

# LEADERSHIP 2020

## *RULES*



UPDATED: July 12, 2020

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# INTRODUCTION

It is an understatement to say that the world has changed since we initially launched our leadership contest in January. From the COVID pandemic to the badly-needed spotlight on police brutality and systematic racism, vast elements of our society have been exposed for failing entire groups of people.

**The time for a leader with a vision to overhaul our broken social, environmental and economic realities is now.**

The BC Green Party will resume its 2020 leadership contest on June 15, 2020. This updated document guides the process for selecting a new leader.

Changes to the Leadership Rules primarily concern the contest's timeline, Candidate fees and events. The campaign period and voting periods have been reduced to support a limited summer timeframe. We have lowered the Candidate fees and eliminated the fundraising fee to adapt to the difficulty of fundraising in an economically strained period of history. All campaign events must respect the Provincial Health Officer's directives, and the number of official debates has been reduced to one to support a shortened timeline.

While this leadership contest is very different from that which we originally envisioned in January, it is more important now than ever that we embrace it as an opportunity for renewal and change, not only for our party, but for our province and world.

For more information about the leadership contest and how you can get involved, please visit [bcgreens.ca/leadership\\_2020](https://bcgreens.ca/leadership_2020).

Sincerely,



Sat Harwood  
Chair, Provincial Council  
BC Green Party

June 2020

# DEFINITIONS

## ***“Basic Contact Information”***

means an individual’s (1) name, (2) mailing address, (3) landline phone number if applicable, (4) mobile phone number if applicable, and (5) email address.

## ***“BC Green Party”***

means the Green Party Political Association of British Columbia.

## ***“Candidate Application”***

means the application package that a Leadership Applicant must complete and submit to enter the Leadership Contest.

## ***“Compliance”***

means adherence to the Leadership Contest Rules.

## ***“Compliance Deposit”***

means the refundable fee as defined in Section 7.a.ii as a guarantee of adherence to the Leadership Contest Rules.

## ***“Electorate”***

means the body of individuals who are eligible to vote in the Leadership Vote; the Party Members and Party Supporters.

## ***“Internal Party Position”***

means any official role, whether elected, hired or appointed by the BC Green Party, which contributes to the party’s internal functions. These roles include, but are not limited to: Deputy Leader, member of the Provincial Council, staff member, contractor, or any position on a Riding Association Executive.

## ***“Internal Party Position”***

does not include Member of the Legislative Assembly or caucus roles.

## ***“Leadership Applicant”***

means an individual who has submitted their Candidate Application to the Leadership Committee, but whose application has not yet been accepted or declined.

## ***“Leadership Campaign”***

means all activities, staff members, contractors and volunteers associated with a Leadership Candidate.

## ***“Leadership Candidate”***

means an individual whose application has been accepted by the Leadership Committee.

## ***“Leadership Committee”***

means the committee responsible for the design, administration and implementation of the Leadership Contest. See Section 3 for more information.

## ***“Leadership Contest”***

means all activities associated with the 2020 process of electing a new leader of the BC Green Party.

## ***“Leadership Contest Rules”***

means the rules and regulations set forth in this document.

## ***“Leadership Prospect”***

means an individual who is giving consideration to running as a Leadership Candidate or who has requested a Candidate Application but has not yet submitted it.

## ***“Leadership Vote”***

means the casting of ballots in the Leadership Contest.

## ***“Party Member”***

means a member of the BC Green Party in good standing (as defined in Sections 2 and 3 of the BC Green Party by-laws) as of the date(s) of the Leadership Vote.

## DEFINITIONS (CONTINUED)

***“Party Supporter”*** means an individual who is not a Party Member, or a member or supporter of another provincial political party in BC, but who has registered with the BC Green Party to participate in the Leadership Vote as defined in Section 13.b of the Leadership Contest Rules.

***“Personal Information”*** means any Information about an identifiable individual, which means a person can be identified by the information, either directly (e.g. name, image, job title) or in combination with other information, excluding business contact information or work product information as defined by the BC Personal Information Protection Act.

***“Provincial Council”*** means the member-elected governance body of the BC Green Party.

***“Registered”*** means a Leadership Candidate who is eligible to participate in the Leadership Contest as defined in Section 6.e.

***“Voters List”*** means a list of current Party Members and Party Supporters for the purpose of voter outreach as defined in Section 11.a.

# PART ONE

## Rules and decision-making

### 1. THE BRITISH COLUMBIA ELECTION ACT

- a. All Leadership Prospects, Applicants, Candidates and their Financial Agents are:
  - i. Subject to any and all regulations put forth in the *BC Election Act*;
  - ii. Responsible for ensuring that their Leadership campaigns adhere to any and all regulations put forth in the *BC Election Act*.
- b. In cases of discrepancy between any documents related to the Leadership Contest and the *BC Election Act*, the *BC Election Act* prevails.

### 2. BC GREEN PARTY CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

- a. All Leadership Prospects, Applicants, Candidates and their Financial Agents are:
  - i. Subject to any and all regulations put forth in the BC Green Party Constitution and By-laws;
  - ii. Responsible for ensuring that their Leadership campaigns adhere to any and all regulations put forth in the BC Green Party Constitution and By-laws.
- b. In cases of discrepancy between this document related to the Leadership Contest and the BC Green Party Constitution and By-laws, the BC Green Party Constitution and By-laws prevail.

### 3. LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE

- a. The Leadership Committee is:
  - i. A committee appointed by the Provincial Council and chaired by the Executive Director;
  - ii. Responsible for the design, administration and implementation of the Leadership Contest, including all forms and documents.
- b. The Chair of the Leadership Committee,

or their designate, will meet with each Leadership Candidate and their Financial Agent within fourteen (14) days of the acceptance of their Candidate Application to review rules and regulations associated with the Leadership Contest, including, but not limited to Leadership Contest Rules, BC Green Party privacy regulations and policies, financial reporting, and other logistical details.

- i. The Leadership Candidate is responsible for ensuring all relevant information is communicated to their Leadership Campaign.
- c. The Leadership Committee has the power to enforce the Leadership Contest Rules as needed. These powers include but are not limited to expelling Leadership Candidates from the contest, fining Leadership Candidates for non-compliance, and limiting the participation of Leadership Candidates in official events.
  - i. Enforcement decisions will be communicated to the Leadership Candidate in writing.
- d. Leadership Candidates may appeal a decision or ruling of the Leadership Committee in writing to the Chair of the Provincial Council within forty-eight (48) hours of receiving notice of the decision or ruling.
  - i. Decisions on appeals will be issued within seven (7) days of receipt of the appeal and may be made without the need for a formal meeting of the Provincial Council.
  - ii. Decisions on appeals shall be made by a majority vote of the Provincial Council. Votes may be held via email.
  - iii. All decisions on appeals or rulings of the Provincial Council in response to an appeal are final.

### 4. INSTANCES NOT COVERED BY THE LEADERSHIP CONTEST RULES

- a. In all circumstances which are not covered by the Leadership Contest Rules, the Leadership Committee will have jurisdiction to issue adjustments or rulings.

# PART TWO

## Candidacy

### 5. LEADERSHIP CANDIDATES

- a. Leadership Prospects holding an Internal Party Position must recuse themselves from any discussion related to the Leadership Contest.
- b. Leadership Prospects, Leadership Applicants and Leadership Candidates must inform the Leadership Committee of their candidacy announcement at least five (5) business days prior to the event.
- c. An individual may stand as a Leadership Candidate for the Leadership Contest if they:
  - i. Complete the Candidate Application to the satisfaction of the Leadership Committee, as outlined in Section 6;
  - ii. Are a Party Member in good standing as of the date of application;
  - iii. Are eligible for election to the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia under the BC Election Act as of the date of application;
  - iv. Uphold the Six Core Principles of the BC Green Party.
- d. A Leadership Candidate must resign from any and all Internal Party Positions within forty-eight (48) hours of receiving notice of the acceptance of their Leadership Application.
- e. A Leadership Candidate may withdraw from the contest by informing the Chair of the Leadership Committee in writing.
  - i. All fees that are due on the date of withdrawal remain due.
  - ii. The Compliance Deposit will be returned fourteen (14) days after the completion of the Leadership Contest.



# PART THREE

## Application and registration

### 6. APPLICATION

- a. Leadership Applications may be submitted to the Leadership Committee from June 26, 2020 to July 27, 2020.
- b. To apply to be a Leadership Candidate, an individual must submit the following to the Leadership Committee:
  - i. A fully completed nomination application package as approved by the Leadership Committee.
  - ii. A written nomination signed by at least one hundred (100) Party Members representing not less than five (5) electoral districts. Signatories must be Party Members in good standing when the application is submitted to the Leadership Committee.
    1. Where Nominations are collected on paper, Leadership Campaigns must submit the original paper forms as well as submit an electronic version using an online form provided by the Leadership Committee.
  - iii. A cheque or money transfer for the full amount of the Non-Refundable Application Fee as outlined in Section 7.a.i.
- c. Acceptance of a Leadership Application will be based on the Leadership Applicant's eligibility for candidacy as described in Section 5.c and compliance with the Leadership Contest Rules.
  - i. The Leadership Committee will accept or decline a Leadership Application within fifteen (15) business days of receipt.
- d. Upon acceptance by the Leadership Committee, Leadership Candidates must begin payment of remaining Fees as outlined in Section 7.
- e. A Leadership Candidate is considered Registered when:

- i. Their Leadership Application has been accepted by the Leadership Committee;
- ii. They have resigned from any and all Internal Party Positions;
- iii. They have paid the Non-Refundable Application Fee (see Section 7.a.i.);
- iv. All additional fees due at the time have been paid.

### 7. FEES

- a. The following Fees are non-negotiable for Leadership Candidates and must be paid to the BC Green Party:
  - i. Non-Refundable Application Fee: \$1,000;
  - ii. Compliance Deposit: \$2,500
    1. Due:
      - a. For new Applicants: within ten (10) days of the Leadership Application being accepted, or
      - b. For Candidates Registered before June 26, 2020: on June 26;
    2. Fines issued by the Leadership Committee for non-compliance with the Leadership Contest Rules will be deducted from the Leadership Candidate's Compliance Deposit.
    3. The Compliance Deposit less any Fines issued by the Leadership Committee will be returned to a Leadership Candidate fourteen (14) days after the completion of the Leadership Contest.
  - iii. Non-Refundable Campaign Fee of \$7,500, divided into two (2) payments:
    1. \$3,000 due on July 31, 2020; and
    2. \$4,500 due on August 31, 2020.
- b. In the case that a Leadership Candidate falls into arrears on any Fee, the Leadership Committee may suspend or prohibit their participation in the Leadership Contest.
  - i. The Leadership Committee will issue any and all warnings as it deems necessary.

# PART FOUR

## Campaigns

### 8. CAMPAIGN FINANCES

- a. The Leadership Campaign Spending Limit is \$300,000 for the duration of the Leadership Contest.
  - i. The Fees set out in Section 7.a are exempt from the Spending Limit.
- b. All expenses must be recorded in accordance with Elections BC regulations and must be reported to the BC Green Party and Elections BC as set out in the BC *Election Act*.
- c. Each Leadership Candidate must have a Financial Agent who is a Party Member. The Financial Agent is responsible for ensuring the Leadership Candidate and their Leadership Campaign follows all financial regulations set out in this document.
- d. On the first Tuesday of every month, the Leadership Candidate or Financial Agent must:
  - i. Report to the Leadership Committee a list of contributions and the contributors' Basic Contact Information received by the Leadership Campaign in the preceding calendar month;
- e. Leadership Candidates must deliver a copy of their Leadership Campaign finance report as required by the BC *Election Act* in writing to the Leadership Committee within 60 days of the completion of the Leadership Contest.
- f. Funds remaining in a Leadership Candidate's bank account after all their Leadership Campaign liabilities have been paid must be transferred to the BC Green Party.

### 9. CANDIDATE PROTOCOL

- a. All Leadership Candidates must, as part of their application package, commit to:
  - i. Abide by the Six Core Principles of the BC Green Party;
  - ii. Run a respectful campaign that engages other candidates on issues but does not use personal attacks;
  - iii. Always conduct themselves in a manner that positively portrays the BC Green Party;
  - iv. Adhere to the BC Green Party privacy policies, Code of Ethics, Code of Representative Conduct, and all other BC Green Party policies;
  - v. Ensure their Leadership Campaigns adhere to the BC Green Party's:
    - 1. Code of Ethics;
    - 2. Respectful Workplace Policy;
    - 3. Team Pledge;
    - 4. Confidentiality and Non-Disclosure Agreement.

## 10. COLLECTION, USE AND DISCLOSURE OF PERSONAL INFORMATION

- a. In the collection, use and disclosure of Personal Information, Leadership Candidates and Leadership Campaigns are bound by:
  - i. The BC *Personal Information Protection Act*;
  - ii. Any and all recommendations made by the Information and Privacy Commissioner of BC in his report entitled Full Disclosure: Political parties, campaign data, and voter consent;
  - iii. Any and all privacy policies of the BC Green Party.
- b. Leadership Candidates must transfer all Personal Information collected for the purposes of their Leadership Campaign to the BC Green Party within twenty-eight (28) days of the completion of the Leadership Contest.
- c. Leadership Candidates must destroy any and all Personal Information collected by their Leadership Campaign within thirty-five (35) days of the completion of the Leadership Contest, except where retaining Personal Information is required by law.

## 11. MEMBER AND SUPPORTER LISTS

- a. The Leadership Committee will supply Registered Leadership Candidates with up-to-date Voters Lists.
  - i. The Voters List will be provided as a Microsoft Excel file (.xlsx) and contain the following for each voter as available:
    1. Basic Contact Information;
    2. Party Member or Supporter, including expiry date if appropriate;
    3. Riding.
  - ii. An up-to-date Voters Lists will be provided to Leadership Candidates on the following dates:
    1. Upon confirmation that a Leadership Candidate is Registered;
    2. The first Tuesday of every month for the duration of the Leadership Contest.
- b. Leadership Candidates and Leadership Campaigns are encouraged to register new Party Members and Party Supporters.
  - i. All Party-Member and Party-Supporter registrations including applicable fees must be processed directly by the BC Green Party provincial office.
  - ii. Leadership Campaigns may retain a copy of the registration information of new Party Members or Party Supporters.

## 12. LEADERSHIP EVENTS

- a. The Leadership Committee will hold one (1) official Leadership Contest debate.
  - i. The debate will be broadcast online so that Party Members, Party Supporters and the general public can participate and learn about the Leadership Candidates.
- b. The Leadership Committee may hold additional official Leadership Contest events as deemed necessary.
- c. All approved Leadership Candidates must make every effort to attend official Leadership Contest events and must do so at their own expense.
- d. Leadership Candidates are encouraged, but not required, to attend events organized by BC Green Party riding associations (RAs) and other external groups.
  - i. RAs must give equal notice, consideration and opportunity to all Leadership Candidates.
- e. Official Leadership Contest events and events organized by RAs may not occur on days when the Legislative Assembly of BC is sitting.
- f. Any and all in-person leadership events and activities are obligated to follow the Provincial Health Officer's directives.

# PART FIVE

## Leadership Vote

### 13. ELECTORATE

- a. All Party Members in good standing and Party Supporters as of September 2, 2020 are eligible to participate in the Leadership Vote.
- b. A Party Supporter is any individual who:
  - i. Is 16 years or older on the first day of the Leadership Vote (see 14.a.);
  - ii. Is either a Canadian citizen or permanent resident;
  - iii. Has resided in British Columbia for a minimum of six months prior to the first day of the Leadership Vote (see 14.a.);
  - iv. Has registered with the BC Green Party as a Party Supporter;
  - v. Strives to uphold the BC Green Party Constitution and must comply with the Bylaws, Rules, Codes of Conduct and Policies;
  - vi. Is not a member or supporter of any other provincial political party in British Columbia.

### 14. VOTING

- a. The Leadership Vote will begin at 1:00 PM (Pacific time) on September 5, 2020 and end at 11:59 PM (Pacific time) on September 13, 2020.
  - i. The results of the Leadership Vote will be announced on September 14, 2020.
- b. The election of the Leader will use a one-voter, one-vote system.
  - i. In the case of there being two Leadership Candidates, the Leadership Vote will be conducted by first-past-the-post.
  - ii. In the case that there are more than two Leadership Candidates, the Leadership Vote will be conducted by ranked ballot.
- c. In the case of only one Leadership Candidate by the deadline for Leadership Applications, then that Leadership Candidate is acclaimed Leader and no further election process will be held.
  - i. In the case of acclamation, all Fees must be paid before the acclamation is announced.
- d. Voting will be primarily conducted by online ballot, but a telephone ballot option will also be available in the case that a Party Member or Supporter is not able to vote online.
- e. The Leadership Committee must appoint an impartial Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) who is responsible for ensuring the integrity of the Leadership Vote.
  - i. The CEO may not be a sitting member of the Provincial Council.
  - ii. The CEO will be barred from sitting on the Leadership Committee.

# APPENDIX I:

## Members of the Legislative Assembly

In the case that a Leadership Candidate is a Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) of BC, they must adhere to the following rules:

1. MLAs must remember that although they are running for leadership of the party, they are foremost MLAs with obligations to their constituents and to upholding the Confidence and Supply Agreement (CASA).
  - a. Leadership Candidates must prioritize sittings of the Legislative Assembly over Leadership Campaign events.
2. Leadership Candidates who hold official Caucus roles (House Leader/Whip/Caucus Chair, etc.) may not let their Leadership Campaign interfere with their caucus roles.
3. Leadership Candidates are prohibited from using any legislative resources for their Leadership Campaign. This includes but is not limited to staff time, office space, IT equipment, video footage, and travel funding.
  - a. Leadership Candidates are prohibited from using MLA or legislative resources to advantage them in the leadership contest.
4. The BC Green Caucus may develop additional rules for MLAs.
5. In the case that a Leadership Candidate is elected to office in another jurisdiction or at another level of government, the spirit of the above rules applies.
  - a. In cases of uncertainty, the Leadership Committee will provide clarity.

# APPENDIX II:

## Internal Party Positions

- 1. Provincial Council, Leadership Committee, staff and contractors**
  - a. Members of the Provincial Council, members of the Leadership Committee, and employees and contractors of the BC Green Party must remain impartial during the Leadership Contest and may not actively support a Leadership Candidate or Leadership Campaign.
- 2. Riding associations and their Executives**
  - a. Riding Associations (RAs) or RA Executives must remain impartial during the Leadership Contest and may not actively support a Leadership Candidate or Leadership Campaign.
  - b. Members of the Executive of a Riding Association may support a Leadership Candidate or Leadership Campaign as an individual Party Member.
    1. RA Executive Members supporting a Leadership Candidate or Leadership Campaign may not use their RA, RA Executive or their position on the RA Executive to influence the Electorate.

# APPENDIX III:

## Important dates

All Sections cited in this appendix refer the Leadership Contest Rules.

<b>June 15, 2020</b>	Registered Candidates may re-commence their campaigning. Updated 2020 BCGP Leadership Contest Rules and Applicant inquiry form online at <a href="http://bcgreens.ca/leadership_2020">bcgreens.ca/leadership_2020</a> .
<b>June 26 - July 27, 2020</b>	Leadership Applications may be submitted (as per Section 6.a).
<b>August 21, 2020 11:59 PM (PST)</b>	Deadline to become a Party Member or Supporter for voting by telephone in the Leadership Vote.
<b>September 1, 2020</b>	Official Leadership Contest debate hosted by the BC Green Party.
<b>September 2, 2020 11:59 PM (PST)</b>	Deadline to become a Party Member or Supporter for voting online in the Leadership Vote.
<b>September 5, 2020 1:00 PM (PST)</b>	Voting in the Leadership Contest opens (as per Section 14.a).
<b>September 13, 2020 11:59 PM (PST)</b>	Voting in the leadership contest closes (as per Section 14.a).
<b>September 14, 2020</b>	Results of the leadership contest announced (as per Section 14.a.i).
<b>September 28, 2020</b>	Compliance deposits returned to Leadership Candidates (as per Section 7.a.ii.2).
<b>October 12, 2020</b>	Deadline to transfer all Personal Information collected by a Leadership Campaign to the BC Green Party (as per Section 10.b).
<b>October 19, 2020</b>	Deadline to destroy all Personal Information collected by a Leadership Campaign (as per Section 10.c).
<b>November 13, 2020</b>	Financial reports due to the BC Green Party (as per Section 8.e).
<b>December 13, 2020</b>	Financial reports due to Elections BC.