registered Voter, this list circulated shall be deemed to be the final list of Registered Voters.

5.10 Any challenges as to the eligibility of any Registered Voter or the proper Provincial District to which a Registered Voter is affiliated must be made to the Chief Returning Officer by no later than April 16, 2025 at 5:00 P.M. (NST). The Chief Returning Officer shall rule upon such challenges within 24 hours and in any event by no later than April 17, 2025 at 5:00 P.M. (NST). The Chief Returning Officer will advise all Candidates and each Registered Voter, who is a person named in a challenge, of their ruling, which decision shall be final and binding, subject only to an appeal, if requested, to the Appeals Committee. Any changes to the final list of Registered Voters

will be reflected in a revised list, to be provided to the Candidates by no later than April 21, 2025 at 11:59 P.M. (NST).

5.11 The NLEC shall be authorized to appoint such other officers, including (without limitation) Co-Chairs for the Leadership Convention, a Deputy Returning Officer and a Registrar, to conduct such aspects of the Leadership Election as the NLEC shall deem appropriate. Such officers, where appointed, may delegate such powers as may be conferred upon them to other persons, with the written consent of the NLEC.

5.12 The NLEC shall provide each Candidate with access to an electronic database, training for said electronic database, and further requirements for the use of said electronic database, and same shall be determined by the NLEC in its sole and unfettered discretion and communicated to the Candidates at a time to be determined by the NLEC

5.13 The NLEC shall provide further requirements to Candidates for registering Registered Liberals with the LPNL either electronically, or through other forms of communication, and the supporting documentation that will be required to support same, and this shall be determined by the NLEC in its sole and unfettered discretion and communicated to the Candidates at a time to be determined by the NLEC.

5.14 A Candidate shall not incur expenses more than \$200,000.00 including cash expenditures and in-kind expenditures. Expenses do not include the nomination fee paid to become a Candidate or the fees associated with the electronic voting system.

5.15 The NLEC shall in its sole and unfettered discretion establish guidelines with respect to campaign expenditures. The guidelines will be delivered to the Candidate at a time to be determined by the NLEC.

5.16 A Candidate must appoint a Chief Financial Officer and provide their Chief Financial Officer's contact information to the NLEC. The Candidate must keep this information current. Any communications to the Chief Financial Officer will be deemed the same as delivered to the Candidate.

5.17 A Candidate's Chief Financial Officer shall be responsible for all financial record keeping and compliance with all reporting requirements as set out in the guidelines with respect to campaign expenditures.

ARTICLE 6 - MISCELLANEOUS

6.01 The Rules shall be interpreted and applied in a manner which is fair and equitable to all Candidates, having regard to all the circumstances, and in the best interests of the LPNL.

6.02 The Rules are passed pursuant to the LPNL Constitution and replace all other rules affecting the selection of candidates for Leader for the LPNL.

6.03 The NLEC or its designate, including but not limited to the Chief Returning Officer, Deputy Returning Officer, Chair or Co-Chairs of the Leadership Convention, or any other appointee by

the NLEC to exercise oversight or discretion in respect of the selection process for the LPNL Leader, shall decide all matters of procedure in accordance with these Rules and, in the event that these Rules are silent with respect to any matter of procedure that is the subject of a dispute, the NLEC shall have the final say.

6.04 Any decisions of the NLEC or their designate concerning procedures shall be deemed to be final and binding.