

Summary of Proposed Changes to the Constitution of the Saskatchewan Liberal Party

(To be considered for adoption at the 2017 SLP Convention/AGM)

1. MEMBERSHIP - Removal of the requirement to issue membership cards. This has not been done in practice in a long time, and is redundant with nearly all memberships now being processed electronically and confirmation emails generated automatically.

Additional statement to clarify the existing rule that “Party members shall automatically be a member of the constituency association for the constituency in which that member normally resides (This will be the member’s ordinary residence)”; (sec 3.4, 3.5).

Update to definition of Immediate Past Member to be “a member whose membership has expired within the previous calendar year.”

2. COMMISSIONS - Removal of the following four Executive positions: President of the Saskatchewan Women’s Liberal Commission; President of the Young Liberals of Saskatchewan; President of the Saskatchewan Aboriginal People’s Liberal Commission; and the President of the Saskatchewan Senior’s Commission, and the creation of four additional Standing Committees: Indigenous Peoples’; Young Liberals; Women’s; and Seniors.

This proposed change reflects the fact that the “Commissions” have not functionally existed at the provincial level since the provincial and federal parties split. There is also no mechanism for the ratification or governance of such commissions. The representation provided by these groups of special focus will be maintained and strengthened by the creation of similar positions within the structure of Standing Committees, where the Chairpersons of each committee can be elected directly by the membership at an AGM, and committee members appointed by each Chairperson. (sec 7.2, 10.1)

3. CONVENTIONS - Change to the way delegates are selected for conventions and special meetings by eliminating the current complicated constituency association-based delegate selection process, and replacing with a simple and democratic process where any member in good standing may register to attend any convention or meeting. The Executive can set out reasonable qualifications for voting at a convention, such as setting out identification requirements or setting membership or registration cut-off dates. (sec 136, 13.7) Change frequency of Conventions/AGMs from annual to every 12-24 months (sec 13.1)
4. LEADERSHIP SELECTION - Move to a “one-member, one-vote” leadership selection process where voting is conducted by a majority vote, ranked ballot (also known as instant-runoff). This removes the existing equal weighting of votes for each electoral district, in keeping with the above mentioned changes to the delegate selection process. All other internal Party voting, including Executive elections, will be conducted on a “first past the post” simple ballot (as is the case currently). (sec 14, 8.1)
5. CONSTITUENCY ASSOCIATIONS – ONE CONSTITUTION - Updated section governing the recognition and management of constituency associations to create a set of standardized procedures, roles and responsibilities for all constituency associations within the Party’s constitution. (sec 15)
6. Minor updates to other sections to reflect the above amendments (sec 3.9, 10.3, 11.1)