Alberta New Democrats’ Constitution
# Alberta NDP Constitution

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Article I - Name and Purpose

1.01 The name of the organization is the Alberta New Democratic Party, hereinafter referred to as "the Party".

1.02 The Party shall constitute a section of the New Democratic Party of Canada.

1.03 The purpose of the Party is to promote the principles of democratic socialism in Alberta and to establish and maintain a democratic socialist government in Alberta through the electoral process.

1.04 The Party shall be controlled and directed by its members.

1.05 In any matter not dealt with by this Constitution, the Constitution of the New Democratic Party of Canada shall prevail.

Article II - Membership

2.01 Every resident of Alberta who is 14 years of age or older and agrees to abide by the Constitution and principles of the Party, and who is not a member or supporter of another political party, shall be eligible to apply for membership in the Party.

2.02 Application for membership with the required membership fee must be sent to the Provincial Secretary. Membership in the Party shall be effective only upon acceptance by the Provincial Secretary. The Provincial Secretary shall accept or reject the application within fourteen days of his/her receipt of the application and he/she shall be governed solely by Article 2.01 in accepting or rejecting the application.

2.03 Should an application be rejected by the Provincial Secretary, the applicant shall be entitled to appeal the decision to the next meeting of the Provincial Council. Notice of the appeal shall be given in writing to the President at least 14 days prior to the next scheduled meeting.

2.04 The membership year shall commence on January 1 and end on December 31.

2.05 (a) Each membership approved on or after Sept. 1 in any year shall be deemed to be a valid membership in the final four months of the year in which it is bought and for the whole of the following membership year.

(b) A member in good standing shall be defined as a person with a valid membership. Being expelled or placed under suspension by order of Council negates good standing.

2.06 Only members in good standing shall have the following rights:
(a) to be elected an officer of the Party;
(b) to be elected a member of the executive of an constituency association;
(c) to be elected a delegate to any New Democratic Convention;
(d) to vote at a nomination meeting in his/her constituency of residence, providing their membership has been valid for 14 days prior to the meeting;
(e) to be a member of the constituency association in the constituency of residence, subject to section 14.04;
(f) to speak freely and openly and to vote at the general meeting of the appropriate constituency association and other New Democratic clubs and organizations of which he/she is a member.

2.07 The membership fees shall be established by Convention resolution.

2.08 Fees, dues and donations are payable to the Alberta New Democratic Party.

2.09 Honorary life membership may be granted by the Provincial Convention upon recommendation by the Provincial Executive. The number of honorary life memberships granted in any year shall not exceed ten. An honorary life member shall be an individual member of the Party without payment of fee.

2.10 Affiliation
(a) Affiliated membership shall be open to any groups and/or organizations which, by official act, undertake to accept and abide by the constitution and principles of the Party, and are not members and/or supporters of any other political party.
(b) Application for affiliation membership may be accepted from
(i) a provincial or regional organization in respect of its membership in Alberta;
(ii) the provincial or regional section of an international or national organization in respect of its members in Alberta;
(iii) a local, lodge, branch, unit or subgroup of any of the above mentioned organizations in respect of
the Alberta membership of that local, lodge, branch or sub group; or,
(iv) a local group or organization, within Alberta, in respect of its membership.
(c) Applications for Affiliation shall be sent to the Provincial Secretary who shall accept or reject same in similar fashion as described in Article 2.02.

Article III - Provincial Convention

3.01 The Provincial Convention is the ultimate governing body of the Party.

3.02 The party shall meet in Provincial Convention at least once every other calendar year and at a time and place determined by the Provincial Council. Provincial Council shall have the authority to postpone the Convention for up to 60 days if the original date set for Convention falls within an election period. Should the new date for convention fall within the following year, it shall not be deemed to be the Convention for that following year, provided however, that in such circumstances the Council may decide not to hold a further convention in that calendar year.

3.03 The Provincial Council may, by a two-thirds majority vote, call a Special Provincial Convention, and shall do so within 60 days if requested by two thirds of the constituency associations, representing at least 50 per cent of the provincial membership. Thirty (30) days written notice of such a Special Convention shall be given by the Provincial Secretary to those eligible for representation.

3.04 At least 120 days notice of the date and place of a Provincial Convention shall be given to each provincial constituency association and group or organization eligible for representation.

3.05 Resolutions for submission to a Provincial Convention must be received by the Provincial Secretary not later than 90 calendar days prior to the convention date. All resolutions shall be submitted to the Policy Development Committee for review, and this committee shall be authorized to place before the Convention a proposed compilation of two or more similar resolutions. If the Convention accepts the compilation, it shall replace the resolutions it is intended to compile.

3.06 Resolutions for a Special Provincial Convention shall be submitted to the Provincial Secretary not later than 10 days before the date of the Special Provincial Convention.

3.07 Resolutions may be submitted by:
(a) a provincial constituency organization;
(b) any organization
(i) affiliated with the New Democratic party of Canada and eligible for representation at a Provincial Convention, or
(ii) that is a central body eligible for representation at a Provincial Convention pursuant to Article IV, Section 4.02(g) of this Constitution;
(c) the Provincial Council and its policy committees;
(d) the Provincial Executive;
(e) the Women's Caucus of the Party;
(f) the New Democratic Youth of Alberta:
(g) the Indigenous Peoples Caucus of the Party;
(h) special Committees of Convention;
(i) a Federal Riding Association.
(j) the Environment Caucus of the Party
(k) the Lesbian Gay and Bisexual Caucus
(l) the Rural Caucus

3.08 Resolutions and reports as per Article 5.01 shall be made available to all bodies entitled to representation not less than 30 days prior to the Convention date.

3.09 The Policy Development Committee shall have full authority to order the resolutions received, as set out in Article 3.05. The order of resolutions shall be placed before the Convention, and voted on at that point. If the order is passed, it shall not be amended for the duration of the Convention.

3.10 Where this is a conflict between two or more policies adopted by the Alberta New Democrats in Convention, that policy last adopted shall prevail and all policies inconsistent with it shall, to the extent of the inconsistency, be deemed to have been repealed at the time of the adoption of the prevailing policy.

3.11 An emergency resolution shall be defined as a resolution of an urgent and pressing nature on an issue which emerges after the Convention resolution deadline. An emergency resolution may be submitted to the Policy Development Committee no later than 24 hours before the time set on the agenda for emergency resolutions. The Policy Development Committee shall rule on whether the resolution is an emergency resolution and only those resolutions
deemed emergency resolutions may be placed before the Convention.

3.12 A Provincial Convention of the Party shall be governed by the Rules of Order appended here as Appendix A, and in all matters not here ordered, by Robert’s Rules of Order.

**Article IV - Representation at Provincial Conventions**

4.01 Every delegate to a Provincial Convention shall be an individual member in good standing of the Party.

4.02 The delegates shall be:
(a) all members of the Provincial Executive and Council;
(b) all members of the Executive Council of the New Democratic Party (of Canada) residing in Alberta;
(c) all members of the Party Caucus in the Alberta Legislative Assembly;
(d) all members of the Party Caucus in the Federal Parliament representing Alberta constituencies;
(e) from each provincial constituency association, six from the first fifty members, and six from each subsequent fifty members or major portion thereof, with a minimum of six;
(f) from each affiliated organization, two of the first one hundred members and one of each additional hundred members. Representation shall be according to the number of members paying affiliate fees;
(g) from central bodies composed of affiliated organizations and not eligible for direct affiliation to the Party, which officially undertake to accept and abide by the Constitution and principles of the Party, and which have been recognized by Provincial Council, two from each such body;
(h) from the New Democratic Youth of Alberta:
   (i) seven members of the NDYA Provincial Executive, and
   (ii) one of every fifteen members or a major portion thereof of each local youth club chartered not less than six months before the Provincial Convention.
(i) from the Alberta Federation of Labour, in addition to its delegate entitlement under Section 4.02 (g), one additional delegate for every affiliate local which is participating in the Political Education Fund of the Alberta Federation of Labour and which has in existence a functioning political education committee;
(j) from the Women's Caucus of the Alberta New Democratic Party:
   (i) seven members of the Women's Caucus Provincial Executive, and
   (ii) one of every fifteen members or a major portion thereof of each local Women's group chartered not less than six months before the Provincial Convention.
(k) from the Indigenous Peoples Caucus of Alberta New Democratic Party:
   (i) seven members of the Indigenous Peoples Caucus Executive; and
   (ii) one of every fifteen members or a major portion thereof of each local Indigenous Peoples club chartered not less than six months before the Provincial Convention.
(l) from each Federal Riding Association, six (6) members.
(m) all honorary life members.
(n) from the Environment Caucus of the Alberta New Democratic Party:
   (i) seven members of the Environment Caucus Executive; and
   (ii) one of every fifteen members or a major portion thereof of each local Environment club chartered not less than six months before the Provincial Convention.
(o) from the Lesbian, Gay Bisexual Caucus of the Alberta New Democratic Party:
   (i) seven members of the Lesbian Gay Bisexual and Transgendered Executive; and
   (ii) one of every fifteen members or a major portion thereof of each local Lesbian Gay Bisexual and Transgendered club chartered not less than six months before the Provincial Convention.
(p) from the Rural Caucus of the Alberta New Democratic Party:
   (i) seven members of the Rural Caucus Executive; and
   (ii) one of every fifteen members or a major portion thereof of each local Rural club chartered not less than six months before the Provincial Convention.

4.03 Provincial constituency associations, federal riding associations, affiliated organizations, central bodies composed of affiliated organizations, and the New Democratic Youth of Alberta shall be encouraged to pay due regard to gender parity in the selection of delegates to Provincial Convention.

4.04 Each delegate to a Provincial Convention shall only have one vote.
4.05 At any Convention, one-third of the registered delegates shall constitute a quorum.

4.06 Each body eligible for representation at Provincial Convention shall also be entitled to send a number of alternate delegates to Convention equal to the number of full delegates registered as representing that body. Alternate delegates shall have voice but no vote. If a full delegate is unable to continue representing his/her body for whatever reason, that body may appoint one of its alternate delegates to take his/her place as a full voting delegate. Alternate delegates shall be members in good standing.

4.07 Anyone may register as an observer at Provincial Convention. Observers shall have neither voice nor vote.

4.08 Fees for delegates, alternates and observers are to be set by Provincial Council.

Article V - Business at Regular Provincial Conventions

5.01 The business of the regular Provincial Convention shall include:
(a) to receive and pass upon the Reports of
   (i) the Provincial President;
   (ii) the Provincial Leader;
   (iii) the Provincial Treasurer, including the audited financial report;
   (iv) the Provincial Secretary;
   (v) the New Democratic Youth of Alberta;
   (vi) the Alberta representatives on the Federal Council of the Party, including any Executive of the Federal Council from Alberta;
   (vii) the caucus of the Party in the Alberta Legislative Assembly;
   (viii) the Women's Caucus to the Party;
   (ix) the Policy Development Committee;
   (x) the Indigenous Peoples Caucus of the Party
   (xi) special committees of Convention;
   (xii) the Environment Caucus of the Party
   (xiii) the Lesbian Gay Bisexual and Transgendered Caucus of the Party
   (xiv) the Rural Caucus
(b) to consider and pass upon:
   (i) proposed amendments and additions to the Constitution;
   (ii) proposed amendments and additions to the policies of the Party;
   (iii) other resolutions pertaining to the Party;
   (c) to elect executive officers.

Article VI - Provincial Executive

6.01 The Provincial Executive Officers are:
(a) The Leader, who shall have voice and vote at all executive meetings and shall be elected by all members of the Party in good standing, according to the following rules:
   (i) The ballots cast by Party members shall be weighted to a total of at least 75% of the votes counted in a leadership election, with the balance of up to 25% of the votes being allocated among the affiliated members. The Provincial Council shall determine the exact percentage to be allocated to affiliates, based on the number of affiliated organizations at the time that the leadership election is called.
   (ii) The election of Leader shall be conducted by secret ballot, using mail-in ballots and Internet voting. Candidates for the leadership with the fewest number of weighted votes will drop off the ballot in subsequent rounds until one candidate receives 50% plus one or more of the total weighted votes cast in that round. Other leadership selection guidelines, such as closing date for nominations, will be determined by Provincial Council.
   (iii) Should the position of Leader become vacant at any point, the Provincial Council may, in consultation with the Legislative Caucus, appoint a Leader for the interim period until a new Leader has been elected.
   (iv) At the convention following a provincial election, there shall be an automatic leadership review by a secret ballot vote of all delegates. If 50% plus one of the delegates supports the calling of a leadership election, such an election will be held within one year of the convention vote.
   (v) A vote on a leadership review shall be held at Provincial Convention if at least 20 constituency associations agree to bring a resolution to convention calling for such a review. If 50% plus one of the delegates supports the calling of a leadership election, such an election will be held within one year of the convention vote.

(b) The following officers elected by Provincial Convention, and having voice and vote at all executive meetings:
   (i) the President;
   (ii) the Treasurer;
   (iii) the First Vice-President;
   (iv) the Second Vice-President;
(vi) Two Labour Vice Presidents to be elected by the Labour Caucus and ratified by Provincial Convention.

(vii) ten General Vice-Presidents, two from each region as follows: Southern Alberta, Central Alberta, Northern Alberta, Calgary, Edmonton.

(c) the following ex officio officers, having voice and vote at all executive meetings:

(i) the Past President, who shall be that person who filled the position of President in the immediately previous year;

(ii) the Youth Officer, who shall be named by the New Democratic Youth of Alberta in accordance with the Constitution of that organization, and who shall be an executive member of that organization;

(iii) the Women's Caucus Officer, who shall be named by the Women's Caucus of the Party in accordance with the constitution of that organization and who shall be an executive member of that organization.

(iv) the Federal Youth Liaison Officer, who is elected by the New Democratic Youth of Alberta in accordance with its constitution and the Constitution of the New Democratic Youth of Canada;

(v) the Indigenous Peoples Caucus Officer, who shall be named by the Indigenous Peoples Caucus of the Party in accordance with the constitution of that organization and who shall be an executive member of the organization.

(vi) the Environment Caucus Officer, who shall be named by the Environment Caucus of the Party in accordance with the constitution of that organization and who shall be an executive member of the organization.

(vii) the Lesbian Gay Bisexual and Transgendered Caucus Officer, who shall be named by the Lesbian Gay Bisexual and Transgendered Caucus of the Party in accordance with the constitution of that organization and who shall be an executive member of the organization.

(viii) the Rural Caucus Officer, who shall be named by the Rural Caucus of the Party in accordance with the constitution of that organization and who shall be an executive member of the organization.

(ix) the Labour Caucus Officer, who shall be named by the Labour Caucus of the Party in accordance with the constitution of that organization and who shall be executive members of the organization.

(d) the following, having voice but no vote at all Executive meetings, except as specified elsewhere in this Article:

(i) one Youth Alternate, who shall be named by the New Democratic Youth of Alberta in accordance with the Constitution of that organization and who shall be an executive member of that organization.

(ii) the Women's Caucus Alternate, who shall be named by the Women's Caucus of the Party in accordance with the constitution of that organization and who shall be an executive member of that organization.

(iii) all members of the Executive and Council of the New Democratic Party (of Canada) residing in Alberta and not otherwise sitting on the Provincial Executive.

(iv) the Indigenous Peoples Caucus Alternate, who shall be named by the Indigenous Peoples Caucus of the Party in accordance with the constitution of that organization and who shall be an executive member of that organization.

(v) the Environment Caucus Alternate, who shall be named by the Environment Caucus of the Party in accordance with the constitution of that organization and who shall be an executive member of that organization.

(vi) the Lesbian Gay Bisexual and Transgendered Caucus Alternate, who shall be named by the Lesbian Gay Bisexual and Transgendered Caucus of the Party in accordance with the constitution of that organization and who shall be an executive member of that organization.

(vii) the Rural Caucus Alternate, who shall be named by the Rural Caucus of the Party in accordance with the constitution of that organization and who shall be an executive member of that organization.

(viii) the Labour Caucus Alternate, who shall be named by the Labour Caucus of the Party in accordance with the constitution of that organization and who shall be executive members of that organization.

6.02 (a) There shall be gender parity

(i) among the table officer positions as defined in Article 6.10 (b).

(ii) within each of the multiple positions elected by Convention; gender parity shall be defined as equal representation of both genders where there is an even number of officers, and a difference of one between the representation of genders where there is an off number of officers.

6.03 (a) The Provincial Council shall establish the membership and structure of an Executive Candidates Search Committee no less than one hundred twenty (120) days prior to each Provincial
Convention. The Provincial Executive shall be responsible for making a recommendation regarding the membership and structure of that committee to the Provincial Council at which it is to be established.

(b) It shall be the duty of the Provincial Executive Candidates Search Committee established pursuant to Clause 6.03(a) to find and recruit suitable candidates of both genders for the various Provincial Executive Officer positions to be filled at the Provincial Convention immediately following its composition.

(c) In discharging its duties under clause (b), the Provincial Executive Candidates Search Committee shall seek to ensure that there are sufficient candidates for all positions. Furthermore, the Provincial Executive Candidates Search Committee shall strive to secure the participation of candidates from all regions of the province and from organizations of labour entitled to representation at Convention. In addition, the Provincial Candidates Search Committee shall strive to secure the participation of visible minorities, including persons with disabilities, aboriginal peoples, and members of ethnocultural minorities.

6.04 The Leader shall be the Leader of the Party. Should the Leader not be a Member of the Legislative Assembly, the New Democrat Members of the Legislative Assembly shall elect from among themselves a House Leader of the Caucus in the Legislative Assembly until the Leader of the Party is elected thereto.

6.05 (a) The Secretary shall be the chief administrative officer of the Party and shall be ratified by the Provincial Council immediately following each regular Convention and he/she shall be an active member of the Party.

(b) Notwithstanding Article 6.02 (a), gender parity among the table officers shall not be an issue in the selection of Acting Leader or in the election of the Leader at a special Convention called for that purpose.

(b) Should the Presidency or First Vice-Presidency fall vacant between Conventions, the post shall be filled by the First or Second Vice-President, respectively.

(c) Should the position of Secretary fall vacant between Conventions, the position shall be filled by appointment by the executive, which shall be ratified by the next meeting of the Provincial Council.

(d) Should the position of Treasurer fall vacant between Conventions, the position shall be filled by election at the next meeting of the Provincial Council.

(e) Should the position of Second Vice-President fall vacant between Conventions, the principle of gender parity shall direct whether that position is to be filled by the female General Vice-President first elected or the male General Vice-President first elected.

(f) Should one of the General Vice President positions fall vacant between conventions, the position shall be filled by election at the next meeting of Provincial Council.

6.07 Executive salaries, if any, shall be determined by Provincial Council.

6.08 The Executive shall consist of the Provincial Executive Officers.

6.09 The Executive shall conduct and administer the affairs and business of the Provincial Council, and issue statements in the name of the Party.

6.10 (a) The Executive shall establish administrative and executive committees to carry out the work of the party and provide for the necessary staff.

(b) the table officers of the Party (Leader, President, 1st and 2nd Vice Presidents, the Treasurer and the Labour Vice-Presidents) shall form the Administration Committee, and shall administer the affairs of the Party between executive meetings, subject to direction and review of the Provincial Executive.

6.11 (a) At all meetings of the Executive, ten voting members shall constitute a quorum.
(b) If the Youth Officer is not able to attend an Executive meeting, the Youth Alternate shall be a voting member for the duration of that meeting.
(c) If the Women's Caucus Officer is not able to attend an Executive meeting, the Women's Caucus Alternate shall be a voting member for the duration of that meeting.
(d) If the Indigenous Peoples Caucus Officer is not able to attend an Executive meeting, the Indigenous Peoples Caucus Alternate shall be a voting member for the duration of that meeting.
(e) If the Environment Caucus Officer is not able to attend an Executive meeting, the Environment Caucus Alternate shall be a voting member for the duration of that meeting.

(b) If the Youth Officer is not able to attend an Executive meeting, the Youth Alternate shall be a voting member for the duration of that meeting.
(c) If the Women's Caucus Officer is not able to attend an Executive meeting, the Women's Caucus Alternate shall be a voting member for the duration of that meeting.
(d) If the Indigenous Peoples Caucus Officer is not able to attend an Executive meeting, the Indigenous Peoples Caucus Alternate shall be a voting member for the duration of that meeting.
(e) If the Environment Caucus Officer is not able to attend an Executive meeting, the Environment Caucus Alternate shall be a voting member for the duration of that meeting.
(f) If the Lesbian Gay Bisexual and Transgendered Caucus Officer is not able to attend an Executive meeting, the Lesbian Gay Bisexual and Transgendered Caucus Alternate shall be a voting member for the duration of that meeting.
(g) If the Rural Caucus Officer is not able to attend an Executive meeting, the Rural Caucus Alternate shall be a voting member for the duration of that meeting.

(h) If an Executive officer listed in Clauses 6.01 (a) or 6.01 (c) other than the Leader misses two consecutive Executive meetings without good and sufficient cause the position shall be declared vacant.

Article VII - Provincial Council

7.01 The Provincial Council shall consist of:
(a) the Provincial Executive Officers;
(b) two members to be elected from the Party Caucus in the Legislative Assembly of Alberta;
(c) one member elected by those members of the Party caucus in the House of Commons representing Alberta Constituencies;
(d) three members elected from each provincial constituency association, who shall not be a Member of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta;
(e) one member elected from each Federal Constituency Association within the Province of Alberta;
(f) the members of the Federal Council residing in Alberta;
(g) five members of the New Democratic Youth of Alberta;
(h) five members of the Women's Caucus of the Party;
(i) five members of the Indigenous Caucus of the Party;

(j) two members of the Alberta Federation of Labour;
(k) one member from each of the five largest affiliates in Alberta;
(l) one member from each Metro or Regional Organization of the Party;
(m) up to three additional members who may be elected by the Provincial Council at any regular meeting, to serve until the next Provincial Convention.
(n) five members of the Environment Caucus of the Party;
(o) five members of the Lesbian Gay Bisexual and Transgendered Caucus of the Party;
(p) five members of the Rural Caucus of the Party.
(q) five members of the Labour Caucus of the Party.

7.02 Provincial Council shall meet at least three times a year at the call of the Executive, once at least sixty days prior to and once within sixty days following a regular Provincial Convention.

7.03 Provincial Council shall be the governing body of the Party in Alberta between Provincial Conventions. It shall have the full authority to issue policy and election statements regarding provincial matters in the name of the Party, consistent with the decisions of the Provincial Convention. A motion must be moved and passed at convention to send all, or some, resolutions to Provincial Council (with the exception of constitutional amendments), resolutions not dealt with at convention be automatically referred back to the Policy Development Committee with instructions to review them and consider their resubmission the following year. Before convention is adjourned, the Chair shall ask for motions from the floor to send all or specific outstanding resolutions to Provincial Council.

7.04 Policy resolutions to be debated at Provincial Council shall be submitted in writing to all members of Provincial Council not less than 30 days prior to each meeting of Provincial Council.

7.05 At all meeting of the Provincial Council, one-third of the registered embers shall constitute a quorum, with a minimum of 20 registered members.

Article VIII - New Democratic Youth of Alberta

8.01 The New Democratic Youth of Alberta shall be fully autonomous as to their Constitution and
program provided that such are not in conflict with the policies and Constitution of the Party.

8.02 Membership shall be open to any Alberta resident who is a member of the Party and who is under thirty years of age.

8.03 The New Democratic Youth of Alberta shall file with the Provincial Secretary a copy of their Constitution and all amendments or additions thereto.

8.04 In all matters of discipline, the Constitution of the Party shall apply.

Article IX - Women’s Caucus of the Party

9.01 The Women’s Caucus of the Party shall be fully autonomous as to their Constitution and program provided that such are not in conflict with the policies and Constitution of the Party.

9.02 Membership shall be open to any female Alberta resident who is a member of the Party.

9.03 The Women’s Caucus shall file with the Provincial Secretary a copy of their Constitution and all amendments or additions thereto.

9.04 In all matters of discipline, the Constitution of the Party shall apply.

Article X - The Indigenous Peoples Caucus of the Party

10.01 The Indigenous Peoples Caucus of the Party shall be fully autonomous as to their Constitution and program provided that such are not in conflict with the policies and Constitution of the Party.

10.02 Membership shall be open to any Alberta resident who is a member of the Party and who is admitted to the Caucus in accordance with the provisions of its constitution.

10.03 The Indigenous Peoples Caucus shall file with the Provincial Secretary a copy of its Constitution and all amendments or additions thereto.

10.04 In all matters of discipline, the Constitution of the Party shall apply.

Article XI - Environment Caucus of the Party

11.01 The Environment Caucus of the Party shall be fully autonomous as to their Constitution and program provided that such are not in conflict with the policies and Constitution of the Party.

11.02 Membership shall be open to any Alberta resident who is a member of the Party and who is admitted to the Caucus in accordance with the provisions of its constitution.

11.03 The Environment Caucus shall file with the Provincial Secretary a copy of its Constitution and all amendments or additions thereto.

11.04 In all matters of discipline, the Constitution of the Party shall apply.

Article XII - The Lesbian Gay Bisexual and Transgendered Caucus of the Party

12.01 The Lesbian Gay Bisexual and Transgendered Caucus of the Party shall be fully autonomous as to their Constitution and program provided that such are not in conflict with the policies and Constitution of the Party.

12.02 Membership shall be open to any Alberta resident who is a member of the Party and who is admitted to the Caucus in accordance with the provisions of its constitution.

12.03 The Lesbian Gay Bisexual and Transgendered Caucus shall file with the Provincial Secretary a copy of its Constitution and all amendments or additions thereto.

12.04 In all matters of discipline, the Constitution of the Party shall apply.

Article XIII – The Rural Caucus of the Party

13.01 The Rural Caucus of the Party shall be fully autonomous as to their Constitution and program provided that such are not in conflict with the policies and Constitution of the Party.

13.02 Membership shall be open to any Alberta resident who is a member of the Party and who is admitted to the Caucus in accordance with the provisions of its constitution.
13.03 The Rural Caucus shall file with the Provincial Secretary a copy of its Constitution and all amendments or additions thereto.

13.04 In all matters of discipline, the Constitution of the Party shall apply.

**Article XIV – The Labour Caucus of the Party**

14.01 The Labour Caucus of the Party shall be fully autonomous as to their Constitution and program provided that such are not in conflict with the policies and Constitution of the Party.

14.02 Membership shall be open to any Alberta resident who is a member of the Party and who is admitted to the Caucus in accordance with the provisions of its constitution.

14.03 The Labour Caucus shall file with the Provincial Secretary a copy of its Constitution and all amendments or additions thereto.

14.04 In all matters of discipline, the Constitution of the Party shall apply.

**Article XV - Federal Constituency Associations**

15.01 In all matters in which the Federal Constitution is silent, Federal Constituency Associations shall conduct themselves according to the provisions of this Constitution governing Provincial Constituency Associations.

**Article XVI - Provincial Constituency Associations**

16.01 In every provincial electoral district there shall be a Provincial Constituency Association.

16.02 All officers of constituency associations shall be individual members in good standing of the party.

16.03 All individuals members of the Party in good standing who reside within the boundaries of that provincial electoral district shall be members of that Provincial Constituency Association, except as provided for in Section 14.04.

16.04 Provincial constituency associations may admit to membership a member of the Party in good standing who does not reside in their electoral district. The Constituency Executive shall then notify the Provincial Executive and the constituency executive of the member’s residence for a transfer of membership. Such transfer entitles the transferred member to all rights and privileges of membership in the constituency association to which he/she has transferred with the exception of the right to vote for the nomination of that constituency’s candidate for election to the Alberta Legislative Assembly. Such a transferred member ceases to be a member of the Constituency Association of the constituency in which he/she resides.

**Article XVII - Provincial Constituency Association Bylaws**

17.01 All Provincial Constituency Associations shall adopt and abide by the bylaws which are appended as Appendix B to the Constitution.

**Article XVIII - Caucuses**

18.01 Any group of members within the party which shares a clearly identifiable community of interest may place before the Provincial Convention a proposal that it be constituted as a Caucus.

18.02 Provincial Convention may, by a 2/3 majority vote in favour on a motion moved for this purpose by the Constitution and Party Affairs Policy Committee, approve the constitution of the group as a Caucus.

18.03 Any group applying for constitution as a Caucus shall, as a condition of its constitution, set out in its proposal to Provincial Convention (a) the nature of its identifiable community of interest, and (b) the qualifications for membership in the Caucus.

18.04 Any Caucus constituted pursuant to this Article shall enjoy the same rights, privileges and responsibilities accorded all other Caucuses by this Constitution and this Article. Any such caucus shall be independent of a Policy Committee bearing the same name. The purpose of the caucus is a vehicle for like minded individuals to discuss, debate and promote their area of interest. The primary role of the Policy committee is to prepare policy for presentation to convention as outlined in Policy.
Committee classifications. This does not preclude the caucus enjoying the same right.

Article XIX - Local Organizations

19.01 Six or more members in any locality with the approval of the Provincial Executive may form themselves into a New Democratic Party Club for social, educational and political purposes; holding meetings, electing officers and raising for themselves the necessary funds to carry on such activities, providing that for the purpose of election campaigns, members of all clubs in the provincial constituencies shall act through their constituency organizations.

19.02 Every club formed as per Article 17.01 shall forward its name, the names of its officers and copies of its by-laws, if any, to the Provincial Constituency Secretary and Provincial Secretary. All club by-laws, and all amendments, must bear the approval of the Provincial Executive, and no by-laws, or amendments, shall be valid without such approval.

Article XX - Regional or Metro Organizations

20.01 Provincial Executive may, upon application from two or more provincial constituency associations, authorize the formation of an Area Council, which shall consist of delegates from the component provincial constituency associations, which shall coordinate activities of the Party on a municipal or regional basis.

20.02 Each regional organization shall adopt by-laws for the conduct of regional business. All such by-laws, and all such amendments must be approved by the Provincial Executive, and no by-laws, or amendments, shall be valid without such approval.

Article XXI - Financial Accounts

21.01 The Provincial Executive shall cause true accounts to be kept of the sums of money received and expended by the Party and all matters in respect of which receipts and expenditures take place and of the assets and liabilities of the Party.

21.02 The provincial Executive shall cause a fund to be created which shall be known as the “Alberta New Democrats Lifetime Fund” into which “Lifetime Commitments” revenue shall be deposited. The principal amount of the fund is to be invested for the purpose of using only the revenue produced by the investments to assist in funding the Provincial Party general elections.

(a) The objective is to sell one thousand or more “Lifetime Commitments” of $1,000.00 to supporters of the party.

21.03 The Provincial Executive shall appoint an Auditor of the Party who is not a member of the Executive, who shall make an audit of the books and accounts of the Party each fiscal year and report to the Convention.

Article XXII - Accountability of New Democrat MLA’s & Elected Officials

22.01 Each New Democratic Party Member of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta must hold a public meeting before each session of the Legislature to hear opinions and concerns of his/her constituents and shall do all in his/her power to raise such concerns during that session of the Legislature.

22.02 Each New Democratic Party Member of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta must hold a public meeting after each session of the Legislature to report to his/her constituents the disposition of concerns raised as per Section 20.01 and to further report on the general business and major legislation of the previous session of the Legislature.

22.03 When a New Democratic Party Member of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta expresses concerns of his/her constituents which are not Party policy, then he/she must clearly state that these concerns are not part of the policy of the Alberta New Democratic Party.

22.04 At each Convention of the Alberta New Democratic Party, a representative of the New Democratic Party Caucus shall report on the actions taken by the New Democratic Party Caucus on Party resolutions passed at the previous Convention.

22.05 Any elected officer or Official of the Party who crosses a picket line will be subject to censure at the next provincial council meeting following the incident.

Article XXIII - Discipline

23.01 Each member of the Party, including candidates for, and holders of, public office has sworn an oath or affirmed, that they will accept and
abide by the Constitution, principles and practices of the Alberta New Democratic Party; Breach of this sworn oath or affirmation is a violation of the Constitution.

23.02 A complaint may be lodged with the Provincial President and any member or constituted body of the Party alleging:
(a) a violation of the Constitution;
(b) conduct which would serve to bring the Party or one of its constituted bodies into disrepute; or
(c) a statement or action resulting in severe and evident injustice to a member or constituted body of the Party.

23.03 Satisfaction must first have been sought under existing Party procedures and rules of the appropriate organizations before a complaint will be received by the President.

23.04 A complaint must be in writing and must set out the details of the action or statement which gave rise to the complaint and must state the remedy sought and such evidence as may be pertinent.

23.05 Unless the President is personally affected by the complaint, the President shall endeavour to achieve an amicable settlement of the complaint. If no settlement can be achieved, the President shall refer the complaint to Provincial Council for resolution unless the President determines that the complaint is without merit. If the President is personally affected by the complaint, the Executive shall appoint one of its members to act in his/her place.

23.06 If the complaint is referred to Provincial Council, the Provincial Secretary shall serve by registered mail copies of the complaint to those against whom the complaint has been made at least 14 days prior to the next Provincial Council. The notice shall state the time and place that the complaint will be heard and a time for a hearing established.

23.07 At the next meeting of the Provincial Council, a hearing into the complaint shall be held to determine the merits of the complaint and the penalty to be imposed, if any. Both the Complainant and the person(s) against whom the complaint has been lodged shall be entitled to be present, to present evidence and argument and to be represented by a person of their choosing.

23.08 The Provincial Council may dismiss the complaint, reprimand the person(s) involved, suspend or expel the person(s) against whom the complaint has been lodged, or impose any other penalty (including fines) that it deems fit. The decision of the Council shall be mailed to the parties involved within fourteen days of the hearing date.

23.09 Any person disciplined under 21.08 shall have the right to appeal to the next Provincial Convention; however, any penalty imposed by Council shall stand until over-ruled by such Convention.

23.10 No member, and no constituted body of the Party, shall seek redress of any matter arising from disputes within the Party through public notice or solicitation.

Article XXIV - Financial Year

24.01 The financial year shall end on December 31.

Article XXV - Amendments

25.01 This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds majority of all delegates present and voting at any Provincial Convention.

APPENDIX A

RULES OF ORDER

1. The President or Convention Chairperson or an officer designated by one of them or chosen by the Convention shall occupy the Chair and preside over the sittings of a Convention.

1.1 When putting forward a motion submitted in accordance with Article 3.07 , such motion being put forward by the appropriate policy committee struck by the Provincial Council,
(a) where the policy committee does not oppose the motion, the person speaking on the committee's behalf shall move the motion on behalf of its sponsor and the chair shall call for a seconder from the floor whereupon, if the motion is seconded from the floor, the chair shall call for a speaker associated with the submitting body to put the case for the motion, and
(b) where the policy committee opposes the motion, the person speaking on the committee's behalf shall declare that the committee opposes the motion and the chair shall call for a mover and a seconder from
the floor whereupon, if the motion is moved and seconded from the floor, the chair shall call for a speaker associated from the submitting body to put the case for the motion.

2. Where it has been established that a convention will be organized as a Panel Convention the following rules shall apply.
   (a) resolutions concerning Constitution and Party Affairs shall be dealt with by Plenary session only;
   (b) no more than 4 panels shall run concurrently.
   (c) resolutions which have been debated by panel will be presented to the plenary session for restricted debate. The restrictions shall consist of the following:
      (i) the committee chairperson shall report the points of debate which took place in panel and these points having been brought to the attention of the delegates will be out of order during the subsequent debate in plenary session.
      (ii) if a resolution has been amended in panel, the amendment will be debated (consistent with Article 2.(c)(i) above, and the general rules of parliamentary debate) before the main resolution is debated.
      (d) resolutions which through lack of time are not debated by panel will be automatically referred to the Provincial Council for debate.

3. A delegate wishing to speak must go to one of the microphones provided for that purpose. When recognized by the Chairperson, she/he shall give her/his name and representative capacity and shall confine her/his remarks to the question at issue.

4. Speeches shall be limited to three minutes. This shall not apply to the spokesperson for a committee when she/he is introducing a report on behalf of the committee.

5. A delegate shall not speak more than once upon a motion, except the mover of any motion from the floor may be able to reply.

6. No speaker shall be interrupted except on a point of order.

7. If a delegate is called to order, she/he shall yield the floor until the question of order has been decided.

8. Two delegates may appeal the decision of the chair, one of whom shall state the reasons for the appeal. The Chairperson may make an explanation of her/his decision, but the question is not otherwise debatable. The chairperson must relinquish the Chair for appeal.

9. Questions shall be decided by voice, a show of hands, or by a standing vote. A standing vote shall be taken upon a request from the floor by two delegates, or at the discretion of the Chairperson.

10. Where the previous question is moved, no discussion or amendment of either motion is permitted. If a simple majority vote “that the question be now put”, it shall be put without debate. If the motion to put the question is defeated, discussion will continue.

11. A delegate shall not move to refer back after she/he has spoken on the question at issue.

12. Policy motions may be amended from the floor, or by way of referral with or without instructions, unless the Convention, by a simple majority of those present and voting, shall have otherwise decided at the beginning of the Convention.

13. A resolution on a motion may be reconsidered if:
   (a) the mover voted with the majority;
   (b) notice of motion is given to the Chair (who will announce it forthwith);
   (c) the notice is for reconsideration to take place at a time specified in the notice which shall not be prior to the adjournment of the session for which the notice is given. (For this Order, “session” means any period commencing with a call to order by the Chair and concluding with an adjournment motion or an adjournment made pursuant to the agenda and may include a special session called for the purpose of considering a notice for reconsideration following the adjournment of the last scheduled session), and
   (d) the motion to reconsider is passed by a two-thirds majority of delegates present and voting.

14. The hours of the Convention shall be established at the first sitting of the Convention. These hours may be extended only upon the last day of the Convention and only by a two-thirds majority of the delegates voting and present.

15. The following procedures shall be used in electing Executive Officers:
   (A) Different coloured ballots will be used for the election of each of the Executive positions.
(B) The time allotted to each candidate for executive positions is set at five minutes. This includes nomination and acceptance.

(C) (a) In the election of single posts:
(i) Fifty (50) percent plus one of the valid ballots cast shall be required for election.
(ii) When any three of the table officer positions listed in Article 6.10(b) are filled by persons of one gender, the person of the opposite gender receiving the most valid ballots cast shall be elected in each of the remaining positions.

(b) in the election of multiple posts:
(i) if there are an even number of positions, one-half of the positions shall be filled by the female candidates who receive the largest number of votes, and the remaining positions shall be filled by the male candidates who receive the largest number of votes amongst the male candidates.
(ii) if there are an odd number of positions, the person who receives the largest number of votes shall be elected, and the remaining positions shall be elected according to (i) above.
(iii) ballots with fewer votes than the number of positions to be filled are in order;
(c) the number of votes will be announced; and
(d) each candidate will be allowed two scrutineers at each counting station.

(e) The order of elections shall be:
(i) Leader
(ii) President
(iii) Treasurer
(iv) First Vice-President
(v) Second Vice-President
(vi) General Vice-Presidents

16. Any of the above rules may be suspended by unanimous consent, or may be changed for the Convention in which such a change is made by a majority vote on a motion of which one day's notice is given.

Establishment of the Order of Debate for Resolutions (Adopted for the 1990 Convention.)

The purpose of these rules is to provide a procedure whereby members can alter the order of debate established by the Convention Resolutions Committee without creating a situation where there is protracted debate on the order of resolutions.

1. One of the co-chairs of the Convention Resolutions Committee, on behalf of the Convention Resolutions Committee, shall move acceptance of the order of debate as set out in the Democrat. That motion shall be nondebatable.

2. The Appeals Committee shall present amendments to that order based on appeals that the Committee has heard and accepted (or accepted in part). Those amendments shall be nondebatable and voted on one at a time.

3. Where appeals have been made through the appeals procedure provided, and the appeal has been denied (or denied in part) by the Appeals Committee, and the sponsor has advised the chair of the Appeals Committee of his or her intention to challenge the decision of the Appeals Committee, he or she shall have the right to present the original appeal as an amendment to the order of debate. There shall be no more than one speaker for each amendment, and a time limit of two minutes shall be set.

4. The chair of the appeals Committee shall have a maximum of two minutes to present the Committee's reasons for its disposition of the appeal (i.e. denial or partial acceptance of the appeal).

5. There shall be no further debate on the amendment, and the Convention Chair shall then call the question on the amendment.

6. Once all sponsors of appeals who have indicated their intention to challenge the decision of the Appeals Committee have been heard, the Convention Chair shall call the question on the order of debate of resolutions as amended. Amendments to alter the order of debate which have not been heard by the Appeals Committee shall not be in order.

APPENDIX B

REQUIRED STANDARD BYLAWS

1. Membership
The membership of this Constituency Association shall be defined as the Constitution of the New Democratic Party of Alberta.

2. Federal Constituency Associations
In all matters relating to federal constituency associations, these by-laws shall equally apply, changing only those provisions that need to be changed.
3. Executive Officers

(a) the Executive Officers of this Association shall be:
   (i) the President;
   (ii) the Treasurer;
   (iii) such other officers as may be added by resolution of an annual general meeting.
(b) It shall be the responsibility of the Treasurer to maintain all books of this Constituency Association, and to submit an annual financial statement to the Chief Electoral Officer of the Province of Alberta, and to the Provincial Secretary of the Party.
(c) It shall be the responsibility of the Executive Officers to ensure representation of this Constituency Association at all meetings of the Provincial Council and Provincial Convention.
(d) The Executive Officers shall have the authority to conduct the affairs of the Constituency Association between general meetings.

4. Annual Meetings

(a) The Constituency Association shall hold at least one general meeting each year, called the Annual General Meeting.
(b) All members of the Constituency Association shall be notified in writing of the time and location of the Annual General Meeting at least fourteen days in advance.
(c) the business of the Annual General Meeting shall be:
   (i) to receive and consider the reports of
      (A) the President
      (B) the Treasurer
      (C) other Executive Officers, if any;
      (D) the New Democratic MLA for the constituency, if any;
   (ii) to elect Executive Officers; and
   (iii) to deal with the business of the Constituency Association.

5. Nomination meetings

(a) The Constituency Association may from time to time hold a general meeting, hereinafter called the - Nominating Meeting: for the purpose of selecting a candidate to stand for election to the Legislative Assembly. The person shall continue to hold the position until:
   (i) the date of the election; or
   (ii) the candidate resigns or becomes ineligible as per clause 5(d).
(b) At least 30 days prior to the Nomination Meeting, the President shall submit to the Provincial Secretary of the Party the minutes of the meeting of the Executive officers of the Constituency Association which approved by a majority vote:
   (i) the date of the Nomination Meeting and the time at which the first ballot shall be cast, hereinafter called the “cut-off time”; and
   (ii) the name of the person who shall act as the Nomination Chairperson.
(c) At least 14 days prior to the Nomination Meeting, all members then eligible to vote shall be informed in writing at their last known address of the date, location and time of the Meeting, and of the name, address and telephone number of the Nomination Chairperson. Inadvertent failure to notify every member shall not invalidate the Nomination meeting.
(d) To be eligible to be a Candidate, a person must be:
   (i) eligible for election to the Legislative Assembly as Specified in the Alberta Elections Act; and
   (ii) be a member in good standing with the Party.
(e) To be eligible to run for the position of Candidate, a person must:
   (i) be eligible to be a Candidate as set out in Clause 5(d); and
   (ii) inform the Nomination Chairperson of their intent to run for the position no later than the seventh day prior to the Nomination Meeting.
(f) Any person who:
   (i) is a member in good standing of the Party and
   (A) was a member in good standing on the fourteenth day prior to the Nomination Meeting; or
   (B) has submitted an application for or renewal of membership to the Nomination Chairperson by 10 p.m. on the fourteenth day prior to the Nomination Meeting; and
   (ii) is a resident within the boundaries of the Provincial Constituency; and
   (iii) has registered at the Nomination Meeting prior to the cut-off time, is eligible to vote at the Nomination Meeting.
(g) To be eligible to act as a Nomination Chairperson, a person must
   (i) be a member in good standing of the Party; and
   (ii) be and remain strictly neutral in the nomination contest; and
   (iii) not stand for nomination at this nomination meeting.
(h) It is the responsibility of the Nomination Chairperson to ensure that a list of eligible voters is prepared and available at the nomination meeting.
   (i) To register to vote a person must show either
(i) their current membership card; or
(ii) proof satisfactory to the Nomination Chairperson of eligibility to vote.

(j) Voting for nominated candidates shall be by a series of secret ballots, at which each person eligible to vote receives exactly one vote, except the Nomination Chairperson who may not vote except as indicated below.

(i) If on any ballot, any person receives more than one-half the votes cast, (i.e. votes meeting the instructions given by the meeting chairperson), that person shall be declared the candidate; otherwise,

(ii) if there are only two candidates, and they each receive the same number of votes, the Nomination Chairperson shall cast the deciding vote, whether, he/she would otherwise be ineligible to vote; otherwise,

(iii) if there is one candidate who receives the least number of votes, that candidate shall be eliminated from further balloting; and another ballot held; and finally

(iv) if more than one person is tied for the lowest vote, the Nomination Chairperson shall subtract one vote from one of those candidates, who shall then be eliminated from further balloting, and then another ballot shall be held.

(v) The Nomination Chairperson shall announce to the meeting the number of votes cast for each candidate after each ballot has been counted, but he/she need not reveal to the meeting whether he/she voted or for whom.

(vi) Any person may voluntarily remove their name from future balloting at any time, but having done so, may not have it added back on.

(k) The final results of the election shall be communicated to the Provincial Secretary of the Party within one week of the date of the Nomination Meeting.

(l) No ballots may be destroyed without the written permission of the Provincial Secretary of the Party.

(m) Any member in good standing of the Party may lodge a complaint with the Nomination chairperson within seven days of the Nomination Meeting alleging that there has been a violation of the above rules. The Nomination Chairperson shall attempt to resolve the complaint. If the Nomination Chairperson is unable to do so within seven days, the complaint shall be referred to the Executive of the Party. In all cases, the decision of the Executive of the Party shall be final.

(n) In the event that a Provincial election, or by-election in this Constituency, is called and no Nomination Meeting has been scheduled, or a Nomination Meeting has been scheduled, but the scheduled date is more than three days after the day of the election date is announced, the Executive of the Constituency Association may waive the above rules and may cause a Nomination Meeting to be held at any date provided that at least five days notice is given every member residing in this Constituency.

(o) All duly nominated candidates shall be required to sign a pledge of honour to uphold the policies of the party in order to have their nomination approved by the party.

6. Meetings of the Executive

(a) All meetings of the Executive shall be open to any member of the Constituency Association, unless a motion to exclude such members is passed by a two-thirds majority of Executive members present.

(b) Quorum for all Executive Meetings shall be one-half of the Executive.

(c) Minutes of all meetings shall be kept and shall be open to inspection by any member of the Constituency Association upon request.

7. Amendments to these By-Laws

The by-laws of the Constituency Association may be amended by a two-thirds majority vote at the Annual General Meeting, or a Special General Meeting called for that purpose and when the proposed amendment has been printed as part of the meeting notice. In no case shall any amendment contradict or change any provision contained in Schedule B of the Constitution of the Party, nor any provision of the Constitution of the Party or the Constitution of the New Democratic Party of Canada. In addition, no amendment shall conflict with the principles of the Party. All such amendments shall be communicated immediately to the Provincial Secretary of the Party.

APPENDIX C

The Principles and Aims of the Alberta New Democratic Party

The New Democratic Party offers an alternative vision of the future based on the following three principles:

Democracy is one of the most valuable parts of our heritage and recognizes that all citizens, including minorities, must receive equal civil rights with representatives elected by way of proportional
representation. Our country will only be a genuinely democratic one when all people participate fully in determining the policies of the institutions which directly affect their lives. The necessary role of governments must be recognized in order to build an equitable and socially just society.

Socialism is essentially the application of democracy to the economy. Economic democracy, i.e. democratic socialism, assures production to supply the needs of all people. Decisions about what shall be produced, when and where, and decisions about where we shall make our living and under what conditions, are now left largely in the hands of private interests. The market economy produces transnational corporations, who give private profit priority over public interest, social justice and workplace democracy. Through the efforts of many, we have achieved a degree of social and political democracy. Economic democracy demands a co-operative rather than a competitive system.

Ecological Sustainability must permeate all economic and social policy. Meeting human material needs must not use more of Earth’s resources than can be renewed within each generation. Wastes produced in meeting needs must not endanger future generations’ rights to clean air, pure water and productive soil. Life on Earth is best protected by ensuring biodiversity, requiring recognition of each species’ contribution to the planet’s health. Consequently, we have to view other species not as resources for human wants, but as respected members of Earth’s living family. Human economic security is assured by reducing consumption, and is achieved by conservation programs. Such policies will also contribute to intergenerational equity.

The New Democratic Party believes that only a revolution in thinking can lead to the establishment of Democratic Socialism.