

**Constitution of the Alberta New Democratic Party**



## **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, who shall accept or reject the application.

2.03 Should an application be rejected by the Provincial Secretary, the applicant shall be entitled to appeal the decision to the President. Such an appeal shall be filed in writing no later than fourteen days following notification of the Provincial Secretary's rejection. The decision of the President shall be final.

2.04 No application for membership from an individual denied membership as set out in Articles 2.02 and 2.03 shall be entertained for a period of one year.

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

2.06 (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.

(i) Any donation to the Alberta NDP over \$10.00 in the year(s) following the purchase of an approved Alberta NDP membership shall be deemed to be a valid membership renewal for that calendar 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.

2.07 Only members in good standing shall have the following rights:

(a) to be elected to the Party Executive;

(b) to be elected as a member of the executive of a Constituency Association;

(c) to be elected as a delegate to any New Democratic Convention or Council meeting;

(d) to vote at a nomination meeting in their 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 10.04;

(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 they are a member.

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2.08 The membership fees shall be established by resolution of either Provincial Council or Provincial Convention.

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

2.10 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.

2.11 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 Alberta;

(ii) the provincial or regional section of an international or national organization with members in Alberta;

(iii) a local group or organization, with members in Alberta;

(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 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 be deemed to be the Convention for that following year, unless Provincial Council decides otherwise.

3.03 At least one hundred and twenty (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.

3.04 Resolutions for submission to a Provincial Convention must be received by the Provincial Secretary not later than ninety (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.

3.05 (a) The Provincial Council may, by a two-thirds majority vote, call a Special Provincial Convention; and

(b) shall do so within sixty (60) days if requested by two thirds of the constituency associations, representing at least 50 per cent of the provincial membership.

3.06 (a) Thirty (30) days written notice of such a Special Convention shall be given by the Provincial Secretary to those eligible for representation.

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

3.07 Resolutions may be submitted by:

(a) a provincial Constituency Association;

(b) any organization affiliated with the New Democratic Party of Canada and eligible for representation at a Provincial Convention;

(c) the Provincial Council and its policy committees, including the Policy Development Committee;

(d) the Provincial Executive;

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- (e) a Caucus of the Party
- (f) special Committees of Convention;
- (g) a Federal Electoral District Association.

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 3.04. 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 there 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 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 electoral districts;
- (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) members of the party from each of the following affiliated organizations:
  - (i) four (4) Delegates from the Alberta Federation of Labour;
  - (ii) four (4) Delegates from each provincial or regional organization with members in Alberta;
  - (iii) four (4) Delegates from each provincial or regional section of an international or national organization with members in Alberta;
  - (iv) four (4) Delegates from each local group or organization with members in Alberta;
- (g) fifteen (15) Delegates from each Caucus of the party;
- (h) from each Federal Electoral District Association, six (6) members;
- (i) all honorary life members.

4.03 Provincial Constituency Associations, federal Electoral District 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 diversity 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 their body for whatever reason, that body may appoint one of its alternate delegates to take their 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 Caucuses of the Party;
  - (vi) the Alberta representatives on the Federal Council of the New Democratic Party (of Canada);
  - (vii) the Party caucus in the Alberta Legislative Assembly;
- (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 the executive of the Party.

### **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 the 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 Table Officers elected by Provincial Convention, and having voice and vote at all executive meetings, at least 50% of whom shall be women:
  - (i) the President;
  - (ii) the Treasurer;
  - (iii) the First Vice-President;
  - (iv) the Second Vice-President;
  - (v) two Labour Vice Presidents to be elected by the Labour Caucus and ratified by Provincial Convention.
- (c) To be eligible to be an Officer, a person must:
  - (i) be a member in good standing with the Party;
  - (ii) be nominated by at least two members in good standing with the Party;
  - (iii) have informed the Provincial Secretary of their intent to run for the position no later than twenty-one (21) days prior to Provincial Convention;
  - (iv) be willing, for information purposes only, to consent to a vetting process as established by Provincial Council.
- (d) The following executive members elected by Provincial Convention, and having voice and vote at all Executive meetings:
  - (i) ten General Vice-Presidents, two (at least one of which shall be a woman) from each region as follows: Southern Alberta, Central Alberta, Northern Alberta, Calgary, Edmonton.
  - (ii) one Past President, who shall be the person who filled the position of President in the immediately previous term, provided that person does not hold another executive position independent of this role; and
  - (iii) one representative of each Caucus of the Party, to be selected by the Caucus they represent.
- (e) And, having voice but no vote:
  - (i) a representative of the Party Caucus in the Alberta Legislature, as determined by the legislative caucus;
  - (ii) all members of the Council of the New Democratic Party (of Canada) residing in Alberta;

6.02 There shall be gender parity within each of the multiple positions elected by Convention; gender parity shall be defined as at least 50% of positions being held by those identifying as female where there is an even number of officers, and a difference of only one between the representation of those not identifying as female and any other genders where there is an odd number of officers.

6.03 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.

6.04 The Provincial Secretary shall be the chief administrative officer and chief financial officer of the Party and shall be appointed by the Provincial Executive on recommendation of the Table Officers.

6.05 Vacancies in the Provincial Executive shall be filled in the following manner:

- (a) Should the position of Leader become vacant between Conventions, the Provincial Council may, after consultation with the Caucus in the Legislative Assembly, appoint an Acting Leader to serve until such time as a Convention for the purpose of electing a new Leader can be convened. Such a convention shall be called at the earliest possible opportunity.
- (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 Second Vice-President, Treasurer, or General Vice President fall vacant between Conventions, the position shall be filled by election at the next meeting of the Provincial Council, subject to Article 6.01.

6.06 The Executive shall consist of the Provincial Executive Officers.

6.07 The Executive shall conduct and administer the affairs and business of the Party between Provincial Council meetings.

6.08 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.

- 6.09 (a) At all meetings of the Executive, ten voting members shall constitute a quorum.  
(b) If a Table Officer, 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;
- (b) two (2) members to be elected from the Party Caucus in the Legislative Assembly of Alberta;
- (c) one (1) member elected by those members of the Party caucus in the House of Commons representing Alberta Electoral Districts.
- (d) three (3) members elected from each provincial Constituency Association;
- (e) one (1) member elected from each Federal Electoral District Association within the Province of Alberta.
- (f) the members of the Federal Council residing in Alberta;
- (g) five (5) members from each caucus of the Party;
- (h) two (2) members of the Alberta Federation of Labour; and
- (i) one (1) member from each of the affiliates in Alberta.

7.02 Provincial Council shall meet at least twice a year at the call of the Executive.

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, outstanding resolutions to Provincial Council (with the exception of constitutional amendments). 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 meetings of the Provincial Council, one-third of the registered members shall constitute a quorum, with a minimum of 20 registered members.

### **Article VIII - Caucuses of the Party**

- 8.01 (a) The purpose of the caucuses is to be a vehicle for like-minded individuals to discuss, debate and promote their area of interest.  
(b) The current Caucuses of the Party are:
  - (i) New Democratic Youth of Alberta
  - (ii) Women's
  - (iii) Indigenous Peoples
  - (iv) Environment

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- (v) Gender and Sexual Diversity
- (vi) Rural
- (vii) Labour
- (viii) Race Equity
- (ix) disAbility Caucus

8.02 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.

- 8.03 (a) Provincial Convention may, by a 2/3 majority, vote in favour on a motion moved for this purpose by the Provincial Executive, to approve the constitution of the group as a Caucus.
- (b) Any group applying for status as a Caucus of the Party, shall as a condition of its application, set out in its proposal to Provincial Convention:
- (i) the nature of its identifiable community of interest, and
  - (ii) the qualifications for membership in the Caucus.

8.04 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.

8.05 The Caucuses 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.

8.06 Membership shall be open to any Alberta resident who is a member of the Party and who qualifies as a member according to the Constitution of that Caucus.

8.07 The Caucuses of the Party shall file with the Provincial Secretary a copy of their Constitution and all amendments or additions thereto.

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

### **Article IX - Federal Electoral District Associations**

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

### **Article X - Provincial Constituency Associations**

10.01 In every provincial constituency there shall be a Provincial Constituency Association.

10.02 All officers of Constituency Associations shall be individual members in good standing of the party.

10.03 All individual 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 10.04.

10.04 Provincial constituency associations may admit to membership a member of the Party in good standing who does not reside in their constituency. The Constituency Executive shall then notify the Provincial Executive and the Constituency Executive of the member's residence of a transfer of membership. Such transfer entitles the transferred member to all rights and privileges of membership in the constituency association to which that member 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 that member resides.



### **Article XI - Provincial Constituency Association Bylaws**

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

### **Article XII – Nomination Contests**

12.01 Nomination meetings shall be governed by the rules in place as per Appendix B.

12.02 If a constituency has not held a nomination meeting by the campaign period, or a candidate resigns, the Table Officers may waive notification requirements laid out in Appendix B to ensure a candidate is placed by the close of nominations with Elections Alberta.

12.03 The Table Officers shall create a policy for approval by Provincial Council preceding each general election to ensure that at least 50% of all nominated candidates identify as women and that other equity seeking groups are appropriately represented.

- (a) The goal of this policy shall be gender parity in the Legislative Caucus with appropriate representation of other equity seeking groups.
- (b) The Table Officers may waive this policy if a candidate resigns in the campaign period and before the close of nominations with Elections Alberta.
- (c) The policy may allow the Table Officers to deem a non-equity candidate ineligible to contest a nomination if their nomination would result in the party not meeting its equity requirements.
- (d) The Table Officers will report on the policy to provincial council following each provincial election.

### **Article XIII - Local Organizations**

13.01 Six or more members in any locality, or two constituency associations 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, provided that for the purpose of election campaigns, members of all clubs in the provincial constituencies shall act through their constituency organizations.

13.02 Every club formed as per Article 12.01 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 of the Party. All club by-laws, and all amendments, must have the approval of the Provincial Executive, and no by-laws, or amendments, shall be valid without such approval.

### **Article XIV - Financial Accounts**

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

14.02 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, in accordance with the Elections Act.

### **Article XV - Accountability of New Democrat MLAs & Elected Officials**

15.01 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 XVI - Discipline**

16.01 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.

16.02 A complaint may be lodged with the Provincial President and any member or constituted body of the Party alleging:

- (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.

16.03 Satisfaction must first have been sought under existing Party procedures, including the anti-harassment policy, and rules of the appropriate organizations before a complaint will be received by the President.

16.04 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.

16.05 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 the President's place.

16.06 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 fourteen (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.

16.07 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.

16.08 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 (14) days of the hearing date.

16.09 Any person disciplined under 15.08 shall have the right to appeal to the next Provincial Convention; however, any penalty imposed by Council shall stand until overruled by such Convention.

### **Article XVII - Financial Year**

17.01 The financial year shall end on December 31.

### **Article XVIII - Amendments**

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

18.02 The Provincial Secretary of the Party shall maintain a copy of this Constitution and may correct spelling and renumber as required following final ratification of the Constitution at 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 panel chair 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.

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

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

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, that delegate 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 shall put the question thus: "Shall the decision of the Chair be sustained?". The Chairperson may make an explanation of their 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 the delegate 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 numbered 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) 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 6.08 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.
- (d) 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 candidates identifying as female who receive the largest number of votes, and the remaining positions shall be filled by the candidates identifying as male who receive the largest number of votes amongst those candidates identifying as male.
  - (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;
- (e) each candidate will be allowed two scrutineers at each counting station.
- (f) The order of elections shall be:
  - (i) President
  - (ii) Treasurer
  - (iii) First Vice-President
  - (iv) Second Vice-President
  - (v) 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 Policy Development Committee without creating a situation where there is protracted debate on the order of resolutions.

1. The Chair of the Policy Development Committee, shall move acceptance of the order of debate of resolutions set out in the Convention Booklet. That motion shall be non-debatable.
2. Appeals to the order of resolutions may be heard in plenary following adoption of the agenda.
3. The sponsor of the change shall advise the chair of their intention to challenge the order presented by the Policy Development Committee and shall present the change as an amendment to the order of debate. There shall be no more than one speaker for each amendment, who shall have up to two minutes to present.
4. The Policy Development Committee shall have a maximum of two minutes to present the committee's rationale for the order.
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 changes have been heard, the Convention Chair shall call the question on the order of debate of resolutions, including any amendments. Amendments to alter the order of debate which have not been heard shall not be in order.

## APPENDIX B

### REQUIRED STANDARD BYLAWS

#### 1. Membership

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

#### 2. Federal Electoral District Associations

In all matters relating to federal Electoral District 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;
- (iv) A youth representative between the ages of 14 and 30, who would have liaising with the NDYA as part of their duties.

(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 Nomination 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 thirty (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 fourteen (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) have informed the Provincial Secretary of their intent to run for the position no later than 21 days 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 Provincial Secretary 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, they 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 they need not reveal to the meeting whether they 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 to 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.