

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE SASKATCHEWAN LIBERAL PARTY

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1. PREAMBLE

The Saskatchewan Liberal Party (The Party) 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 Party is dedicated to the principles having historically sustained the Liberal 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 Party is committed to the pursuit of equality of opportunity for all persons, and to the enhancement of our unique and diverse cultural community.

In accordance with this philosophy, the Party 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 society. The Liberal Party is bound by the constitution of Canada and the *Canadian 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.

The Party recognizes that human dignity in a democratic system requires all citizens have access to full information concerning policies and leadership of the Liberal Party; 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 Saskatchewan people.

To realize this objective, the Party strives to provide a flexible and democratic structure; whereby, all Saskatchewan people 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 whereby the Party works to implement these ideas on behalf of all of its members.

2. ROLE AND PURPOSE

2.1 The Party shall:

- (a) advocate and support Liberal philosophies, principles and policies;
- (b) support constituency associations in all provincial electoral constituencies in Saskatchewan;
- (c) promote the election of Liberal candidates for seats in the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan;
- (d) provide assistance, direction and leadership to all constituency associations in Saskatchewan and co-ordinate the efforts of Liberal organizations to create a strong Saskatchewan Liberal Party;
- (e) respect the principle of equal division between men and women in the structure and operations of the Party to the greatest extent possible, reflecting the commitment of the Party to the principle of equality between men and women in the affairs of the Party;
- (f) respect the principle of equitable representation of aboriginal peoples in the structure and operations of the Party and the constituency associations.

3. MEMBERSHIP

3.1 The Party shall be open to all who desire to support the Saskatchewan Liberal Party and who wish to be known as Liberals. All individuals aged fourteen (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, and:

- (a) they are ordinarily resident in Saskatchewan;
- (b) they are not members of any other provincial political party within Canada; and
- (c) they have paid the membership fee fixed by the Executive of the Party, and the membership application has been duly processed by the Party office.

3.2 Any eligible person who wishes to join the Party may do so by applying for and being admitted to membership in the Party.

3.3 It is a requirement of membership in the Party each member affirm his/her acceptance of the principles outlined in the Preamble and:

- (a) fairness and equity will apply in all matters within the Liberal 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 Saskatchewan and Canadian people;
 - (d) a commitment to the full and equitable participation of all members;
 - (e) a commitment to respect the laws of Saskatchewan and Canada; and
 - (f) a commitment to fairness in electoral competition.
 - (g) The purchase of a membership in the Party automatically confirms the acceptance of these principles.
- 3.4 Such person shall be admitted to membership upon complying with all membership requirements, providing no member holds membership in more than one provincial constituency association.
- 3.5 Each member shall be issued a membership card bearing the name of the provincial constituency that the member resides in (This will be the member's ordinary residence);
- 3.6 A register of members will be maintained by the Party. Every provincial constituency association, recognized commission, club, association or committee shall sign a privacy agreement with the Party and then be entitled to access to the information on their respective members upon request.
- 3.7 A person must be a member in good standing of a provincial constituency association or a member of a recognized club, association or commission to be:
- (a) eligible for election or appointment to any office or position in the Party, provincial constituency association or any recognized commission, club or association;
 - (b) eligible to vote at any official meeting of the Party, or provincial constituency association or of any recognized commission, club or association;
 - (c) eligible to be a delegate at any General Meeting or Leadership vote of the Party.
- 3.8 To be a member in good standing of a provincial constituency association, a person must:
- (a) normally reside in the constituency; and
 - (b) hold a valid and subsisting Party membership seven (7) days prior to the date of the meeting or be an immediate past member of the Party. An immediate past member is a member whose membership expired within the proceeding twelve (12) months prior to the date of the meeting. An immediate past member shall be entitled to renew his or her membership at any time prior to the commencement of the relevant meeting.

- 3.9 The Provincial Executive shall have the authority to issue a "Letter of Recognition" to any local Young Liberal Club, Women's Liberal Club, Aboriginal Peoples' Club or Seniors Club provided the Club has satisfied the requirements of the Young Liberals of Saskatchewan, Saskatchewan Women's Liberal Commission, the Saskatchewan Aboriginal Peoples' Commission or the Saskatchewan Senior's Commission as the case may be, and provided the Provincial Executive is satisfied the Club has been properly constituted for due recognition by the Party.

4. LIFE MEMBERSHIP

- 4.1 The Provincial Council of the Party is empowered to award life memberships in the Party to members who are deemed by the Provincial Council to be deserving, in the sole discretion of the Provincial Council.
- 4.2 A life member shall enjoy the benefits and privileges accorded by the Provincial Council.

5. SUSPENSION AND DISQUALIFICATION FROM MEMBERSHIP

- 5.1 The Provincial Executive, after ten days written notice to the persons affected and on a two-thirds vote of the members of the Executive present at the meeting, may remove any person from office or suspend or expel any person from membership in the Party.
- 5.2 Any person, the removal from office or the suspension or expulsion from membership of whom is proposed, shall have the right to be heard at the meeting of the Provincial Executive at which such removal, suspension or expulsion is considered,
- 5.3 Any person who is denied membership, whose membership is suspended, or who is expelled from membership and any member who is dismissed from office in the Party, may appeal such decision as a matter of right to a committee. The committee shall consist of the immediate past president of the Party and two other past presidents as selected by the immediate past president. The committee shall hear the appeal within thirty (30) days of receiving notice of appeal.

6. REGIONAL COUNCILS AND DIRECTORS

- 6.1 The Provincial Executive from time to time shall establish Regional Councils for regions of Saskatchewan to be represented by Regional Directors and shall establish from time to time duties and responsibilities of such Regional Councils.
- 6.2 The Regional Directors shall be elected by the members of the Liberal constituency associations in each Regional Council within 120 days of each provincial convention.
- 6.3 The President is hereby empowered to call Regional Council meetings for the purpose of electing Regional Directors.
- 6.4 The Regional Directors shall have such powers and duties as assigned by the Provincial Executive or the President.

7. EXECUTIVE

- 7.1 Quorum: Eight (8) persons shall constitute a quorum of the Executive for any meetings of the Executive of the Party
- 7.2 The Executive of the Party shall consist of the following:
- (a) an Honorary President, who shall be the Leader of the Liberal Party in Saskatchewan;
 - (b) the President;
 - (c) the Vice-President;
 - (d) the President of the Saskatchewan Women's Liberal Commission;
 - (e) the President of the Young Liberals of Saskatchewan;
 - (f) the President of the Saskatchewan Aboriginal People's Liberal Commission;
 - (g) the President of the Saskatchewan Senior's Commission;
 - (h) the Provincial Treasurer;
 - (i) the Secretary;
 - (j) the Chairperson of each of the Standing Committees of the Party;
 - (k) the Chairperson of the Provincial Liberal caucus;
 - (l) the Past President.;
 - (m) Up to five members at large appointed by the Provincial executive;
 - (n) The Constitutional Chair;
 - (o) Legal Counsel
 - (p) The Official Agent of the party
- 7.3 The Executive as set forth herein shall constitute the Executive of the Party and shall be responsible for the management of the affairs of the Party between Provincial Council and Annual meetings.
- 7.4 The Executive shall meet at least once every three months. The minimum notice for an executive meeting shall be three clear business days; such notice may be waived by unanimous consent of the executive. Meetings may take place in person, by teleconference or by combination of in person and teleconference.
- 7.5 A vote of the Provincial Executive may be taken by email upon any matter proper for its decision and such vote by email shall be valid and binding. The time for response to an email vote shall be three clear business days.

8. ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE

- 8.1 The President, Vice-President, and the chairs of the five standing committees shall be elected by a majority or the votes cast by secret ballot at the annual convention and shall hold office until their successors are elected or named.
- 8.2 The Treasurer and the Secretary shall be appointed by the Provincial Executive and shall hold office only at the pleasure of the Provincial Executive.
- 8.3 Should any vacancy occurred in an office of the Party between annual meetings, the constituent body or its executive shall have the power to appoint an individual to fill the vacant position until the next annual meeting, or in the case of a position elected at the annual convention, the provincial executive shall fill the vacant position until the next annual convention.
- 8.4 At its first meeting following the annual meeting of the Party, the Provincial Executive shall appoint additional members to act on the Provincial Council and Executive until the next annual meeting of the Party as follows:
 - (a) Legal Counsel;
 - (b) Constitutional Chair
 - (c) The Official Agent of the Party
 - (d) Additional members when deemed necessary not to exceed five (5) in number.

9. DUTIES OF EXECUTIVE

9.1 PRESIDENT

- (a) The President shall preside at the convention and all other meetings of the Party and the Provincial Council.
- (b) The President shall be the official spokesperson or the Party.
- (c) The President shall perform all duties incident to the office of the President and shall have such other powers and duties as from time to time may be assigned by the Provincial Executive.

9.2 VICE-PRESIDENT

- (a) The Vice-President shall be vested with all powers and shall perform all duties of the President in the absence or disability or refusal of the President to act.
- (b) The Vice-President shall have such other powers and duties as from time to time may be assigned by the Provincial Executive or the President.

9.3 TREASURER

- (a) The Treasurer is Vice-chair of the Finance Committee.

- (b) The Treasurer in consultation with the finance chair shall be responsible in the areas of:
 - (i) assistance to constituency organizations, youth, women, aboriginal, and senior's clubs in the area of financial activity and financial planning;
 - (ii) custody and maintenance of The financial records of the party;
 - (iii) the preparation and presentation of the annual budget for the Party; and
 - (iv) the preparation, presentation and audit of financial statements of the Party prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.
- (c) The Treasurer shall have such other powers and duties as assigned by the Provincial Executive or the President.

9.4 SECRETARY

- (a) The Secretary shall cause minutes and written records to be taken and maintained of all meetings and proceedings of the Party and the Provincial Executive.
- (b) The Secretary shall have such other powers and duties as assigned by the Provincial Executive or the President.

10. STANDING COMMITTEES

10.1 There shall be five (5) Standing Committees of the Party as follows:

- (a) Finance;
- (b) Policy and Resolutions;
- (c) Organization;
- (d) Strategy and Planning; and
- (e) Communications and Public Relations.

10.2 These executive positions shall be elected at each provincial convention.

10.3 The membership of each Standing Committee:

- (a) shall be the Chairperson together with such other persons as the Chairperson may appoint, with the approval of the Provincial Executive; and
- (b) shall include at least one member appointed by and from each recognized commission, club and association.
- (c) The Provincial Executive may constitute such other Committees as may be required from time to time. The duties and responsibilities of such Committees shall be determined by the Provincial Executive.

11. PROVINCIAL COUNCIL

- 11.1 The Provincial Council shall be responsible for setting policy and establishing guidelines and limitations to manage the affairs of the Party. The Provincial Council shall be composed of:
- (a) The Executive of the Party;
 - (b) The Regional Directors;
 - (c) One representative member from each provincial constituency in Saskatchewan, each such representative member to be the president of the provincial constituency association or his/her designate;
 - (d) One representative member from each recognized commission, club or associations;
 - (e) All Saskatchewan Liberal Members of the Legislative Assembly;

12. MEETINGS OF THE PROVINCIAL COUNCIL

- 12.1 The Provincial Council shall meet on the call of the President and the President shall chair all meetings of the Provincial Council.
- 12.2 Twenty (20) persons shall constitute a quorum of the Provincial Council.
- 12.3 The Provincial Council shall meet in person or by conference call at least once each year.
- 12.4 A vote of the Provincial Council may be taken by email upon any matter proper for its decision and such a vote by email shall be valid and binding. The time for response to an email vote shall be three clear business days. In the event that a member of council cannot be contacted by email and has provided the Party office with their contact information, the secretary of the Party or their designate shall attempt to contact the individual member(s) to receive their vote in the same three clear business days.
- 12.5 All members of the Party shall be entitled to attend meetings of the Provincial Council. The Provincial Council shall have the right to meet and discuss in camera such matters as it may deem necessary. Only members of the Provincial Council may vote on or move a motion. Members of delegations may make presentations on approval of the Provincial Council.
- 12.6 There shall be a minimum of one week notice for a Provincial Council meeting for which teleconferencing has been arranged, and a minimum of 30 days notice if there is no teleconferencing arrangement.
- 12.7 The Provincial Council may pass, amend, or vary bylaws from time to time which:
- (a) particularize roles and responsibilities of each of the Standing Committees, Executive and members of Provincial Council;
 - (b) detail procedures to follow in all meetings conducted by the constituency associations;

- (c) are required or authorized by this Constitution to be done by the Provincial Council and require rules or regulations with respect thereto.

13. CONVENTIONS OR SPECIAL MEETINGS OF THE PARTY

- 13.1 Subject to 13.2, Conventions of the Party shall be every year and shall be called by the Provincial Executive of the Party, to be held on such dates and at such places as the Provincial Executive may determine.
- 13.2 In a year in which a Provincial Election seems imminent, the Provincial Executive may postpone the Convention to such a date as it may determine.
- 13.3 Only those delegates duly elected or appointed pursuant to this Article shall be entitled to vote at a Convention.
- 13.4 Notice of a Convention of the Party (the "Call") shall be posted on the Party's website and emailed to all members, at least forty-five (45) days before the date set for the Convention.
- 13.5 In anticipation of a Convention, the Provincial Executive shall establish an organizing committee to plan and implement the Convention.
- 13.6 The order of business at any Convention of the Party shall be prescribed by the Provincial Executive, subject to the approval of the voting delegates when assembled.
- 13.7 Each provincial constituency association shall be entitled to elect sixteen regular voting delegates to attend a Convention, six of whom shall be men, six of whom shall be women and four positions of whom shall be youth (two of whom shall be men and two of whom shall be women). In circumstances where in sufficient delegates from a constituency association have registered to attend a convention to fill the demographic criteria of the same positions, the vacant delegate positions may be filled by alternates from the same constituency association.
- 13.8 Each constituency association may also elect up to ten alternate delegates, who may vote only in the absence of the regular delegates. Any regular delegate from such constituency association who is unable to attend the Convention shall be replaced by one of the alternate delegates from such constituency association as a voting delegate. who most closely matches the demographic criteria of the regular delegate to be replaced.
- 13.9 All voting delegates at a Convention shall reside in the constituency in which they are elected as delegates.
- 13.10 Members of the Provincial Council of the Party. Life Members, Liberal Members of Legislative Assembly, the currently nominated provincial candidates in each constituency or in the event that there is no currently nominated individual. The individual who was the immediate past candidate in each constituency shall be *ex officio* voting delegates at any Convention.

14. LEADERSHIP SELECTION

- 14.1 A leadership election shall be held by a direct vote of all members of the Party who have a right to vote on the Leadership, weighted equally for each electoral district in Saskatchewan, upon the resignation or death of the Leader of the Saskatchewan Liberal Party. In the event of the

resignation or death of the Leader, the Provincial Council shall appoint an interim Leader of the Saskatchewan Liberal Party.

- 14.2 A resolution, to be voted upon by secret ballot, calling for a leadership convention shall be placed automatically on the agenda of the Convention next following a provincial general election.
- 14.3 The Provincial Council shall call a leadership convention within one year of an affirmative resolution, the resignation, or the death of the leader. In the event a leadership convention is called as result of the secret ballot resolution the Provincial Council shall appoint an interim leader.

15. CONSTITUTENCY ASSOCIATIONS

- 15.1 Each provincial constituency association shall have a constitution that is consistent with the provisions of this Constitution. Each constituency constitution shall provide for:
- (a) an annual general meeting for the election of an Executive, at a time and place to be fixed by the executive of the constituency association, after consultation with the President of the Party;
 - (b) membership and meeting requirements;
 - (c) proper maintenance of financial records, including providing the Treasurer of the Party an annual financial update including the names of signing officers, account balances, and the bank branch locations;
 - (d) the principles set forth in the Preamble of this Constitution;
 - (e) a procedure for the amendment of such constitution and the requirement to file the current version of such constitution with the Party.

Each constituency association shall be encouraged to adopt and keep in force the model constitution as approved from time to time by the Provincial Council.

- 15.2 In case of conflict between the provisions of the constitution of a constituency association and the provisions of this constitution, the provisions of this constitution shall prevail.
- 15.3 In due time prior to a provincial general election or by-election, the executive of the provincial constituency association shall, in consultation with the Leader of the Saskatchewan Liberal Party and the President of the Party, convene a meeting for the purpose of nominating a Liberal candidate at a time and place approved by the President.
- 15.4 A constituency association shall select its eligible number of delegates to the annual or leadership convention according to the rules and regulations outlined in this constitution and the rules adopted by the convention committee.
- 15.5 When a question, dispute or controversy arises with respect to any aspect of the foregoing sections, the question, dispute or controversy shall be placed on the agenda for the next meeting of the Provincial Executive and answered, decided or resolved by a majority decision of the

Provincial Executive at that meeting. The constituency association shall then be notified of the Provincial Executive's decision immediately by the President of the Party or his/her delegate.

- 15.6 Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, when a constituency association has, in the opinion of the Provincial Executive, failed to respect the provisions of this section, the Provincial Executive shall be empowered to make such rules as it considers necessary for the holding of a democratic annual meeting and/or nominating convention in that constituency. In such event, the Provincial Executive may make and adopt such bylaws as it considers necessary to govern the calling, holding and procedure at annual meetings and/or nominating conventions in the constituencies.

16. FINANCIAL MATTERS

- 16.1 The Party shall at all times comply with the requirements of any applicable federal and provincial legislation relating to the financing of provincial political parties.

17. AMENDMENT TO CONSTITUTION

- 17.1 This Constitution may be amended:
- (a) without prior notice being given of the amendment, by the unanimous approval of the voting delegates present at any Convention of the Party; and
 - (b) by the approval of a majority of the voting delegates present at any Convention, provided a summary of the proposed amendment has been delivered to the members of the Party before, with, or concurrent with, the posting on the Party's website and emailing of the Call.
 - (c) Only the Party Executive or the Provincial Council can put forward amendments to the constitution.
- 17.2 The Provincial Council may amend this Constitution by majority vote at a meeting of the Provincial Council, provided a summary of the proposed amendment has been delivered to the members of the Provincial Council in the notice calling the meeting. Any such amendments by the Provincial Council shall remain in force only until the next following Convention and if not then ratified shall be annulled and of no ongoing effect.

18. INTERPRETATION

- 18.1 Unless there is something in the subject matter or context inconsistent therewith, words importing the singular number only shall include the plural and vice-versa, and words importing the masculine gender shall include the feminine gender and vice-versa.
- 18.2 The headings of all sections hereof are inserted for convenience of reference only and shall not affect the construction or interpretation of this constitution.
- 18.3 Meetings with the exception of the Annual General Meeting and Leadership Conventions may take place by conference call at the discretion of the Party President.
- 18.4 Where notice is not specifically defined it shall be deemed to be a minimum of seven days.

18.5 Notice for all meetings conventions may be given by posting on the Party's website and email, telephone, fax and/or mail, at the discretion of the Party Executive.

19. RULES OF ORDER

19.1 The rules of order for all meetings of the Party shall be those as outlined in "Robert's Rules of Order".

Amended on September 15, 2012

Section 14.1 amended on June 3, 2014 by the Provincial Council, to be ratified at the next Annual General Meeting of the Saskatchewan Liberal Party.