

SUMMARY OF CONSTITUTION CHANGES

Change 1: Change of Financial Management (Under section A: Establishment)

New Constitution: Only the Party, acting through its Chief Agent, may hold property and money, accept contributions, make expenditures, enter into contracts of employment, enter into leases, or otherwise make agreements or arrangements. No board, commission, committee or association of the Party may do any of the foregoing. Notwithstanding the foregoing, nothing herein limits the ability of an Electoral District Association or campaign to hold and administer property and funds or to enter into agreements for the provision of services, subject to the by-laws established by the National Board.

Change 2: Elimination of Membership fees and change to “Registered Liberal” from “Liberal Member”. (Under section B: Registered Liberals)

New Constitution: “Any person may register as a Registered Liberal, provided that they meet the requirements set out by the National Board. There shall be no fee for registration.”
Current Constitution: Liberal members paid \$10 annually. “The National Board of Directors, in consultation with the Council of Presidents, may set the fees for membership and for associate membership in an EDA.”

Change 3: Governance of EDAs (Under section C: Electoral District Association)

New Constitution: “Electoral District Associations shall comply with such other requirements as to their governance, financial management and reporting, as may be implemented by National Board by bylaw or otherwise.”
Current Constitution: “Each EDA must make all filings required to be made by an electoral district association under the Canada Elections Act and must promptly provide a copy of such filings to the National Office and must comply with all financial reporting and internal control requirements established by Party Bylaw to ensure compliance with federal law.”

Change 4: Power of the National Board (Under section D: National Board)

New Constitution: “The National Board will have to power to:
1) make by-laws, by majority vote, to determine any matter delegated to it in this Constitution
2) the governance and administration of Electoral District Associations;
3) approve the entering into of any lease or agreement or the acquisition of any real personal, moveable or immovable property on behalf of the Party and any Provincial or Territorial Board, committee, or commission.”
Previously: The EDAs were run more independently

Change 5: Permanent Appeals Committee Composition (Under section I: Permanent Appeals Committee)

New Constitution: “There shall be a Permanent Appeals Committee composed of persons appointed by the National (...)

(...) Board, to hear disputes arising out of this Constitution, the by-laws made by the National Board, and any rules made by the National Campaign Committee.”

“The procedures governing the Permanent Appeals Committee shall be established by the National Board. Decisions of the Permanent Appeals Committee shall be final and binding on the Party and not subject to appeal to any other body.”

Current Constitution: “The Permanent Appeal Committee is established as the final appeal tribunal of the Party. The Permanent Appeal Committee consists of: (a) two Co-Chairs, one of whom must be a man and one of whom must be a woman, appointed by the National Board of Directors with the consent of the Leader and the National President; (b) one representative appointed by resolution of the executive of each PTA.”

Change 6: Accountability System Of Policy Secretary (Under section K: Policy)

New Constitution: “The National Board shall establish and maintain a national policy process, to be coordinated by the Policy Secretary, which must provide for the following:

- communication and discussion between Registered Liberals;
- engagement of Registered Liberals;
- reporting and accountability to Registered Liberals;
- flexibility to accommodate changing technology, conditions and electoral cycles; and
- input into platform development process.”

Current Constitution: “The National Policy and Platform Committee is responsible to:

- provide a forum for members of the Party to have their say and influence the policies and platform of the Party;
- coordinate the policy development process in all provinces and territories with a view to maintaining a current written statement of the policies of the Party (the “Party policies”) that will, together with contributions from the Leader and the Caucus and subject to the approval of the Leader, form the basis for the platform of the Party for use in the next general election (the “Party platform”);
- establish written procedures for the policy development process and publish those procedures on the public website of the Party;
- maintain an up to date compilation of the Party policies on the public website of the Party;
- subject to the veto in whole or in part (including a veto line by line) by the Leader, draft the Party platform and, upon its release during an election, publish the Party platform on the public website of the Party.

Change 7: Dissolutions of the Council of Presidents, the National Election Readiness Committee, and the National Policy and Platform Committee and Provincial and Territorial Association (Under section O: Transition)