

CENTRIST PARTY of Canada



CONSTITUTION

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As drafted by E. Rudy Westerneng for the purposes of establishing the Centrist Party of Canada(CPC).

To be approved by elected representatives of the CPC at which time the CPC is formally established.

1. NAME

1.1 The name of the Party is the “Centrist Party of Canada” also referred to as the “CPC” Party.

2. PRINCIPLES

2.1 The Centrist Party of Canada is founded on and will be guided in its policy formation by the following principles:

2.1.1 A belief in a transparent and accountable government structure accessible and accountable to all Canadian citizens.

2.1.1b A belief that our current democratic system must be redesigned to maintain relevancy, order and communication with the people the government serves.

2.1.1c A belief that we can improve the flow of democracy through the implementation of new systems, technology and modern communication standards.

- 2.1.2 A belief that current social communications strategies and technologies must be continually reviewed and applied to effectively engage and give voice to all Canadian citizens.
- 2.1.3 A belief in balance between fiscal responsibility, social policy, individual rights and individual responsibilities.
- 2.1.3b A belief that it is the government's responsibility to communicate in a relevant way, using current communication standards and relevant technology.
- 2.1.3c A belief that Canadians have the right to a singular gateway for all government interaction.
- 2.1.3d A belief that all Canadian citizens have the right to communicate.
- 2.1.3.e A belief that personal digital information rights should be fully protected by Canadian law.
- 2.1.4 The Centrist Party of Canada will operate in a manner accountable and responsive to its members.
- 2.1.5 A belief in loyalty to a sovereign and united Canada governed in accordance with the Constitution of Canada, the supremacy of democratic parliamentary institutions and the rule of law.
- 2.1.6 A belief in the equality of all Canadians.
- 2.1.7 A belief that access to communications technology is the right of all Canadians.
- 2.1.8 A belief in the federal system of government as the best expression of the diversity of our country, and in the desirability of strong provincial and territorial governments.
- 2.1.9 A belief in the freedom of the individual, including freedom of speech, worship and peaceful assembly.
- 2.1.10 A belief that English and French people and languages have equality of status, and equal rights and privileges as to their use in all institutions of the Parliament and Government of Canada.
- 2.1.11 A belief that the best guarantors of the prosperity and well-being of the People of Canada are:
 - 2.1.11.1 the freedom of the individual Canadian to pursue their legitimate and legal self-interest within a competitive economy.
 - 2.1.11.2 the freedom of individual Canadians to enjoy the fruits of their labour to the greatest possible extent.
 - 2.1.11.3 the right to own property.
- 2.1.12 A belief that the government must be fiscally prudent and transparent.
- 2.1.13 A belief that it is the responsibility of individuals to provide for themselves, their families and their dependants, while recognizing that government must respond to those who require assistance with grace and compassion.
- 2.1.14 A belief that the purpose of Canada as a nation state and its government, guided by responsible and accountable leadership, is to create a climate wherein individual initiative is rewarded, excellence is pursued, security and privacy of the individual is provided and prosperity is endorsed through a free competitive economy.
- 2.1.15 A belief that Canada should be prudent in the national defense of our country, supporting a military armed with modern combat and defensive implements.
- 2.1.16 A belief that Canada should honour all those who serve in the military.
- 2.1.17 A belief that our environment is our most valuable resource, and that economy can not exist without it.
- 2.1.18 A belief in the support and progression of policies and initiatives which endorse sustainable environmental stewardship and energy production.
- 2.1.19 A belief that our economy should work towards a circular environmental strategy promoting the development of waste reduction and recycling technologies.
- 2.1.20 A belief that Canada must accept its obligations among the nations of the world.

- 2.1.21 A belief that Canadian jurisdiction extends beyond the coastline to include the internationally recognized regions of the Territorial Sea, Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and Continental Shelf.
- 2.1.22 A belief that good and responsible government is transparent and attentive to the people it represents and at all times facilitates access for the people to review the governments actions in entirety.
- 2.1.23 A belief that all Canadians should have reasonable access to subsidized health care.
- 2.1.24 A belief that the greatest potential for achieving social and economic objectives is under a global trading regime that is fair and free.

3. DEFINITIONS

- 3.1 “affiliated organization” means an organization which has been recognized by the Centrist Party of Canada pursuant to the provisions of the Constitution.
- 3.2 “Arbitration Committee” means the arbitration and dispute resolution committee established pursuant to the provisions of the Constitution.
- 3.3 “by-law” means a policy enacted by the Centrist Party of Canada pursuant to the provisions of the Constitution.
- 3.4 “Centrist Fund Canada” means the fundraising arm and chief agent of the Party.
- 3.5 “Constitution” means this Constitution of the Party, as amended from time to time.
- 3.6 “electoral district association” means an association in a federal electoral district recognized by the Centrist Party of Canada pursuant to the Constitution.
- 3.7 “Leader” means the leader of the Centrist Party of Canada.
- 3.8 “leadership selection process” means the process for selecting a Leader as pursuant to the Constitution.
- 3.9 “member” and “membership” means the process for selecting a Leader provided for in the Constitution.
- 3.10 “national convention” means a meeting of members.
- 3.11 “Party” and “CPC” means the Centrist Party of Canada.

4. MEMBERSHIP

- 4.1 Membership in the Party is open to every citizen or permanent resident of Canada who:
 - 4.1.1 has attained the minimum age specified by by-law;
 - 4.1.2 actively supports the principles of the Party;
 - 4.1.3 signifies their intention to join the Party;
 - 4.1.4 is not an individual holding a membership in another federal political party.
- 4.2 After joining the Party and creating an online profile in the manner specified by by-law, every member is entitled to:
 - 4.2.1 view national forums and topics;
 - 4.2.2 comment and discuss on all forums;

- 4.2.3 vote for, and stand election to, the board of directors of any electoral district association in which that person resides or serves as a board member;
 - 4.2.4 attend any national convention upon payment of the prescribed fee;
 - 4.2.5 vote for, stand for election as a delegate or alternate delegate at any meeting called by an electoral district association in which that person resides or serves as a board member, for the selection of delegates or alternate delegates to any national convention of the Party;
- 4.3 Subject to the oversight of the Party, the Executive Director shall maintain a National Membership Program consistent with the objectives for such programs as set out by by-law. As a minimum, the National Membership Program will contain a listing of each member's name, address, and current photograph of their face, and the name of the electoral district association to which the member belongs. A membership will be considered valid when the online member is completed and listed in the National Membership Program, which listing may be subject to periodic verification by an independent auditor appointed by Party. There will be no fees charged for membership.
- 4.4 The Party may by by-law set out rules and procedures for the revocation and reinstatement of membership, which shall provide for a two-thirds majority vote for the revocation or reinstatement of a membership.
- 4.5 Subject to Article 4.6, in order for a member to exercise the rights of a member to vote as provided for in this constitution, they must first provide identification using:
- 4.5.1 one original piece of identification, set out by by-law or the leadership election organizing committee, as the case may be, issued by a Canadian federal, provincial or territorial government agency containing the member's photograph name and address, or
 - 4.5.2 two original pieces of identification, set out by by-law or the leadership election organizing committee, as the case may be, both of which contain the member's name, one of which contains the member's photograph and one of which contains the member's address.
- 4.6 Identification requirements shall be subject to the exercise of discretion by the returning officer or equivalent to waive specific requirements where exceptional circumstances warrant.
- 4.7 Each of the following must be a member of the Party in good standing upon assuming office:
- 4.7.1 the Leader;
 - 4.7.2 members of National Council;
 - 4.7.3 directors of Centrist Fund Canada; and
 - 4.7.4 the Executive Director

5. ELECTORAL DISTRICT ASSOCIATIONS

- 5.1 The electoral district association is the primary organization through which the rights of members are exercised.
- 5.2 Electoral district associations shall comply with such requirements as to their governance, financial management and reporting, as may be implemented by the Party by by-law or otherwise.

6. GOVERNANCE OBJECTIVES

- 6.1 The governance of the Party shall adhere to the following objectives:

- 6.1.1 full representation of the interests and views of members;
- 6.1.2 direct regular communication and data from the Party, Centrist Fund Canada and the leader to electoral district association and members to ensure accountability;
- 6.1.3 maintenance of a policy development process which respects and encourages the participation of all members and which culminates in the adoption of policy resolutions at national conventions that will become the Party's Policy Declaration from which the Party's election campaign platform will be developed;
- 6.1.4 democratic representation of the membership at national conventions.

7. NATIONAL CONVENTIONS

- 7.1 The governance, management and control of the activities of the Party are vested in the members at national conventions.
- 7.2 Subject to Article 7.3, a national convention has the power and responsibility to:
 - 7.2.1 amend the Constitution;
 - 7.2.2 amend and adopt Party Policy; and
 - 7.2.3 elect National Council by private vote
- 7.3 The date, location(s), business to be transacted, and the rules and procedures for any national convention of the Party will be as determined by National Council. One or more of the matters set out in Article 7.2 need not be conducted at a national convention if less than eighteen months have passed since such a matter was conducted at a national convention. National Council may convene a national convention upon 90 days notice to the membership.
- 7.4 There shall be a national convention with a National Council election at least every second calendar year, subject to such reasonable extension not exceeding nine months as may be necessary due to the conduct or threat of a federal election or conduct of the leadership selection process.
- 7.5 The following members are entitled to vote as delegates to a national convention:
 - 7.5.1 an equal number not excluding ten (10) from each electoral district association elected in such number and in such manner as determined by National Council which shall include a requirement that at least one such delegate reflect youth participation, and as an additional delegate the president of the electoral district association as of a date set by National Council;
 - 7.5.2 the official candidate of the Party for each electoral district in the preceding federal election, or the current nominated Party candidate for each such electoral district;
 - 7.5.3 the parliamentary caucus of the Party;
 - 7.5.4 elected members of National Council;
 - 7.5.5 leaders of provincial parties who are members of the Party;
 - 7.5.6 former leaders of the Party; and
 - 7.5.7 elected members of the National Policy Committee and National Constitution Committee.
- 7.6 Between national conventions, the governance, management and control of the activities of the Party are vested in National Council, the Leader, and Centrist Fund Canada, as the case may be, subject to general direction from, accountability to and review by the members at national conventions.

8. NATIONAL COUNCIL

- 8.1 National Council shall be composed of:
 - 8.1.1 four members elected from a province with more than (?) seats in the House of Commons;
 - 8.1.2 three members elected from a province with (?) seats in the House of Commons;
 - 8.1.3 two members elected from a province with (?) seats in the House of Commons;
 - 8.1.4 one member elected from a province with (?) seats in the House of Commons;
 - 8.1.5 one member elected from each territory;
 - 8.1.6 the Leader;
 - 8.1.7 the Chair of the Centrist Fund Canada or their designate, in a non-voting capacity; and
 - 8.1.8 the Executive Director or their designate, in a non-voting capacity.
- 8.2 For any province that elects more than one member of National Council, National Council may provide by by-law that the province shall be divided into a number of regions equal to the number of members to be elected, with one member to be elected for each region by delegate of the electoral district associations of that region, subject to the following:
 - 8.2.1 The by-law shall provide that the number of electoral districts assigned to each region shall be approximately equal allowing for natural differences that may arise in the composition of the regions of a province, such as the presence of a major metropolitan area.
 - 8.2.2 National Council shall consult with the presidents of the electoral district associations for each province that elects more than one member of National Council as to the advisability of such a by-law. The provisions of Article 8.8 shall not apply, however such a by-law may only be adopted for a particular province with the approval of a majority of the presidents of the electoral district associations of each proposed region of that province.
 - 8.2.3 The by-law shall apply only to the election for a particular province where the by-law is in force at least ninety days before the commencement of a national convention at which the election of National Council is to take place.
- 8.3 The following may not hold office as an elected member of National Council:
 - 8.3.1 Members of Parliament or Senators, except the Leader;
 - 8.3.2 employees or contractors of the Party;
 - 8.3.3 employees or contractors of Senators or Members of Parliament including political staff of Ministers of the Crown;
 - 8.3.4 individuals holding a membership in another federal political party;
 - 8.3.5 Directors of Centrist Fund Canada;
 - 8.3.6 Members of Provincial or Territorial Legislative Assemblies
- 8.4 Centrist Fund Canada shall appoint the returning officer for elections to National Council. The returning officer shall set out rules and procedures for the conduct of any election, subject to review by National Council. The rules shall provide that no one may be elected to more than three consecutive terms of office and that the election shall be by way of a preferential ballot.

- 8.5 No person shall be considered for selection as a candidate for the National Council unless that person has signed the following affirmation: "I have read, understand, and do hereby affirm my personal commitment to the principles and policies of the Centrist Party of Canada and the Constitution of the Centrist Party of Canada."
- 8.6 Immediately following each national convention at which an election of National Council occurred, National Council shall elect by simple majority from its members a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary and such Vice-Presidents and other positions as it may determine. The Secretary is accountable for the encouragement and development of membership in the Party, and for the oversight of the National Membership Program on behalf of and subject to the direction of National Council and for reporting to National Council and national conventions.
- 8.7 National Council has the following powers and responsibilities:
- 8.7.1 the establishment and recognition of electoral district associations and the terms of their constitutions, including processes for the conduct of founding meetings, and the transfer of assets in the event of redistribution;
 - 8.7.2 the development and implementation of rules and procedures to ensure fair and effective candidate recruitment and selection;
 - 8.7.3 recognition of affiliated organizations;
 - 8.7.4 encouraging the participation and recruitment of youth;
 - 8.7.5 the appointment of the Auditor of the Party;
 - 8.7.6 the establishment of such committees as National Council may determine for the conduct of its responsibilities;
 - 8.7.7 subject to Article 8.8, the enactment of rules and procedures for the conduct of its business;
 - 8.7.8 subject to Article 8.8, the enactment of by-laws for matters set out in this Constitution to be provided by by-law; and
 - 8.7.9 other responsibilities set out in this Constitution or as may be assigned by the Leader.
- 8.8 Rules and procedures enacted under Article 8.7.7 and by-laws enacted under Article 8.7.8 shall be circulated to all electoral district association presidents within 7 days of enactment by National Council and shall take effect on the date of enactment. If written notice of objection from more than 99 electoral district association presidents has been received by National Council within 30 days of the rule and procedure or by-law being distributed to the electoral district associations, it shall be deemed repealed. Alternatively, National Council may propose rules and procedures and by-laws to a national convention, which, if approved by a simple majority of delegates voting, will not be subject to subsequent review and repeal by the presidents of electoral district associations.
- 8.9 National Council shall provide the minutes of each meeting to all electoral district associations within 30 days.
- 8.10 The voting of National Council on motions shall be recorded in the minutes to indicate, by member of National Council, his/her vote on each motion, as follows: (i) In favour; (ii) Against; (iii) Abstained; (iv) Absent; except that where a motion names a person to a position, the vote will be by secret ballot if requested by two or more voting members of National Council.
- 8.11 National Council and Centrist Fund Canada shall establish a liaison committee with equal representation from each body.
- 8.12 National Council and the parliamentary caucus of the Party shall establish a liaison committee with equal representation from each body whose purpose will be to ensure a close and harmonious working relationship between the membership and the parliamentary caucus.

- 8.13 National Council, on approval of two-thirds (2/3) of its current voting membership (not including those on leave of absence) present and voting may remove a National Council member whose conduct is judged improper or unbecoming, or likely to adversely affect the interest or reputation of National Council, the Leader, or the Party, at a meeting called for that purpose.
- 8.14 National Council, on approval of a majority of its current membership (not including those on leave of absence) present and voting may suspend a National Council member whose conduct is judged improper or unbecoming, or likely to adversely affect the interest or reputation of National Council, the Leader, or the Party, at a meeting called for that purpose.
- 8.15 Disputes concerning the revocation or continuance of the suspension, or the removal, of a member of National Council, shall be adjudicated by a panel of the Arbitration Committee, whose decision shall be final and binding.
- 8.16 The presidents of the electoral district associations of the Party, a territory, a province, or a region of a province as applicable, shall elect by secret ballot, members to National Council to fill any vacancies in elected positions between national conventions. Where a vacancy occurs for a province, territory or region of a province, where its members of National Council were elected at the last national convention on a regional basis, any new member shall be ordinarily resident in the same province, territory or region of the province as the former member.
- 8.17 National Council shall meet at least quarterly in every twelve (12) month period, at the call of the President or the Leader. It shall also meet upon written request of at least five (5) National Council members.
- 8.18 National Council shall abide by the principles and policies of the Party and shall act in the interests of all members, not just the jurisdiction from which they were elected, and subject always to the provisions of this Constitution, and to motions passed at any national convention, or by referenda.
- 8.19 A quorum of National Council is a majority of National Council.
- 8.20 Members of National Council shall be reimbursed for reasonable expenses incurred while fulfilling their responsibilities on National Council.

9. CENTRIST FUND CANADA

- 9.1 Centrist Fund Canada, a non-share capital corporation incorporated under and governed by the provisions of the Canada Corporations Act, is the sole fundraising arm of the Party and shall be the chief agent of the Party pursuant to the Canada Elections Act.
- 9.2 Centrist Fund Canada shall submit quarterly financial reports and an annual audited financial statement to National Council.
- 9.3 Centrist Fund Canada shall submit the annual budget of the Party to National Council for consultation prior to adoption and implementation by Centrist Fund Canada, and shall consult with National Council prior to authorizing or implementing substantial amendments to the budget. Centrist Fund Canada shall not provide funding for activities or programs within the areas of responsibility of National Council unless such activities or programs have been approved by National Council.
- 9.4 Electoral district associations and affiliated organizations shall provide such financial information to Centrist Fund Canada as National Council may require.
- 9.5 National Council may authorize Centrist Fund Canada to take all necessary steps to assume control and ownership of all of the assets of an electoral district association in such special circumstances as may be set out by by-law, including the suspension or revocation of recognition of any electoral district association. Assets assumed under the provisions of this Article shall be held by Centrist Fund Canada and shall be returned to or paid out to the next duly elected board of the electoral district association whose recognition has been renewed. In the event that such association ceases to exist or does not re-apply for

renewal of recognition within a period of five (5) years from the assumption of the control of its assets, such assets shall become property of Centrist Fund Canada.

- 9.6 Any member committing Centrist Fund Canada or the Party to unauthorized expenditures or indebtedness shall save harmless and indemnify the Party against any claim, demand, action, debt or cause of action which may arise as a result of such unauthorized commitment.
- 9.7 The Party shall maintain a national office in the National Capital Region.
- 9.8 The Leader shall nominate the directors of Centrist Fund Canada subject to ratification by National Council.
- 9.9 A representative of the Centrist Fund Canada will provide a financial report to the delegates at each national convention and at that time be prepared to answer questions the delegates may have on it.

10. LEADER

- 10.1 The Leader is the chief public official of the Party, whose authority includes that specified for the leader of a party pursuant to the Canada Elections Act.
- 10.2 The Leader shall promote the Party, its principles and policies.
- 10.3 If the Leader is not a Member of Parliament or Senator, he or she shall, upon written request to the Chair of Centrist Fund Canada, be entitled to receive a salary equivalent to that of a Member of Parliament.
- 10.4 The Leader shall nominate the Executive Director of the Party subject to ratification by National Council.
- 10.5 The Leader shall provide a report to, and carry out an accountability session with, the delegates at every national convention.
- 10.6 The Leader shall provide a report to National Council at least quarterly.
- 10.7 At the first national convention following a federal general election when the Party does not form the government and the Leader has not indicated, prior to the commencement of the national convention, an irrevocable intention to resign, the delegates will vote by secret ballot if they wish to engage the leadership selection process.
- 10.8 In the event of any of the following, National Council shall implement the leadership selection process at the earliest convenient date thereafter:
 - 10.8.1 the death or retirement of the Leader;
 - 10.8.2 the Leader indicates an intention to resign by submitting notice in writing to the President of National Council;
 - 10.8.3 more than fifty percent (50%) of the votes cast at a national convention as provided for in Article 10.6 are in favour of engaging the leadership selection process.
- 10.9 In the event of the implementation of the leadership selection process, the following shall apply.
 - 10.9.1 The parliamentary caucus shall appoint an Interim Leader of the Party who shall exercise the powers and responsibilities of the Leader until a new Leader has been selected. A person appointed as Interim Leader may not be nor become a candidate in the leadership selection process. An Interim Leader may but need not be appointed where the Leader has indicated an intention to resign.
 - 10.9.2 The leadership election organizing committee shall determine the rules and procedures for the conduct of the leadership selection process, including a dispute resolution procedure which shall be final and binding. The rules shall provide that a member may cast a postal ballot; the minimum membership period established for eligibility to vote in the leadership election shall be set so as

to permit adequate time for ballots to be mailed to members and returned by mail. Voting by way of faxed ballot shall not be permitted.

- 10.9.3 National Council shall appoint the chair and members of the leadership election organizing committee.
- 10.10 The election of the Leader shall be by way of a direct vote of members in every electoral district, as follows.
 - 10.10.1 Each member of the Party will have one vote.
 - 10.10.2 Each electoral district will be allocated 100 points.
 - 10.10.3 Leadership candidates will be assigned a point total based on their percentage of the vote in each electoral district.
 - 10.10.4 To win the leadership, a candidate must obtain a majority of points from across the country.
 - 10.10.5 Voting will be by preferential vote (single transferable ballot).
 - 10.10.6 Each leadership candidate is entitled to have scrutineers present at all stages of the vote count.
 - 10.10.7 At each count round, both the weighted results and the results by electoral district shall be made public.

11. AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS

- 11.1 Recognition and renewal of recognition as a Presidents' Forum, youth, campus or other affiliated organization, and the rights and obligations of any such affiliated organizations or their membership may be determined by National Council as provided by by-law.

12. POLLS, PETITIONS, REFERENDA

- 12.1 National Council may conduct non-binding polls of the members of the Party.
- 12.2 All polls, petition and referenda will be conducted on the Centrist membership forum.
- 12.3 A referendum of the members of the Party may be initiated by:
 - 12.3.1 a petition submitted to National Council requesting a referendum, signed by not less than five (5) percent of the members of the Party in each of at least five (5) provinces;
 - 12.3.2 a motion passed by a national convention where notice of such a motion is given in advance of the meeting in such manner as set out in by by-law or rules and procedures; and
 - 12.3.3 a motion passed by National Council by a two-thirds majority vote, where notice of such a motion is given in advance in such manner set out by by-law.
- 12.4 Only persons who have been members of the Party for twenty-one (21) days are eligible to sign a petition. For a petition to be valid for the purposes of this Article, all names must be collected within a ninety (90) day period. The organizers must inform National Council forthwith in writing of the date on which the collection of signatures for a petition commences. National Council shall determine the validity of any petition.
- 12.5 National Council is responsible for conducting a referendum by secret ballot within one hundred and twenty (120) days of receiving the results of a valid petition to conduct the referendum, or of a motion passed by a national convention or the National Council to conduct a referendum. National Council shall set the rules and procedures for the conduct of a referendum to ensure a fair and effective process.
- 12.6 The results of a referendum shall be binding if at least one third (1/3) of the membership cast ballots, and the majorities required by this Article have been achieved.
- 12.7 To be eligible to vote in a referendum a person must be a member for twenty-one (21) days.

- 12.8 All matters to be voted on in a referendum shall be in the form of a resolution, including a resolution to amend the Constitution.
- 12.9 To be carried, a resolution must receive two-thirds of the votes cast, and a majority of votes cast in each of a majority of individual provinces.
- 12.10 For the purposes of Article 12, the territories together shall constitute one province.

13. POLICY

- 13.1 Within thirty (30) days of the previous National Policy Committee having completed its mandate, National Council shall establish a National Policy Committee whose responsibilities shall include:
 - 13.1.1 facilitating the promotion and maintenance of an ongoing policy process of the Party, and ensuring that the policy process is at all times accountable to the members;
 - 13.1.2 facilitating and supporting policy discussion within the Party;
 - 13.1.3 identifying policy areas needing study;
 - 13.1.4 serving as a means of communication between members on policy issues; and.
 - 13.1.5 after each national convention at which delegates approve amendments to the Policy Declaration, ensuring that a consolidated version of the Policy Declaration is prepared in both official languages for approval by National Council, incorporating all of the amendments made at the national convention, and following legislative practice in preparing such a consolidation by correcting any numerical, typographical, grammatical, syntax or translation errors that may otherwise exist in the text.
- 13.2 The National Policy Committee shall consist of:
 - 13.2.1 a chair appointed by National Council;
 - 13.2.2 the President of National Council;
 - 13.2.3 two members of National Council to be selected by National Council;
 - 13.2.4 the same number of representatives from each province as the number of members of National Council from that province, selected by the presidents of the electoral district associations in each province; and
 - 13.2.5 one representative for the three territories elected by the presidents of the electoral district associations from the territories.
- 13.3 The term of the National Policy Committee shall begin upon the election and appointment of its members and shall terminate upon the submission to National Council of the consolidated text of the Policy Declaration referred to in Article 13.1.5.
- 13.4 Between national conventions, interim policies of the Party may be determined by the parliamentary caucus and the Leader.
- 13.5 Interim amendments to the Policy Declaration of the Party may be made by the parliamentary caucus and the Leader with interim ratification by the National Policy Committee. Upon the National Policy Committee ratifying an interim amendment to the Policy Declaration, National Council shall cause to be published an Interim Policy Declaration that sets out the amendments. Interim amendments to the Policy Declaration shall be subject to final ratification at the next national convention. These amendments along with any policy resolutions passed at the national convention shall become the Policy Declaration of the Party.

- 13.6 At a national convention, a policy resolution must receive a majority of votes cast by delegates and a majority of votes cast by delegates from each of a majority of individual provinces. For the purpose of this provision, the territories together shall constitute one province.
- 13.7 After every 4th National Convention, the Parliamentary Caucus of the Party in cooperation with the National Policy Committee, will prepare an updated edition of the Policy Declaration for amendment at the next National Convention, subject to the following directions:
- 13.7.1 the updated edition will be based on the existing Policy Declaration but will remove redundant items, spent items, and items that are no longer at issue before Canadians.
- 13.7.2 the updated edition may not contradict specific decisions of the previous National Convention.
- 13.7.3 the updated edition will contain no more than 100 sections.
- 13.7.3.1 this limitation does not prevent the members from adding sections at subsequent National Conventions.
- 13.7.4 National Council will circulate the updated edition to all Electoral District Association Presidents no later than eight months before the National Convention at which it comes into force. If written notice of objection from more than 99 Electoral District Association Presidents has been received by National Council within 30 days of the edition being distributed to the electoral district associations, it shall be deemed rejected and the existing Policy Declaration will be considered still in force.

14. CANDIDATES FOR PARLIAMENT

- 14.1 National Council shall create rules and procedures for the selection of candidates. The rules shall provide that only a member of the Party may seek nomination as a candidate. National Council shall establish the National Candidate Selection Committee that shall have the right to disallow the candidacy of any person before or after nomination by the electoral district association, subject to the appeal of such a decision to National Council whose decision shall be final and binding or who may refer the matter to the Arbitration Committee for decision by a panel.
- 14.2 The rules shall provide for a candidate nomination committee in each electoral district that shall, subject to the rules, be responsible for the administration of the candidate selection process in the electoral district.
- 14.3 Every electoral district association shall provide organizational and financial support to the Party's candidate in the electoral district.

15. PROVINCIAL PARTIES

- 15.1 The Party shall not establish provincial political parties. The Party shall promote and maintain relationships with existing provincial Centrist parties.

16. CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

- 16.1 In addition to a referendum provided for in Article 12, the Constitution may be amended at a national convention by a majority of votes cast by delegates and a majority of votes cast by delegates from each of a majority of individual provinces. For the purpose of this provision, the territories together shall constitute one province.
- 16.2 The following may propose amendments to the Constitution for consideration at a national convention:
- 16.2.1 National Council;
- 16.2.2 any four electoral district associations from at least two provinces, on approval of a majority vote of the board of directors or membership of each of those electoral district associations at a duly

constituted meeting of each called for that purpose, subject to such requirements as may be set out by by-law or the rules and procedures for the national convention.

- 16.3 The text of any proposed amendment must be received by the Executive Director within such time and in such manner as set out by by-law or in the rules and procedures of the national convention. The Executive Director shall cause the text of all proposed amendments duly received to be posted forthwith on the public website of the Party.
- 16.4 In lieu of the prior notice provided for in Article 16.3 and subject to the rules and procedures for the national convention, a proposed amendment will be put to a vote at a national convention where constitutional amendments are being considered if it has the supporting signatures of delegates from at least one hundred electoral district associations. However, it must follow the same process as the other proposed amendments, i.e. be debated and adopted at the corresponding session before going to plenary.
- 16.5 Within thirty (30) days of the previous National Constitution Committee having completed its mandate, National Council shall establish a National Constitution Committee whose responsibilities shall include:
- 16.5.1 facilitating the constitutional amendment process;
 - 16.5.2 considering and drafting amendments to the Constitution; and
 - 16.5.3 after each national convention at which delegates approve amendments to the Constitution, ensuring that a consolidated version of the Constitution is prepared in both official languages for approval by National Council, incorporating all of the amendments made at the national convention, and following legislative practice in preparing such a consolidation by correcting any numerical, typographical, grammatical, syntax or translation errors that may otherwise exist in the text.
- 16.6 The term of the National Constitution Committee shall begin upon the election and appointment of its members and shall terminate upon the submission to National Council of the consolidated text of the Constitution referred to in Article 16.5.3.
- 16.7 The National Constitution Committee shall consist of:
- 16.7.1 a chair appointed by National Council;
 - 16.7.2 two members of National Council to be selected by National Council;
 - 16.7.3 the same number of representatives from each province as the number of members of National Council from that province selected by the presidents of the electoral district associations in each province;
 - 16.7.4 one representative for the three territories elected by the presidents of the electoral district associations from the territories; and
 - 16.7.5 one representative of the parliamentary caucus of the party appointed by the Leader.
- 16.8 The National Constitution Committee shall send guidelines pertaining to the amendment of the party constitution to all EDAs. These guidelines shall be developed by the Committee and distributed through the Executive Director of the party, no later than 365 days before the next national convention.

17. ENFORCEMENT AND INTERPRETATION OF THE CONSTITUTION

- 17.1 The Constitution is to be interpreted and read subject to the provisions of the Canada Elections Act. Unless the context otherwise requires, words and phrases used in the Constitution have the same meaning as in the Canada Elections Act. To the extent that there is any conflict between any provision of this Constitution and the Canada Elections Act or other applicable law, the law shall prevail.
- 17.2 National Council shall provide rules and procedures for the giving of any notice required under the Constitution.

- 17.3 Subject to Article 17.1, the Constitution shall govern the affairs of the Party and in the event of any conflict between the Constitution and any other document, the Constitution shall prevail.

18. LIABILITY AND INDEMNITY

- 18.1 When acting within the scope of their authority, no employee, volunteer, officer, director, or member of any committee established by the Party shall be liable for any debts, actions, claims, demands, liabilities or commitments of any kind of the Party. The Party and Centrist Fund Canada shall indemnify and hold harmless each such person against any debt, action, claim, demand, liability or commitment whatsoever.

19. DISPUTE RESOLUTION

- 19.1 Except for any dispute related to the leadership selection process, any ten (10) members of an electoral district association or affiliated organization may give notice in writing to National Council of a dispute as to whether the requirements of the Constitution, a by-law or any rules and procedures are being met by the electoral district association or affiliated organization or any committee thereof.
- 19.2 National Council shall appoint one or more members to investigate the merits of the dispute, which member(s) shall be authorized to intervene to attempt to resolve the dispute.
- 19.3 If the members appointed pursuant to Article 19.2 decide not to intervene or are unsuccessful in resolving the dispute, National Council shall, in writing, refer the matter to the Arbitration Committee.
- 19.4 National Council may also refer any other matter or class of matter, other than a matter related to the leadership selection process, to the Arbitration Committee for adjudication by a panel.
- 19.5 On receipt of a referral from National Council, the Arbitration Committee shall select a panel of three (3) of its members to arbitrate and decide on the dispute.
- 19.6 The decision of an Arbitration Committee panel is final and binding and there shall be no appeal or review on any ground whatsoever.
- 19.7 Subject to any specific directions from any Arbitration Committee panel, National Council is empowered to implement the decisions of that Arbitration Committee panel.
- 19.8 The general rules and procedures for the Arbitration Committee and its panels shall be determined by the Arbitration Committee, subject to ratification by National Council.
- 19.9 National Council shall appoint the chair and members of the Arbitration Committee. None of them shall be on National Council in any capacity and at least half of them shall have legal training. They shall be appointed for terms of office of at least two years.