THE LIBERAL PARTY OF CANADA

CONSTITUTION

Official version of the Constitution of the Liberal Party of Canada as amended at the 2003 Leadership and Biennial Convention, revised by the Co-Chairs of the Standing Committee on Constitutional and Legal Affairs in accordance with the authority granted under article 18(2)(a) of the Constitution and ratified by the National Executive at its meeting on October 2, 2004.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Preamble</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Role and Purpose</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Membership</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Provincial and Territorial Associations</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. National Executive</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Management Committee</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Standing Committee on Policy Development</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Standing Committee on Organization</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Standing Committee on the Constitution and Legal Affairs</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Standing Committee on Communications and Publicity</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Standing Committee on Multiculturalism</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. Financial Management Committee</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. National Platform Committee</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. National Campaign Committee</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. Permanent Appeal Committee</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16. Conventions</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17. Leadership Selection</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18. Constitutional Amendments</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19. Constitutional Conflicts</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PREAMBLE

The Liberal Party of Canada is committed to the view that the dignity of each individual man and woman is the cardinal principle of democratic society and the primary purpose of all political organization and activity in such a society.

The Liberal Party of Canada is dedicated to the principles that have historically sustained the Party: individual freedom, responsibility and human dignity in the framework of a just society, and political freedom in the framework of meaningful participation by all persons. The Liberal Party is bound by the Constitution and the Charter of Rights and Freedoms and is committed to the pursuit of equality of opportunity for all persons, to the enhancement of our unique and diverse cultural community, to the recognition that English and French are the official languages of Canada, and to the preservation of the Canadian identity in a global society.

In accordance with this philosophy, the Liberal Party of Canada subscribes to the fundamental rights and freedoms of persons under the rule of law and commits itself to the protection of these essential values and their constant adoption to the changing needs of modern Canadian society.

The Liberal Party of Canada recognizes that human dignity in a democratic system requires that all citizens have access to full information concerning the policies and leadership of the Party; the opportunity to participate in open and public assessment of such means, such modifications of policies and leadership as they deem desirable to promote the political, economic, social, cultural and general well-being of Canadians.

To realize this objective, the Liberal Party of Canada strives to provide a flexible and democratic structure whereby all Canadians can obtain such information, participate in such assessment and militate for such reform through open communications, free dialogue and participatory action both electoral and non-electoral. This Constitution sets forth the institutions, systems and procedures by which the Liberal Party of Canada, in co-operation with its provincial and territorial associations, works to implement these ideas on behalf of all its members.

1. ROLE AND PURPOSE

   (1) This is the Constitution of the Liberal Party of Canada.

   (2) The Liberal Party of Canada shall:

      (a) seek to achieve a common ground of understanding among the people of the different provinces and territories of Canada;

      (b) advocate and support Liberal philosophies, principles and policies;

      (c) promote the election of candidates of the Liberal Party of Canada;

      (d) provide assistance and leadership to federal Liberal constituency organizations in Canada and co-ordinate the efforts of Liberal organizations to create a strong Liberal Party in Canada;

      (e) act always to assist the individual member of the Party to make his/her best contribution to the political life of Canada; and
2. MEMBERSHIP

(1) The Liberal Party of Canada shall be open to all who desire to support the Party and who wish to be known as Liberals. To this end, all individuals aged 14 and over shall be eligible for membership in the Party without discrimination based on race, nationality or ethnic origin, colour, religion, sex, sexual orientation, age or mental or physical disability, if:

(a) they are ordinarily resident in Canada; and
(b) they are not members of any other federal political party within Canada.

(2)(a) Any eligible person who wishes to join the Liberal Party of Canada may do so by applying for and being admitted to membership in:

(i) a federal constituency association;
(ii) a recognized Young Liberal Club;
(iii) a recognized Women’s Liberal club, association or commission;
(iv) a recognized Aboriginal Liberal association; or
(v) a provincial or territorial association that permits direct membership.

(2)(b) Subject to the requirements of the provincial or territorial constitution, such person shall be admitted to membership upon complying with all membership requirements of the body which he or she seeks to join, provided that no member shall hold membership in more than one federal constituency association or in more than one club of the same commission.

(2)(c) Each member shall be issued a membership card provided jointly by the body which he or she has joined and by the provincial or territorial association or by the Aboriginal Peoples’ Commission. The card shall bear the name of the association, club or commission in which the membership is held. Where a provincial or territorial association or the Aboriginal Peoples’ Commission fails to assume the responsibility hereby invested in it, the Liberal Party of Canada may take on that responsibility as long as the provincial or territorial association or the Aboriginal Peoples’ Commission does not.

(2)(d) The bodies referred to in Article 2(2)(a) shall transmit to the National Executive the list of members, including all information on file, as memberships are received.

(2)(e) A register of members will be maintained by the Liberal Party of Canada. Every federal constituency association, provincial or territorial association, recognized Young Liberal, Women’s, Aboriginal and Senior Liberals club, association or Commission is entitled to access to the information on their respective members upon request after the call for a National Convention or Leadership vote or at such other time as determined by the National Executive.
(2)(f) Unless otherwise provided in this Constitution, the use, by the National Office, of the register of members or parts thereof, may be authorized only jointly by the National Executive and by the provincial/territorial association to which that part of the register relates. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Leader shall have access to the register at any time.

(3) In a method determined by the National Executive, every Member of the Liberal Party of Canada shall affirm his/her acceptance of the principles outlined in the preamble and:

(a) the affirmation that fairness and equity will apply in all matters within the Party and with other political parties;
(b) a commitment to respect the dignity and worth of all people;
(c) a commitment to the free exchange of ideas among party members and among Canadians;
(d) a commitment to the full and equitable participation of all members;
(e) a commitment to respect the laws of Canada; and
(f) a commitment to fairness in electoral competition.

3. PROVINCIAL AND TERRITORIAL ASSOCIATIONS

(1) The Liberal Party of Canada is a federation composed of the following provincial and territorial associations:

- The Liberal Party of Newfoundland and Labrador
- The Liberal Party of Prince Edward Island
- The Nova Scotia Liberal Party
- The New Brunswick Liberal Association
- The Liberal Party of Canada (Quebec)
- The Liberal Party of Canada (Ontario)
- The Liberal Party of Canada (Manitoba)
- The Saskatchewan Liberal Association
- The Liberal Party of Canada in Alberta
- The Liberal Party of Canada in British Columbia
- The Yukon Liberal Association
- The Western Arctic Liberal Association
- The Nunavut Liberal Association

(2) The provincial and territorial associations shall, in their respective constitutions:

(a) define their status and objectives within the Party and recognize the full membership and participation in their ranks of men, women, youth, aboriginal peoples and seniors subject to the provisions of Article 2;
(b) ensure the principle of equality between men and women in the structure and operations of the provincial and territorial associations and their constituency associations;
(c) ensure the principle of equitable representation of aboriginal peoples in the structure and operations of the provincial and territorial associations and their constituency associations;
(d) specify as thoroughly as possible the qualifications and procedures required for obtaining membership in the Liberal Party of Canada in accordance with Article 2;

(e) provide for a right of hearing and an appeal procedure from all decisions of their respective executive committees or officers dismissing members from office in such associations, denying membership therein to applicants therefore, and suspending or expelling members therefrom;

(f) provide for the holding of regular general meetings and for the election of officers thereof at such meetings;

(g) provide for the establishment and maintenance of proper financial records, minutes of meetings and correspondence;

(h) provide for full and fair financial disclosure and require all constituency associations to provide the provincial or territorial associations with financial statements within three months of the end of each calendar year;

(i) provide for a procedure for determining the allocation of revenues between the federal constituency associations and the provincial and territorial associations;

(j) provide for the appointment or election of representatives to participate in the standing committees of the Liberal Party of Canada, in accordance with the provisions of Articles 3(2)(b) and (2)(c). Any appointment of representatives to participate in the standing committees of the Liberal Party of Canada should attempt to correct any imbalance in the representation of men and women which has occurred as a result of the election of candidates;

(k) require that the constitutions of federal constituency associations, within their respective provinces or territories, incorporate the principles set forth in the Preamble and Article 2(3);

(l) provide for an appropriate procedure to ensure that every constituency association operates in accordance with the principles set forth in the Preamble and Article 2(3);

(m) provide for a procedure for the selection of designated delegates to the national convention, leadership convention or any convention of the Party, by the provincial or territorial executive in accordance with Article 16(13)(h);

(n) specify a formula for the amending of such constitutions by a vote of their respective general memberships or by delegates in attendance at a duly constituted general meeting, and specify the effective date of each amended version of such constitutions; and

(o) ensure that the current version of their constitution is filed with the National Office of the Liberal Party of Canada.

4. COMMISSION OF YOUNG LIBERALS OF CANADA, NATIONAL WOMEN’S LIBERAL COMMISSION, ABORIGINAL PEOPLES’ COMMISSION AND SENIORS’ COMMISSION

(1) There shall be established, within the structure of the Liberal Party of Canada, a commission to represent and promote the interests of youth in the Party and to encourage and co-ordinate the activities of the youth organizations of the provincial and territorial associations of the Liberal Party of Canada. It shall also function as a body which co-ordinates and communicates the views of young Liberals on a regular basis. This Commission shall be known as the Commission of Young Liberals of Canada.

(2) Every member of the Liberal Party of Canada who has not celebrated his/her twenty-sixth birthday is a member of the Commission of Young Liberals of Canada.
(3) In order to stimulate further activity within the youth wing of the Party, the Commission of Young Liberals of Canada shall hold general meetings of youth delegates attending national conventions of the Liberal Party in accordance with the constitution or bylaws of the Commission of Young Liberals of Canada.

(4) There shall be established, within the structure of the Liberal Party of Canada, a commission to represent and promote the interests of women within the Party and to encourage the active participation of women at all levels of Party activities which shall be known as the National Women’s Liberal Commission. The primary purpose of this Commission is to ensure equal participation of women at all levels of the Party. When equality is considered to be achieved, the National Women’s Liberal Commission shall be deemed to have completed its mandate.

(5) Every female member of the Liberal Party of Canada who meets any membership requirements established by the National Women’s Liberal Commission shall be a member of the National Women’s Liberal Commission.

(6) Where practicable, women’s clubs should be established on a federal constituency basis in accordance with procedures prescribed by the National Women’s Liberal Commission.

(7) One of the primary objectives of the Liberal Party of Canada is to ensure equal participation of men and women at all levels of the Party. An assessment to determine the extent to which equal participation has been achieved will be reported to every biennial convention by the president of the Liberal Party of Canada in consultation with the National Women’s Liberal Commission.

(8) There shall be established, within the structure of the Liberal Party of Canada, a commission to represent and promote the interests of aboriginal peoples in the Party and to encourage the active participation of aboriginal peoples at all levels of the Party structure. It shall encourage and co-ordinate the activities of the recognized aboriginal Liberal associations and function as a body which co-ordinates and communicates the views of aboriginal Liberals on a regular basis. This commission shall be known as the Aboriginal Peoples’ Commission of the Liberal Party of Canada.

(9) Any aboriginal person, as defined in the Aboriginal Peoples’ Commission’s Constitution, who is a member of the Liberal Party of Canada, may be a member of the Aboriginal Peoples’ Commission.

(10) The Aboriginal Peoples’ Commission shall hold general meetings of aboriginal delegates attending national conventions of the Liberal Party of Canada in accordance with the constitution or by-laws of the Aboriginal Peoples’ Commission.

(11) One of the primary objectives of the Liberal Party of Canada is to ensure equitable representation of aboriginal peoples at all levels of the Party. An assessment to determine the extent to which equitable aboriginal representation has been achieved will be reported to every biennial convention by the President of the Liberal Party of Canada in consultation with the Aboriginal Peoples Commission.
(12) The Commissions of the Liberal Party shall adopt constitutions and by-laws which
incorporate the principles set forth in the Preamble and Article 2(3). In instances where there is a
difference between the constitution of a commission and the Constitution of the Liberal Party of
Canada, the Constitution of the Liberal Party of Canada shall prevail.

(13) There shall be established, within the structure of the Liberal Party of Canada, a commission
to represent and promote the interests of the senior citizens in the Party and to encourage the active
participation of senior citizens at all levels of the Party structure. The Commission shall function as a
body which co-ordinates and communicates the views of senior Liberals on a regular basis. This
commission shall be known as the Senior Liberals Commission of the Liberal Party of Canada.

(14) The structure of this Commission shall consist explicitly of the following members:

(a) the co-chairs elected at a National Convention;
(b) one representative appointed by each provincial and territorial association; and
(c) such other members as may be appointed thereto by the National Executive provided that
the principle of equal representation between men and women is adhered to, according to
the provisions of Article 1(2)(f).

(15) Every member of the Liberal Party of Canada who has reached the age of 65 years is a
member of the Senior Liberals Commission.

(16) Only members of the Senior Liberals Commission may vote for the Senior Liberals
Commission executive at biennial conventions.

(17) The Presidents of the Commissions shall report to every biennial convention on the
achievements of their respective Commissions.

5. NATIONAL EXECUTIVE

(1) The National Executive shall consist of the following members:

(a) the Leader;
(b) the president;
(c) the past president;
(d) two national vice-presidents, one of whom shall be English-speaking and one of whom
shall be French-speaking;
(e) six regional vice-presidents;
(f) the president or his/her nominee of each provincial and territorial association;
(g) the chair or his/her nominee of the National Liberal Caucus;
(h) the chair or his/her nominee of each regional caucus and of the Senate Caucus;
(i) the president or her nominee and six elected representatives or their nominees, of the
National Women’s Liberal Commission;
(j) the president of the Young Liberals of Canada and the five elected table officers of the
Young Liberals of Canada or their representatives;
(k) three representatives of the Aboriginal Peoples’ Commission including the two presidents of the Aboriginal Commission and one representative to be nominated or elected in accordance with the constitution or by-laws of the Aboriginal Peoples’ Commission;

(l) the co-chairs and three elected representatives or their nominees of the Senior Liberals Commission;

(m) the secretary-treasurer;

(n) the chair of the Standing Committee on Policy Development;

(o) the chair of the Standing Committee on Communications and Publicity;

(p) the chair of the Standing Committee on Organization;

(q) the chair of the Standing Committee on Multiculturalism;

(r) the chief financial officer (non-voting);

(s) the chair of the Revenue Committee (non-voting);

(t) the chair of the Federal Liberal Agency (non-voting);

(u) the leaders of the Liberal Party in each province and territory of Canada as honorary vice-presidents (non-voting);

(v) the co-chairs of the Standing Committee on the Constitution and Legal Affairs (non-voting);

(w) the co-chairs of the National Campaign Committee (non-voting); and

(x) the national director (non-voting).

(2) The National Executive shall have general responsibility for the affairs of the Liberal Party of Canada between national conventions, subject to the provisions of this Constitution and to the resolutions or other actions of the national convention. This responsibility shall include all actions necessary or appropriate in order to carry out the provisions of this Constitution and the objectives of the Liberal Party of Canada.

(3) The National Executive shall meet at the call of the president or upon the written request of no fewer than 25 per cent of the voting members of the National Executive provided that no fewer than three meetings shall be held in each year.

(4) No meeting of the National Executive shall commence unless an opening quorum of 10 voting members is present.

(5) The secretary-treasurer shall be responsible for the keeping of the books of record of all bank accounts of the Liberal Party’s national office operations.

(6) Whenever a position becomes vacant on the National Executive, the vacancy may be filled for the balance of the term by the National Executive or the respective commission or association as the case may be.

(7) All standing committees and committees of the Liberal Party of Canada shall be accountable to the National Executive and between meetings thereof, to the Management Committee.
The National Executive shall provide a copy of the audited financial statements of the Liberal Party of Canada and each of its constituent bodies, within six months of the year-end, to the president of every federal constituency association and to the president and elected officers of each provincial and territorial association.

6. MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
(1) There shall be a Management Committee of the Liberal Party of Canada that shall consist of the following members:
   (a) the Leader;
   (b) the president;
   (c) the chief financial officer;
   (d) the two national vice-presidents;
   (e) the six regional vice-presidents;
   (f) the chair or his/her nominee of the National Liberal Caucus;
   (g) the secretary-treasurer;
   (h) the president of the National Women’s Liberal Commission or her nominee;
   (i) the president or his/her nominee of the Commission of Young Liberals of Canada;
   (j) one of the co-presidents or their nominee of the Aboriginal Peoples’ Commission; and
   (k) one of the co-chairs of the Senior Liberals Commission or their nominee.

(2) The Management Committee shall meet at least every three months to consider ongoing business matters and shall be responsible for the affairs of the Party between meetings of the National Executive. The Management Committee shall be accountable, and shall make a full report of its activities, to the National Executive at the beginning of each National Executive meeting. The Management Committee shall also have responsibility for developing a comprehensive two-year plan, to be updated yearly, for the direction of Party operations that shall be subject to the approval of the National Executive.

(3) Agenda and minutes of the most recent meeting for meetings of the Management Committee shall be circulated to the National Executive in advance of the meetings. Presidents of provincial and territorial associations and one representative each of the Young Liberals, Women’s and Aboriginal Peoples’ Commissions not serving on the Management Committee and wishing to attend shall be entitled to attend as observers and shall be responsible for their costs of attendance.

(4) The Management Committee may invite any person to attend its meetings.

(5) Management Committee shall receive budget proposals from Financial Management Committee and propose a budget for all elements of the Party to the National Executive.

(6) Management Committee may delegate its functions to subcommittees as it may deem advisable but shall remain ultimately responsible to the National Executive pursuant to Article 6(2).
7. STANDING COMMITTEE ON POLICY DEVELOPMENT

(1) There shall be a Standing Committee on Policy Development that shall consist of the following members:

(a) the chair elected at a national convention;
(b) the vice-chair appointed by the Leader. The vice-chair shall be of the other official language and of the other gender than the chair, and shall not be a member of the House of Commons if the elected chair is such a member, or shall be a Liberal member of the House of Commons if the elected chair is not such a member;
(c) one representative of each provincial and territorial association;
(d) two representatives of the Commission of Young Liberals of Canada nominated or elected in accordance with the constitution or bylaws of the Commission of Young Liberals of Canada;
(e) two representatives of the National Women’s Liberal Commission, one of whom shall be English-speaking and one of whom shall be French-speaking;
(f) the Leader or a designated representative;
(g) five members of the National Liberal Caucus;
(h) two representatives of the Aboriginal Peoples’ Commission nominated or elected in accordance with the constitution or by-laws of the Aboriginal Peoples’ Commission;
(i) one representative of the Seniors’ Commission;
(j) two representatives of the National Executive;
(k) the national director (non-voting); and
(l) such other members as may be appointed thereto by the National Executive provided that the principle of equal representation between men and women is adhered to, according to the provision of Article 1(2)(f).

(2) The Standing Committee on Policy Development shall meet at the call of the chair at least four times a year, and shall be accountable to the National Executive and the national convention of the Party.

(3) The Standing Committee on Policy Development shall have responsibility for national policy development between national conventions. This shall involve the establishment of joint subcommittees of non-elected Party members and members of caucus, ministers or shadow ministers, where appropriate, for the development of policy in specific areas and the organization of national and regional policy conferences in conjunction with the provincial and territorial associations.

(4) The Standing Committee on Policy Development shall prepare, maintain and publish a consolidation of resolutions approved at national conventions. The committee shall strive to ensure that the policy document is respected by the parliamentary wing and shall report thereon to the national convention.
(5) The Standing Committee on Policy Development shall utilize resolutions adopted by the constituency associations, and further adopted by the regional associations to formulate Party policy, including open debate at conventions and determination of the acceptance of such resolutions by a vote of delegates at such conventions.

(6) The Standing Committee shall publish all policy resolutions adopted by the Party at national conventions by a vote of the delegates in attendance and shall distribute said publication to all constituency presidents within 90 days of the conclusion of such national convention.

8. STANDING COMMITTEE ON ORGANIZATION

(1) There shall be a Standing Committee on Organization that shall consist of the following members:

(a) the chair elected at a national convention;
(b) one representative of the Commission of Young Liberals of Canada;
(c) one representative of the National Women’s Liberal Commission;
(d) one representative of the Aboriginal Peoples’ Commission of the Liberal Party of Canada;
(e) one representative appointed by each provincial and territorial association; and
(f) two members of the National Liberal Caucus.

(2) The Standing Committee on Organization shall meet, at the call of the chair, either in person or by telephone conference, at least three times in each calendar year.

(3) The Standing Committee on Organization is responsible to:

(a) plan and implement the training program known as “Liberal University”;
(b) assist federal constituency associations with association management, election readiness and election campaign management;
(c) promote election readiness among the federal constituency associations;
(d) review and recommend technology and election campaign methods, and make recommendations to the National Campaign Committee and the National Executive regarding these methods.

9. STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE CONSTITUTION AND LEGAL AFFAIRS

(1) There shall be a Standing Committee on the Constitution and Legal Affairs that shall consist of the following members:

(a) two co-chairs appointed by the National Executive, one of whom shall be a woman and one of whom shall be a man, and drawn from each of the legal systems in Canada;
(b) the Leader;
(c) the president;
(d) one representative each appointed by the Commission of Young Liberals of Canada, by the National Women’s Liberal Commission and by the Aboriginal Peoples’ Commission; and
(c) up to three other members as may be appointed by the National Executive provided that the principle of equal representation between men and women is adhered to, according to the provision of Article 1(2)(f).

(2) The responsibilities of the Standing Committee on the Constitution and Legal Affairs shall include advising the Party generally on constitutional and legal affairs and on the drafting of constitutional amendments and rules and regulations regarding the election of the Leader, and the selection of delegates to any National Convention. All rules and regulations drafted by the Standing Committee shall be presented to the National Executive for adoption.

10. STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLICITY

(1) There shall be a Standing Committee on Communications and Publicity that shall consist of the following members:

(a) the chair elected at a national convention;
(b) the Leader or a designated representative;
(c) one representative appointed by each provincial and territorial association;
(d) one representative of the Commission of Young Liberals of Canada;
(e) one representative of the National Women’s Liberal Commission;
(f) one representative of the Aboriginal Peoples’ Commission;
(g) two representatives of the National Liberal Caucus; and
(h) such other members as may be appointed thereto by the National Executive provided that the principle of equal representation between men and women is adhered to, according to the provision of Article 1(2)(f).

(2) The Standing Committee on Communications and Publicity shall meet, at the call of the chair, either in person or by telephone conference, at least four times in each calendar year.

(3) The Standing Committee on Communications and Publicity is responsible to:

(a) elaborate a national communication plan for the Liberal Party of Canada between Conventions;
(b) develop communication strategies on issues of national importance;
(c) plan and implement a plan for effective communications with the members of the Liberal Party of Canada about the activities, organization and policies of the Liberal Party of Canada including a website and a party newspaper;
(d) develop material for publication by the Liberal Party of Canada, the National Executive, the Standing Committees, the Commissions and, during federal elections at their request, the National Campaign Committee;
(e) develop and review policies dealing with the collection and use of personal information (including addresses, telephone and fax numbers and email addresses) by the Liberal Party of Canada;
(f) suggest and explore new technologies that will improve communications between the Liberal Party of Canada and grass root Liberals.
11. STANDING COMMITTEE ON MULTICULTURALISM

(1) There shall be a Standing Committee on Multiculturalism that shall consist of the following members:

(a) the chair elected at a national convention;
(b) one representative of each provincial and territorial association; and
(c) such other members as may be appointed thereto by the National Executive provided that the principle of equal representation between men and women is adhered to, according to the provision of Article 1(2)(f).

(2) The Standing Committee on Multiculturalism shall:

(a) encourage greater participation of ethno-cultural communities and individuals within all aspects of the Liberal Party of Canada;
(b) develop a national perspective on the many concerns that are uniquely multicultural in nature so as to ensure that the Liberal Party can respond adequately to these needs; and
(c) be accountable to the National Executive.

12. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

(1) There shall be a Financial Management Committee that shall consist of the following members:

(a) the chief financial officer;
(b) the president;
(c) the secretary-treasurer;
(d) the chair of the Revenue Committee;
(e) the chair of the Federal Liberal Agency;
(f) the vice-president, finance, of the Commission of the Young Liberals of Canada;
(g) one representative selected by the National Women’s Liberal Commission;
(h) the vice-president for finance of the Aboriginal Peoples’ Commission;
(i) the six regional vice-presidents; and
(j) the national director (non-voting).

(2) The Financial Management Committee shall have general responsibility for the finances of the Liberal Party of Canada and shall prepare and implement long-range financial plans and operating budgets for all aspects of the national level of the Party provided that same have been submitted to the National Executive through Management Committee for National Executive’s approval. The Financial Management Committee shall raise funds to support the Liberal Party of Canada and shall have responsibility for allocating available financial resources among the various elements of the national level of the Party in accordance with the annual operating budgets corresponding to such elements provided that if at any time there are insufficient funds to allocate according to said budget the principles for allocation in times of such shortage shall be approved by Management
Committee. The Financial Management Committee shall be accountable, directly to the Leader of the Liberal Party of Canada and to the National Executive through Management Committee, with respect to the implementation of financial plans and operating budgets and general financial activity on behalf of or in the name of the Liberal Party of Canada.

(3) The Chair of the Financial Management Committee who also holds the position of Chief Financial Officer of the Liberal Party of Canada shall be appointed by the President of the Party subject to the agreement of the Leader and approval by the National Executive. The chief financial officer is the senior financial officer and all other financial officers are accountable and report to him or her. The chief financial officer shall have responsibility for the raising and disbursing of all funds at the national level of the Party, for the consolidation and management of the financial administration of all elements of the national level of the Party, and for ensuring that the duties of the Financial Management Committee are carried out.

(4) The Financial Management Committee shall constitute the Revenue Committee as a subcommittee. The Revenue Committee shall have the responsibility for raising funds in order to finance the operations of the national level of the Party, including national election campaigns, as well as other such responsibilities as may be assigned. The Chair of the Revenue Committee shall be appointed by the Chief Financial Officer subject to the agreement of the Leader and the President of the Party.

(5) The Financial Management Committee shall constitute the board of directors of the Federal Liberal Agency as a subcommittee. The board of directors shall have responsibility for issuing receipts for donations received at all levels of the Party and for fulfilling the legal responsibilities of the Party as required by the Canada Elections Act, as well as such other responsibilities as may be assigned. The Chair of the Federal Liberal Agency shall be appointed by the Chief Financial Officer subject to the agreement of the Leader and the President of the Party.

(6) An annual report to the members and supporters of the Liberal Party of Canada, including the audited financial statements of the Liberal Party of Canada shall be prepared and distributed to the Provincial and Territorial Associations and to the Commissions and the Constituency Associations, within six months after the end of the year to which it relates. The annual report shall disclose fully and fairly the sources of funds and the amounts and categories of expenditures.

(7) Each federal constituency association and each provincial and territorial association shall forward consolidated financial statements to the Chief Financial Officer of the Liberal Party of Canada within three months of the end of each calendar year, such statements to provide a complete picture of the financial activities of the constituency and the provincial and territorial association, and to include reports on any and all funds held “in trust” for the Liberal Party of Canada and/or any of its subsidiary organizations or candidates. In addition, all financial officers of the national level of the Party shall report to meetings of the National Executive with respect to their actions on behalf of or in the name of the Liberal Party of Canada.
13. NATIONAL PLATFORM COMMITTEE

(1) There shall be a National Platform Committee that shall consist of the following members:

(a) the co-chairs of the National Platform Committee appointed by the leader, one of whom shall be male and one of whom shall be female;
(b) the Leader;
(c) the president;
(d) the chair of the Standing Committee on Policy Development;
(e) the co-chairs of the National Campaign Committee;
(f) the chair of the Standing Committee on Organization;
(g) the chair of the Standing Committee on Communications and Publicity;
(h) the presidents, or their nominees, of the National Women’s Liberal Commission, the Commission of Young Liberals of Canada, the Aboriginal Peoples’ Commission and one of the Seniors’ Commission co-chairs or one representative; and
(i) such other members as may be appointed by the leader provided that the principle of equal representation between men and women is adhered to, according to the provision of Article 1(2)(f).

(2) The National Platform Committee shall be responsible for advising the Leader with respect to the development of the platform to be put forward by the Liberal Party of Canada during federal general elections.

(3) The National Platform Committee shall meet at the call of one of the co-chairs of the National Platform Committee.

(4) The National Platform Committee shall report to the National Executive and the National Campaign Committee.

14. NATIONAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE

(1) There shall be a National Campaign Committee that shall consist of the following members:

(a) the co-chairs of the National Campaign Committee appointed by the leader;
(b) the Leader;
(c) the president;
(d) provincial or territorial campaign chairs or co-chairs from each province and territory chosen in accordance with the provisions of section (3) below;
(e) the chief financial officer;
(f) the chair of the Standing Committee on Organization;
(g) the chair of the Standing Committee on Communications and Publicity;
(h) the Presidents, or their nominees, of the National Women’s Liberal Commission, the Commission of Young Liberals of Canada and the Aboriginal Peoples’ Commission; and
(i) such other members as may be appointed by the Leader provided that the principle of equal representation between men and women is adhered to, according to the provision of Article 1(2)(f).
(2) The National Campaign Committee shall be responsible for ensuring that the Liberal Party of
Canada is prepared for each federal general election, and shall also be responsible for the co-
ordination of the Liberal Party of Canada national campaign in each federal general election.

(3) The Leader shall appoint provincial or territorial campaign chairs or co-chairs for each
province and territory in consultation with the executive of the provincial or territorial association.

(4) A provincial or territorial campaign chair shall hold office until replaced by the leader in
accordance with Article 14(3).

(5) The National Campaign Committee shall meet at the call of one of the co-chairs of the
National Campaign Committee.

(6) Following consultations with the National Executive and the Executive Committee of each
provincial and territorial association, the National Campaign Committee shall adopt and publish
rules regarding the procedures to be followed in the nomination of candidates to represent the
Liberal Party of Canada in any general election or by-election. These rules may be varied from
province to province or territory in consultation with the executive of the provincial or territorial association.

(7) The responsibility for the administration of these rules rests with the campaign committee in
the respective province or territory.

(8) In carrying out its responsibilities, the National Campaign Committee shall:

(a) consider the establishment of cut off dates appropriate to the province or territory for
   membership voting eligibility;

(b) consider the terms for the appointment of officials to conduct nomination meetings and
   the rules under which these meetings shall operate;

(c) establish provisions relating to financial limits for expenditures by candidates for
   nomination, for the disclosure by them of contributions and expenditures and allowing
   them to make appropriate use of the federal tax credit;

(d) consider making provision for the provision of constituency membership lists;

(e) consider provision for penalties and or sanctions for any violation of nomination rules
   and procedures;

(f) consider provision for joint candidate mailings to riding members;

(g) consider provision, where practicable, for at least one opportunity for all members of the
   constituency association to attend an accountability meeting with all candidates prior to
   the nomination meeting;

(h) consider gender equity; and

(i) consider minority representation.
15. PERMANENT APPEAL COMMITTEE

(1) There shall be a Permanent Appeal Committee that shall consist of two Co-Chairs, one of whom shall be male and one of whom shall be female, nominated by the Leader and the President, and appointed by the National Executive and one representative appointed by each provincial/territorial association.

(2) Members of the Permanent Appeal Committee shall be responsible for adjudicating appeals in the provinces and territories arising from candidate nominations, leadership selection and delegate selection to any national Convention.

(3)(a) The Permanent Appeal Committee shall be responsible for establishing rules of procedure related to appeals arising from candidate nominations, leadership selection and delegate selection to any national Convention.

(3)(b) The Permanent Appeal Committee shall, in consultation with provincial and territorial associations, have the authority to appoint additional persons to conduct adjudications pursuant to Article 15(3)(a) arising from candidate nominations, leadership selection and delegate selection to any national Convention. In the appointment of additional Permanent Appeal Committee members, the principle of equal representation shall be adhered to, according to the provisions of Article 1(2)(f).

(3)(c) Decisions of the Permanent Appeal Committee adjudicators shall be based on rules and regulations adopted in accordance with this Constitution and shall be final and not subject to appeal.

(4) Each member of the Permanent Appeal Committee, and any adjudicator appointed under the provisions of Article 15(3)(b) shall agree in writing to remain neutral in the nomination of candidates, the election of a leader or the selection of delegates to any national Convention.

16. CONVENTIONS

(1) The National Convention shall be the highest authority of the Liberal Party, subject to the provisions of this Constitution. The basic policies of the Liberal Party shall be established by the Party assembled in national convention.

(2) The National Executive shall have the authority to call any convention, conference or meeting, including national conventions, hereafter collectively referred to as “Conventions”. A National Leadership Convention, Vote or Meeting shall be called only in accordance with Article 17. Representation at any Convention shall be determined in accordance with Article 16(13) but at no time shall the number of automatic ex-officio delegates exceed 15 per cent of the total number of delegates eligible to attend the Convention. To the extent required in order to ensure compliance with this limitation, the National Executive shall be empowered to and shall amend the ex-officio delegate requirements contained in Articles 16(13)(a), (b), (c), (d), or (j) on an ad hoc basis for a single Convention.
(3) The Liberal Party shall assemble in National Convention at least every two years, the call to be issued by the National Executive of the Liberal Party of Canada at least 90 days prior to the convention date.

(4) The National Executive shall direct the Permanent Appeal Committee to make any decision respecting the election of delegates in accordance with the rules adopted by the National Executive pursuant to Article 9(2). For the election of a leader, these rules must include a cut-off date for membership voting eligibility of at least 90 days before voting day.

(5) Provincial and territorial rules relating to the election of delegates to national conventions shall be observed unless in conflict with this Constitution or the rules adopted pursuant to Article 16(4).

(6) The responsibility for the proper election or appointment, as the case may be, of all delegates and alternates to the National Convention shall be that of the executives of the provincial and territorial associations.

(7) The National Executive shall establish a convention organizing committee, and a general secretary for all conventions, in accordance with the provisions of Article 16(8).

(8) At the time of the call for a national convention, the National Executive shall forthwith appoint a subcommittee to function as the convention organizing committee provided that the principle of equal representation between men and women is adhered to, according to the provisions of Article 1(2)(f).

(9) At the time of the call for a national convention, the National Executive shall forthwith appoint a nominations committee for the election of party officials. This committee shall consist of the presidents of all the provincial and territorial associations, the Commission of the Young Liberals of Canada, the National Women’s Liberal Commission, one of the co-chairs of the Senior Liberals Commission and one of the co-presidents of the Aboriginal Peoples’ Commission. The chair shall be chosen from among the members of the committee. All nominations for Party office must be in writing and supported by at least 25 delegates and received by the chair of the nominations committee at least 30 days prior to the first day of the national convention. It shall be the duty of the nominations committee to ensure at least one candidate for each elected office.

(10) The National Convention shall elect:

(a) the president;

(b) two national vice-presidents, one of whom shall be English-speaking and one of whom shall be French-speaking;

(c) six regional vice-presidents:

(i) Atlantic (Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island);

(ii) Quebec;

(iii) Ontario;
(iv) Western (Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta);
(v) British Columbia; and
(vi) Northern (Yukon, Nunavut and the Western Arctic);
(d) the secretary-treasurer;
(e) the chair of the Standing Committee on Policy Development;
(f) the chair of the Standing Committee on Organization;
(g) the chair of the Standing Committee on Communications and Publicity; and
(h) the chair of the Standing Committee on Multiculturalism.

(11) In the event that a vacancy occurs in one of the offices, such vacancy shall be filled through appointment by the National Executive. The following principles with respect to regional vice-presidents and regional ex-officio delegates shall apply:

(a) only delegates from the region may vote for the vice-president for their region;
(b) at least 10 of the 25 delegates who support in writing the nomination of a candidate for regional vice-president shall be resident in the region with respect to which the candidate seeks to be elected;
(c) for the purpose of this Article 16(11) only, ex-officio delegates shall be deemed to be from the region if the office that entitled them to become delegates is located in the region or, if such office is not located in a specific region, if they reside in the region and, in any event, no delegate shall vote for more than one regional vice-president position.

(12) Persons elected to positions in accordance with the provisions of Article 16(10), the president of the Commission of Young Liberals of Canada, the president of the National Women’s Liberal Commission, and the co-presidents of the Aboriginal Peoples’ Commission, shall be elected to serve no more than two consecutive two-year terms in any of these positions.

(13) **Representation at Conventions.** The representation at any convention shall be as follows (requirements for qualifications as a delegate or alternate must be met as of the opening of registration):

(a) all Liberal members of the Privy Council, of the Senate (excluding retired members of the Senate) and of the House of Commons, and, where any constituency is not represented in the House of Commons by a member of the Liberal Party, the Liberal candidate defeated in the last federal general election or by-election, or if a new Liberal candidate has been nominated, such new candidate;
(b) the members of the National Executive who hold elective office to the National Executive;
(c) the seven officers of the Commission of Young Liberals of Canada, the seven officers of the National Women’s Liberal Commission, and the provincial and territorial youth presidents from each of the 13 provinces and territories, as well as the provincial/territorial women’s commission presidents;
(d) the president and three members of the executive of each provincial and territorial association elected by the executive;
(c) four youth delegates (two of whom must be men and two of whom must be women) from each student club certified by resolution of the national executive of the Commission of Young Liberals of Canada to be a student club in good standing in accordance with the constitution or bylaws of the Commission, provided that there is only one student club for each campus of a post-secondary institution;

(f) one representative of each women’s Liberal club and two representatives from each provincial or territorial women’s Liberal association/commission. For this purpose a women’s club shall be a club certified by the president and regional representative of the relevant region of the National Women’s Liberal Commission to be in good standing in accordance with the provisions contained in the National Women’s Liberal Commission Bylaws, to have 25 or more women members, and to have been recognized by its provincial or territorial women’s Liberal association/commission or, in the absence of the provincial or territorial women’s Liberal association/commission, by the executive of the provincial or territorial association in that province or territory at the date of the call of the convention;

(f.1) one representative of each Senior Liberals club and two representatives from each provincial or territorial Seniors Liberals commission or association. For this purpose a Senior Liberals club shall be a club certified by the president and regional representative of the relevant region of the Senior Liberals Commission to be in good standing in accordance with the provisions contained in the bylaws adopted by the Senior Liberals Commission, to have 25 or more members who are members of the Senior Liberals Commission and to have been recognized by its provincial or territorial Senior Liberals commission or association or, in the absence of a provincial or territorial Senior Liberals Association, by the executive of the provincial or territorial association in that province or territory at the date of the call of the convention. The total number of Senior Liberals clubs will be limited to 38 in all provinces and territories and limited in each province and territory as follows: Newfoundland and Labrador, one; Prince Edward Island, one; New Brunswick, one; Nova Scotia, one; Québec, ten; Ontario, ten; Nunavut, one; Manitoba, two; Saskatchewan, two; Yukon, one; Alberta, four; British Columbia, four. The membership for each club may be province or territory wide and not limited to the boundaries of a constituency association;

(g) the president of each federal Liberal constituency association and 14 delegates from each federal constituency association who shall be elected at a local meeting to be called for that purpose, four of whom shall be men, four of whom shall be women, four of whom shall be youth (two of whom shall be men and two of whom shall be women) and two of whom shall be members of the Senior Liberals Commission (one of whom shall be a man and one of whom shall be a woman);

(h) 10 delegates, five of whom shall be men and five of whom shall be women, selected by each provincial and territorial executive;

(i) the chair and the members of the Revenue Committee;

(j) any past Leader of the Liberal Party of Canada; and

(k) the leaders of the Liberal Party in each province and territory;

(l) the eight officers of the Aboriginal Peoples’ Commission and the presidents of the provincial/territorial aboriginal commissions or, in the absence of a provincial or territorial aboriginal commission, the provincial or territorial representative on the national Aboriginal Peoples’ Commission;
(m) two representatives (one of whom must be a woman) appointed by the executive of each provincial or territorial Aboriginal commission or association or, in the absence of a provincial or territorial Aboriginal commission or association, elected at large by all persons resident in that province or territory who are eligible to vote as Aboriginal people in accordance with rules adopted for that purpose by the executive of the Aboriginal Peoples’ Commission; and

(n) delegates based on proportional representation of Aboriginal peoples in the country in a number, allocated to each province and territory to reflect the demographic distribution of Aboriginal people in each province or territory and elected as follows:

(i) for the purpose of calculation only, the total number of delegates is smallest whole number greater than \(A\) where
\[
A = (\frac{P}{C}) \times D
\]
\(P\) is the total Aboriginal population of all provinces and territories reported in the latest Canadian Census published before the date on which the call to the convention is issued by the National Executive (the “Date of the Call”)
\(C\) is the total population of all provinces and territories reported in the same census (the “Relevant Census”)
\(D\) is the sum of the maximum number of delegates from all other bodies of the Party entitled to elect delegates (based on the number of student clubs accredited under Article 16(13)(e) as of the Date of the Call, the number of women’s clubs certified and recognized as required by Article 16(13)(f) as of the Date of the Call, [the number of Senior Liberals clubs certified and recognized as required by Article 16(13)(f.1) as of the Date of the Call] and the number of federal constituencies as of the Date of the Call plus the total number of ex officio delegates eligible to register as of the Date of the Call (but amended in accordance with the last two sentences of Article 16(2));

(ii) the actual total number of delegates is the sum of the number of delegates allocated to each province and territory as follows:

(1) for each province and territory, calculate the preliminary number of delegates as \(B\) rounded to the nearest whole number where
\[
B = (\frac{Q}{P}) \times A
\]
\(Q\) is the total Aboriginal population of that province or territory reported in the Relevant Census
\(P\) is the total Aboriginal population of all provinces and territories reported in the Relevant Census
\(A\) is the total number of delegates calculated in accordance with Article 16(13)(n)(i);

(2) to each province or territory for which the preliminary number of delegates calculated in accordance with Article 16(13)(n)(ii)(1) is less than three, allocate three delegates;

(3) for each province and territory other than those contemplated by Article 16(13)(n)(ii)(2), calculate the number of delegates as \(C\) rounded to the nearest whole number where
\[
C = (\frac{Q}{P - R}) \times (A - B)
\]
\(Q\) is the total Aboriginal population of that province or territory reported in the Relevant Census
P is the total Aboriginal population of all provinces and territories reported in the Relevant Census.

R is the total Aboriginal population reported in the Relevant Census of those provinces and territories to which delegates have been allocated in accordance with Article 16(13)(n)(ii)(2).

A is the total number of delegates calculated in accordance with Article 16(13)(n)(i).

B is the number of delegates allocated in accordance with Article 16(13)(n)(ii)(2);

(iii) the delegates for each province or territory will be elected on a province or territory wide basis by all persons resident in the province or territory who are eligible to vote as Aboriginal people in accordance with rules adopted for that purpose by the executive of the Aboriginal Peoples’ Commission;

(iv) despite anything else contained in this Article 16(13(m), the total Aboriginal population of all provinces and territories or for any one or more of the provinces or territories may be increased for the purposes of calculations under this Article 16(13)(m) by joint resolution of the executive of the Aboriginal Peoples’ Commission and the National Executive to reflect under-counting of Aboriginal people in the Relevant Census and to reflect the level of participation of Aboriginal people at previous conventions.

(14)(a) Any person who sought election as a delegate from a body entitled to elect delegates to the convention is entitled to attend the convention as an Alternate, upon paying the prescribed fee and registering prior to the close of registration.

(14)(b) Where any delegate elected fails to register prior to the close of registration, he or she may be replaced by the Alternate who:

(i) sought election from the same body;

(ii) presents himself or herself for promotion at the time and place designated in the convention agenda for that purpose;

(iii) best fits the demographic and other requirements for the delegate position, as determined by the rules adopted by the National Executive for the convention, pursuant to Article 9(2); and

(iv) subject to the requirements of sub-clause (iii) above being met, received the most votes.

(14)(c) Where any delegate elected indicates his or her intention not to attend the convention, and this fact is made known by signed notification from the delegate in writing received by the General Secretary of the convention or his or her designate prior to the opening of registration, then the General Secretary or his or her designate shall, if practicable prior to the opening of registration:

(i) cancel the delegate’s certificate of election;

(ii) determine the identity of the person who, if all persons eligible to register as Alternates were in attendance and did so, would qualify for promotion to delegate status in accordance with this section;

(iii) declare such person elected as a delegate, issue a certificate of election; and

(iv) make all due efforts to notify him or her of this change of status.
(15) Convention Regulations. To assist the convention organization committee in the preparation of a convention, the following regulations set forth in sub-paragraphs (a) to (k) below shall apply:

(a) Notice of the call for any convention shall be sent to each individual entitled to register ex-officio as a delegate pursuant to Article 16(13), and to the president of each body entitled to elect delegates pursuant to Article 16(13).

(b) In each federal constituency a meeting of the federal constituency association shall be called, and held not later than 35 days prior to the opening of the convention for the election of the delegates to which the constituency association is entitled. In appropriate circumstances, the Permanent Appeal Committee may waive the 35 day deadline. To ensure a representative attendance at such meetings, sufficient advance notice shall be given, by advertisement or otherwise, of the date, hour, place and purpose of the meeting. In constituencies that cover a large geographic area, consideration should be given to holding split delegate election meetings.

(c) In each federal constituency, the Liberal member of the House of Commons or the defeated Liberal candidate or duly nominated Liberal candidate, as the case may be, shall co-operate with the president of such constituency association in all matters relating to the calling and holding of the meeting for the election.

(d) At each meeting to elect delegates, or as soon as practicable thereafter, each elected delegate shall be issued with a certificate of his/her election, signed by the chair of the meeting, the secretary of the meeting (or such other person as either of them may designate), and by the delegate. At each delegate election meeting, the chair and secretary of the meeting shall record the number of votes case for each nominee, and whether each nominee is a man, a woman and/or a youth.

(e) Each of the said certificates, duly completed and signed as aforesaid, together with the record referred to in Articles 16(15)(f) and (g), shall be mailed to the General Secretary of the convention at Ottawa not later than 30 days prior to the opening of the convention if there is no appeal pending therefrom. Upon receipt of the certificates, the General Secretary shall issue credentials to the delegates entitled. Only one single, non-transferable credential shall be issued to one person to qualify as a delegate, provided that the Permanent Appeal Committee may make such provisions as it deems necessary for the replacement of credentials, which are lost, stolen, destroyed or otherwise rendered unavailable to the delegate entitled thereto.

(f) Similar certificates shall be issued to all designated delegates entitled to attend the convention by the constituency association, the provincial or territorial Liberal association, the Commission of Young Liberals of Canada, the National Women’s Liberal Commission or the Aboriginal Peoples’ Commission, as the case may be.

(g) Certificates of election shall be prepared under the direction of the convention organization committee at Ottawa, and the persons to whom they are mailed will be held responsible for their proper distribution and return.

(h) Credentials for all other persons entitled to attend the convention shall be issued as required by the General Secretary.
(i) The National Executive shall establish the registration fees to be paid by the delegates and attendees at all conventions. Such fees shall be deposited in a common fund of which a percentage determined by the National Executive shall be paid to delegates to assist with transportation costs which they incur in travelling from the constituency association, in which they are ordinarily resident, to the convention. The National Executive of the Liberal Party of Canada shall establish a significantly reduced registration fee for all youth commission delegates to all Liberal Party of Canada conventions and conferences. This reduced fee shall realistically reflect the economic disparity that exists between those members of the youth commission in relation to those of the senior Party.

(j) The rules governing proceedings at the national convention shall be the rules adopted for such purpose at the opening session of the convention.

(k) If the National Executive calls a convention, and where circumstances exist that make it difficult or impossible to comply with the time regulations set out in this Constitution, the National Executive may establish other regulations relating to such time requirements. Such circumstances include but are not limited to the death or resignation of the leader of the Liberal Party of Canada, or the calling of an election in Canada, or in any of the provinces or territories.

17. LEADERSHIP SELECTION

(1) The National Executive shall have the authority to call a national leadership convention on the death or the resignation of the Leader and Article 16(15)(k) may apply.

(2) In the event of the resignation or death of the Leader of the Liberal Party of Canada, the National Executive shall call a national leadership convention to take place within 12 months from the date of such resignation or death.

(3) Forthwith upon the death or resignation of the Leader, the National Executive in consultation with the national caucus shall appoint an interim Leader of the Party.

(4) A resolution calling for a leadership convention shall be placed automatically on the agenda of the convention next following a federal general election. If such a resolution is duly adopted by secret ballot, the National Executive shall call a leadership convention to take place within one year of the above-mentioned secret ballot. During the selection of delegates to the national convention which next follows a federal general election, all members of the Liberal Party of Canada shall be asked to vote in each constituency association on a resolution calling for a leadership vote. If such resolution is agreed to by a majority of members, voting by secret ballot, the National Executive shall call a leadership vote to take place within one year.

(5)(a) When a national leadership convention has been called by the National Executive, candidates shall signify their intention to stand for election as Leader of the Liberal Party of Canada by filing nomination papers provided by and in a form approved by the National Executive. No candidate shall be permitted to stand for election as Leader of the Liberal Party of Canada unless he or she files such papers in accordance with this Article 17(5) with the President of the Liberal Party of Canada by the later of:

(i) the 21st day subsequent to the day the National Executive calls the national leadership convention pursuant to Article 17(1); and
(ii) the 60th day prior to the national leadership convention.

(5)(b) Candidates’ nomination papers submitted pursuant to this Article 17(5) shall bear the signatures of not less than 300 members of the Liberal Party of Canada, numbering at least 100 from each of three different provinces or territories.

(5)(c) By resolution, the National Executive may fix a deposit, refundable or otherwise, which shall either accompany a candidate’s nomination papers filed in compliance with this Article 17(5), or, if the National Executive so determines, which may be paid in instalments prior to the national leadership convention.

(6) When a national leadership convention is called, the National Executive shall forthwith proceed to appoint a leadership expenses committee. This committee shall consist of two co-chairs, one of whom shall be a male and one of whom shall be a female and one of whom shall be English-speaking and one of whom shall be French-speaking, one representative from each provincial and territorial association, two representatives of the Commission of Young Liberals of Canada, of the National Women’s Liberal Commission, of the Senior Liberals Commission and of the Aboriginal Peoples’ Commission, three representatives of the National Liberal Caucus, and such other persons as may be appointed by the National Executive.

(7) The leadership expenses committee shall set up regulations regarding a maximum limit for candidates’ spending prior to and at the leadership convention, as well as a procedure to supervise compliance with the limit and a procedure to ensure full and complete disclosure of all contributions to leadership campaigns. All candidates to the leadership shall agree in writing to comply with the regulations of the committee. The form of written compliance and regulations shall be made available as soon as possible after the call for the leadership convention. Failure to comply with this requirement shall result in disqualification of the candidate.

(8) The Leader of the Liberal Party of Canada shall be elected at a National Leadership Convention, with the delegates to that convention being elected in proportion to the popular direct vote received by each Leadership candidate, in accordance with this Constitution and the Rules adopted by the National Executive. The first vote shall take place during the next election of a leader of the Liberal Party of Canada.

(9)(a) At general meetings for the election of delegates to a National Leadership Convention called in accordance with this Article 17, each voting member shall be provided with a ballot that permits him or her both to vote directly for the Leadership candidate of his or her choice, and to vote for individual delegates to the National Leadership Convention who have either declared their support for a particular leadership candidate, or elected to stand as “undeclared” delegates.

(9)(b) For the purposes of Article 17(9)(a), the term “voting member” means a person who has been a current member or immediate past member of the Liberal Party of Canada for the period of 90 days immediately preceding the general meeting, and who is either a current member or immediate past member who renews his or her membership at the general meeting.
(9)(c) Delegate selection meetings shall be held on one weekend, with the provincial/territorial association executives determining on which precise day the election will be held in each constituency.

(10) The delegate structure of the National Leadership Convention shall be as set out in Article 16(13).

(11) Delegates elected in support of Leadership candidates, shall, if they vote on the first ballot, do so in favour of the candidate they have been elected to support. Should any leadership candidate fail to win a majority on any ballot, the leadership candidate who received the fewest votes on that ballot shall retire, and a further ballot shall be held. Successive ballots shall be held until one candidate receives a majority, and is thereby elected as leader of the Liberal Party of Canada.

(12) Where a delegate to a leadership convention is replaced pursuant to Article 16(14), and the delegate so replaced was elected in support of a particular leadership candidate, the person who replaces that delegate shall, if he or she votes on the first ballot, do so in favour of the leadership candidate that the original delegate was elected to support.

18. CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

(1) This Constitution may be amended at any national convention or leadership convention provided that:

(a) written notice of the proposed amendment shall have been given to the President of the Party not less than four weeks before the date of the convention;

(b) the proposed amendment has been previously adopted by the executive of a provincial or territorial Liberal association or by the National Executive or, in respect of those provisions in the Constitution dealing with the commissions, the proposed amendment has been previously adopted by the executive of the respective commission;

(c) written notice of the proposed amendment shall have been given to the president of each federal constituency association not less than two weeks before the date of the convention; and

(d) the amendment is adopted by not less than two-thirds of the votes cast on the motion to adopt such amendment. For the purpose of amending the Constitution, the quorum shall be 200 delegates.

(2)(a) After each Convention at which this Constitution is amended, the Co-Chairs of the Standing Committee on Constitutional and Legal Affairs shall oversee the publication of this Constitution as amended, and may, in so doing, and subject to the ratification of the National Executive:

(i) renumber the provisions hereof to accommodate the changes that have been made;

(ii) correct cross-references between provisions which are no longer accurate;

(iii) correct errors which are purely typographical;

(iv) correct errors of spelling;

(v) replace gender biased language with gender neutral language, and

(vi) correct inconsistencies between the English and French versions hereof only insofar as such changes will not change the substantive meaning of any provision.
19. CONSTITUTIONAL CONFLICTS

(1) This Constitution shall govern the affairs of the Liberal Party of Canada, and, in the event of any conflict between this Constitution and any constitutional document of any of the Party’s constituent bodies, this Constitution shall prevail insofar as the federal affairs of the Party are concerned.