

# Constitution and By-Laws Submissions for the 2021 Conservative Party of British Columbia AGM and Convention:

**Submission from the Vancouver-West End Riding Association;  
Endorsed by the Board of Directors of the Conservative Party of British Columbia:**

## **ARTICLE 1 - INTRODUCTION AND INTERPRETATION**

1. Modify Article 1.01 The "Party" means the "Conservative Party of British Columbia", also known as the "Conservative Party of BC", "British Columbia Conservative Party", "BC Conservative Party", "BC Conservatives", "Conservative BC", "BCCP" and the "CPBC".

Rationale: Retains the name of the BC Conservative Party and the acronym of BCCP for historical references and legal matters.

## **ARTICLE 2 - MEMBERSHIP**

1. Modify Article 2.01 Membership ~~will be available to any~~ **is open to any citizen, permanent resident of Canada who is an ordinary** ~~and~~ resident of British Columbia, fourteen (14) years or older who supports the Party Constitution and By-Laws. The length of term of membership shall be prescribed by the Board. Membership fees shall be set by the Board and may be adjusted from time to time, to cover the minimum costs ~~associate~~ **associated** with the administration of membership.

Rationale: Party Membership should be open only to Canadian Citizens and Permanent Residents.

2. Delete Articles 2.04, 2.05, 2.07 and replace with New Articles and Renumber succeeding Articles:

2.04 Each Member may participate in any meeting of the Riding Association in which that person resides or serves as a board member.

2.05 Each Member may vote for, and stand for election to, the Board of Directors of any Riding Association in which that person resides.

2.06 Each Member may attend any Annual General Meeting (hereafter referred to as an "AGM") or a Special General Meeting (hereafter referred to as a "SGM") of the Party upon payment of the prescribed fee.

2.07 Each Member may vote for, and stand for election as, a delegate or alternate delegate at any Delegate Selection Meeting (hereafter referred to as a "DSM") called by an Riding Association in which that person resides or serves as a board member, for the selection of delegates or alternate delegates to any AGM or SGM of the Party.

2.08 Each Member may stand for election to the Board of Directors of a Riding Association other than the one in which that person resides.

Rationale: Clearly defines what Members can attend and vote at and allows Members to be on other Riding Associations.

3. Modify Current Article 2.08 and renumber to 2.09 and renumber all succeeding Articles:  
2.09 Only a Member in good standing may vote at an ~~Annual General Meeting (hereafter referred to as an "AGM")~~ **AGM**, or a ~~Special General Meeting (hereafter referred to as a "SGM")~~ **SGM, DSM, or a Candidate Selection Meeting (hereafter referred to as a "CSM")** or vote on other Party business. Only non-Board Members in good standing who are eligible to vote may sign the nomination papers of a potential Candidate or Leadership Candidate

Rationale: Adds language allowing a Member to attend and vote at a DSM and CSM.

#### **ARTICLE 4 - STRUCTURE AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND MANAGEMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:**

1. Modify Section Title from Management Committee to an Executive Committee.
2. Modify Article 4.01 A ~~Management~~ **Executive** Committee will be established and shall be comprised of the following:
  - (e) Treasurer; ~~and~~
  - (f) ~~the five (5) Directors-at-Large.~~ **Immediate Past President; and**
  - (g) **the five (5) Directors-at-Large.**
3. Modify Article 4.02 The ~~Management~~ **Executive** Committee shall:
  - (d) have a quorum for a meeting of the ~~Management~~ **Executive** Committee of not less than five (5) in number, two (2) of whom must be the President, the Vice-President, the Secretary or the Treasurer.
4. Modify Article 4.03 The President shall:
  - (a) call and preside over ~~Management~~ **Executive** Committee meetings and Board of Directors meetings;
5. Modify Article 4.05 The Secretary shall:
  - (a) keep records of all Board of Directors meetings, AGMs and SGMs and all ~~Management~~ **Executive** Committee meetings;
6. Modify Article 4.06 The Treasurer shall:
  - (a) be responsible for overseeing the prudent financial administration of the Party;
  - (b) ensure that no disbursement is made without authorization of the ~~Management~~ **Executive** Committee and/or the Board of Directors; matters as may be required by the ~~Management~~ **Executive** Committee and Board of Directors; and

7. Modify Article 4.07 ~~The Immediate Past President and the~~ The Directors-at-Large shall serve on the ~~Management~~ **Executive** Committee and undertake such duties as may be assigned to assist in the functioning of the Committee and the Party.

Rationale: An Executive Committee is the standard for current Political Parties and Societies.

## **ARTICLE 5 - ADDITIONAL DUTIES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

1. Modify Article 5.06 Only the ~~Management~~ **Executive** Committee may borrow money or incur a contractual obligation on behalf of the Party. Loans or contractual obligations under \$5,000.00 may be approved by a simple majority vote of the ~~Management~~ **Executive** Committee.

2. Modify Article 5.08 Notwithstanding Article 5.06 and 5.07, the ~~Management~~ **Executive** Committee may incur obligations on behalf of the Party where the amounts are in a budget approved by the Board of Directors.

3. Delete Article 5.16 [REPEALED] and Renumber succeeding Articles.

## **ARTICLE 6 - STANDING COMMITTEES**

1. Modify Article 6.01 The Party shall have the following “Standing Committees”, the ~~Chairman~~ **Chair** and Members of which will be established by the Board of Directors in consultation with the Leader. These are:

Rationale: Gender neutralizing the role of Chairman to Chair in accordance to standards for current Societies.

2. Modify Article 6.01 (c)  
(c) the ~~Social Media~~ **Communications** Committee.

Rationale: A Communications Committee is a better name in common practice for Societies.

3. Modify Article 6.02 The Election Readiness Committee will consist of:  
(c) other Members as appointed by the Chair or Co-Chairs in consultation with The Leader and the Party ~~Management~~ **Executive** Committee and approved by the Board of Directors.

4. Modify Article 6.03 The Election Readiness Committee:  
(b) will set the dates, location, notice requirements, voting methods and other procedures for ~~Candidate selection meetings~~ **CSMs**, which may include notice or voting by electronic means, mail-in ballots, or other representative methods;  
(d) may call a ~~Candidate Selection Meeting~~ **CSM** if a Riding Association has failed to do so.

5. Modify Article 6.07 The Finance Committee will consist of:  
(f) other Members, as appointed by the Chair or Co-Chairs in consultation with the Leader and the Party ~~Management~~ **Executive** Committee and approved by the Board of Directors.

## **ARTICLE 7 - GENERAL COMMITTEES AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

1. Modify Article 7.01 The Board of Directors shall appoint additional committees when requested by the ~~Management~~ **Executive** Committee and/or when it deems they are required. Such additional committees shall include:

(b) A Nominating Committee. The purpose of this Committee is to identify and nominate Candidates for internal Party elections. The Committee will seek to identify persons with specific expertise required by the various ~~Management~~ **Executive** Committee positions. While the Committee shall have regard to regional and other considerations, the prime motivation shall be the experience and competency the ~~Management~~ **Executive** Committee position requires. Such expertise could include financial, legal, administrative, communications and/or political experience and leadership and team building skills. Further, there needs to be a willingness and ability to contribute significant amounts of time and energy to the affairs of the Party.

(i) The Chair of this Committee shall be appointed from the Board of Directors and shall be someone who does not intend to run for office at the next AGM. The balance of the Committee shall be non-Board Members of experience who also cannot be Candidates for the ~~Management~~ **Executive** Committee in the next AGM.

(ii) The Nominating Committee shall be appointed by the Board of Directors on the recommendation of the ~~Management~~ **Executive** Committee and shall be appointed not less than three (3) months prior to the scheduled date for the next Party AGM. The Chair of the Nominating Committee shall Chair the election process at the next Party AGM.

(e) Any other committee suggested by the ~~Management~~ **Executive** Committee and deemed necessary by the Board of Directors to implement the goals and activities of the Party

## **ARTICLE 8 - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS (AGM)**

1. Modify Article 8.03 The following members are entitled to vote as delegates ~~to~~ **at** an AGM or SGM:

(a) an equal number not exceeding 10 from each ~~electoral district (riding) association~~ **Riding Association** elected in such number and in such manner as determined by the ~~Party~~ **Board of Directors** **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 (riding) association~~ **Riding Association** as of a date set by the ~~Party~~ **Board of Directors**;

(b) the official candidate of record of the party for each electoral district in the preceding provincial election, or the then current nominated party candidate for each such ~~electoral district~~ **Riding Association**;

(c) the legislative **Caucus** of the **Party**;

(d) elected **Members** of the **Party Board of Directors**;

(e) **former Leaders of the Party**;

(f) **Members** that hold **Honorary Lifetime Memberships**; and

(g) in the absence of an established ~~electoral district (riding) association~~ **Riding Association**, the first equal number not exceeding 10 **Members** in good standing (as outlined in ~~ByLaw~~ Article 2.02) from the ~~electoral district~~ **Riding Association**.

Rationale: Changes the terminology of a Electoral District to a Riding Association, adds the requirement of a youth delegate and former Leaders as delegates.

2. Modify Article 8.04 Any Member who is not a voting delegate (as described in Article (8.03-), but who pays the prescribed fee may attend as a **Member Observer**, but may not vote at the AGM or SGM.

Rationale: Defines a Member who isn't a Delegate as a Member Observer.

3. Modify Article 8.05 The quorum for an AGM will be fifty ~~(50)~~ **(20)** registered Members in good standing in attendance.

Rationale: Current Society Standards has a Quorum set at 20 Members in good standing.

4. Modify Article 8.09 The President ~~(Chair)~~ **shall serve as Chair and** will have sole discretion to accept any resolutions from the floor at the AGM.

Rationale: Clearly defines the President as Chair of the AGM and asserts authority over its proceedings.

## **ARTICLE 9 - SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS (SGM)**

Add Article 9.03 The President shall serve as Chair and will have sole discretion to accept any resolutions from the floor at the SGM.

Rationale: Designates the President as Chair of the SGM and asserts authority over its proceedings.

## **ARTICLE 13 - RIDING ASSOCIATIONS (RA)**

1. Modify Article 13.02 (c) holds at least one (1) AGM of Members in each calendar year for the election of Directors and/or Officers and other **RA** business and gives at least thirty (30) days' notice of such meeting to all current Members in that ~~RA~~ **Riding Association**;

2. Delete Article 13.03 Only a Riding Association that has been approved by a vote of the Board of Directors will be a recognized Registered Constituency Association of the Party.

3. Delete Article 13.04 REPEALED and Renumber succeeding Articles.

4. Modify Article 13.05 (a) call or recall a ~~Nominating Meeting~~ **CSM**; or

5. Modify Article 13.11 (a) call and run an ~~Annual General Meeting~~ **AGM** or ~~Special General Meeting~~ **SGM** of the Riding Association;

6. Modify Article 13.11 (d) in the event of a ~~riding~~ **Riding** Association folding, all monies belonging to that association will be transferred to and held in trust by the ~~party~~ **Party** for a maximum of 24 months.

7. Modify Article 13.12 Allow ~~R.A presidents~~ **RA Presidents** to open riding for candidate nomination.

Rationale: Clean up of terminology.

## **ARTICLE 16 - ADDITIONAL PROVINCIAL ASSOCIATIONS**

1. Modify Article 16.02 Only a Party Member ~~or a Party supporter~~ may become a Member in a Provincial Association provided that the Member is eligible for membership under the ~~by laws~~ **By-Laws** of the Provincial Association.

Rationale: Only a Party Member should be a Member in a Provincial Association.

## **ARTICLE 17 - APPEAL**

1. Modify Article 17.04 The President, or persons appointed by the President, shall endeavour to achieve an amicable settlement. If this is not successful, the President, with the advice of the ~~Management~~ **Executive** Committee, shall refer the dispute to the Party Mediation Committee to be established in accordance with the provisions of Article 18. The Party Mediation Committee shall promptly mediate the dispute, or if a mediated solution is not possible, make recommendations as to the appropriate resolution of the dispute to the Board of Directors,

## **ARTICLE 18 - MEDIATION COMMITTEE AND APPEALS BOARD**

1. Modify Article 18.03 The Board of Directors, on the advice of the ~~Management~~ **Executive** Committee and the Mediation and Appeals Coordinator, shall also appoint an Appeals Board. This Appeals Board shall consist of five (5) Members all of whom shall be independent and impartial persons of high integrity and ability. They may be Party Members, supporters or totally neutral persons but not Members of the Board of Directors or any Party Standing Committee. Members of the Appeals Board would initially be appointed to serve for a term of two (2) years, and some or all may be reappointed for subsequent terms of two (2) years thereafter. Once appointed, the Members of the Appeals Board shall choose a Chair.

**ARTICLE 19 - NOTICE**

1. Modify Article 19.02 Notice of meetings of the ~~Management~~ **Executive** Committee shall be given, with an agenda attached, not less than seven (7) clear days prior to the date of the meeting. Provided, however, that a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of all Members of the ~~Management~~ **Executive** Committee may agree to shorter notice and declare a meeting of the ~~Management~~ **Executive** Committee to be valid and binding. Notices may be given either in writing or by email.

**Submission from the Langley Riding Association:**

<p><b>Section 11.05 Leadership Review a)</b></p> <p>All Members in good standing will receive a mail-in ballot with the official AGM notice.</p>	<p><b>Amend Section 11.05 Leadership Review a) to read:</b></p> <p>All Members in good standing will receive a ballot by <b>electronic means or by post</b>, with the official AGM notice.</p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> In the day that we are living in sending and receiving correspondence electronically is becoming the staple. However, there are people who may not have an electronic device to accomplish this task. In those cases a mail in ballot can be accommodated.</p>
<p>Article 8 Annual General Meeting Section 8.01</p> <p>The Board of Directors will call an AGM between six (6) and fifteen (15) months but not less than six (6) months after the previous AGM. There shall be forty-five (45) days notice of an AGM in writing and sent by electronic means or by post to the membership. The Board of Directors, in addition to this written notice, shall send at least one (1) email reminder to Members who have provided the Party with email addresses not less than twenty-one (21) days prior to the date of the AGM and shall post a notice on the Party internet website as soon as possible after the posting of the forma written notice.</p>	<p>Amend Article 8 Annual General Meeting Section 8.01 to read:</p> <p>The Board of Directors will call an AGM between six (6) and fifteen (15) months but not less than six (6) months after the previous AGM. There shall be <b>ninety (90) days'</b> notice of an AGM in writing and sent by electronic means or by post to the membership. The Board of Directors, in addition to this written notice, shall send at least one (1) email reminder to Members who have provided the Party with email addresses not less than twenty-one (21) days prior to the date of the AGM and shall post a notice on the Party internet website as soon as possible after the posting of the forma written notice.</p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> The current wording has the notice of meeting going out to member after the deadline for Policy and Constitution and By-law amendments. The notice should be given out before, not after.</p>

<p>Article 10 – Constitutional Amendments and Policy Resolutions Section 10.01 (a)</p> <p>(a) all proposed amendments to the Constitution, By-Laws and Policies must be received by the Constitution and By-law Review Committee and the Policy and Research Committee not less than ninety (90) days prior to an AGM or SGM;</p>	<p>Amend Section 10.01 (a) to read:</p> <p>(a) all proposed amendments to the Constitution, By-Laws and Policies must be received by the Constitution and By-law Review Committee and the Policy and Research Committee not less than <b>sixty (60)</b> days prior to an AGM or SGM;</p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> As mentioned in Section 8.01, timelines will need to be adjusted. This deadline for RAs and members to submit their proposed Policies and Constitution and Bylaw amendments will be 1 month after the notice of meeting has gone out.</p>
<p>(b) the Committees will compile, organize and consider the proposed amendments and forward them with recommendations to the Board of Directors not less than sixty (60) days prior to the AGM or SGM; and</p>	<p>(b) the Committees will compile, organize and consider the proposed amendments and forward them with recommendations to the Board of Directors not less than <b>thirty (30)</b> days prior to the AGM or SGM; and</p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> As per Section 10.01 a) this will also to be adjusted which will give the ctte. 30 days to compile, organize what they need before presenting it to the BOD. The amount of time is the same as before. The bulk of the work is done here.</p>
<p>10.02 Proposed amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws and Policies will be posted on the Party website no later than thirty (30) days prior to an AGM or SGM</p>	<p>Amend Section 10.2 to read: 10.02 Proposed amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws and Policies will be posted on the Party website no later than <b>fifteen (15)</b> days prior to an AGM or SGM</p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> This gives the committee 15 days to post on the website to members. Other organizations post their amendments under one month. There shouldn't be much change from what the ctte, presents to the BOD and what they post on the website.</p>