

## **RULES OF ORDER FOR THE JUNE 18, 2011, EXTRAORDINARY CONVENTION**

In accordance with subsection 66(5) of the Constitution of the Liberal Party of Canada, the following rules have been adopted by the National Management Committee as the rules of order governing the proceedings at the June 18, 2011, Extraordinary Convention.

### **1. PRELIMINARY**

#### **1.1 Definitions and interpretation.** In these Rules:

- (a) “Chair” mean the chair of the Convention appointed by the National Board of Directors;
- (b) “Convention” means the Extraordinary Convention of the Liberal Party of Canada set for June 18, 2011;
- (c) “Convention Organizing Committee” means the convention organizing committee composed of the members of the National Management Committee and the Chair;
- (d) “Convention Returning Officer” means the person appointed by the National Board of Directors for the Convention under subsection 66(3) of the National Constitution;
- (e) “National Constitution” means the Constitution of the Liberal Party of Canada;
- (f) “Registered delegate” is a person entitled to be a delegate in accordance with the National Constitution and the Party Bylaw on rules of procedure for the election of delegates and who has paid the appropriate registration fee.

**1.2 Definitions in National Constitution.** Any terms that are not defined in these Rules but are defined in the National Constitution have the meaning assigned in the National Constitution.

**1.3 Agenda.** The Convention will be conducted in a telephone conference on Saturday, June 18, 2011, beginning at 3:00 p.m. (Ottawa local time) and the official agenda of the Convention is:

- (a) the report of the Interim Leader required to discharge the responsibility of the Leader under paragraph 48(d) of the National Constitution;
- (b) consideration of the proposed amendments to the National Constitution that appear on the public website of the Party and any sub-amendments proposed in accordance with these Rules.

**1.4 Supplementary rules of order.** The Chair may, except to the extent that it is inconsistent with the National Constitution and these Rules, rely on the *code Morin* or on the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order* for guidance in the conduct of the Convention and as a source of authority for the Chair's directions.

1.5 **Amendment of rules and agenda.** These Rules and the official agenda of the Convention may not be amended and are not subject to suspension except by resolution at the Convention passed by not less than 90% of the votes cast.

1.6 **Official languages.** The official languages of Canada, English and French, are the official languages of the Convention. The Chair must ensure that substantially the same announcements are made in both official languages. Published proceedings and official releases must be in both languages. The Convention Organizing Committee is responsible to provide facilities for the translation in the other official language of any oral announcements made by the Chair and other oral official proceedings of the Convention. The Convention Organizing Committee must also ensure that all written official proceedings and official releases of the Convention are in both official languages.

1.7 **Chair.** The Chair has the right to preside during all official proceedings of the Convention. The Chair has the right to interpret and enforce these Rules and to decide all questions of order and any other matters, subject to an appeal without debate to the Convention. The Chair may delegate some or all of the Chair's authority.

1.8 **Voting.** Voting on all questions will be conducted by the pressing of keys on the telephones of the participants in the manner indicated by the Chair and approved by the Chair and the Convention Returning Officer. The results of these votes as tabulated, under the supervision of the Convention Returning Officer, by the telephone conference service provider appointed by the National Management Committee will be conclusive evidence of such results.

1.9 **Motion to reconsider.** A motion to reconsider is not permitted.

1.10 **Rights of participation.** Only registered delegates may vote at the Convention and, except as permitted by the Chair, only registered delegates may speak at the Convention.

1.11 **Sub-amendments.** An amendment to either of the Constitutional Proposals is not permitted except as follows (which are referred to as "Sub-amendments"):

- (a) if the amendment (i) does not, in the opinion of the Chair, make the proposed change to the National Constitution greater than that contained in the Constitutional Proposal, (ii) is made in writing by the sponsor of the Constitutional Proposal and (iii) is received by the Party before noon (Ottawa local time) on Friday, June 17, 2011, at the email address notified on the public website of the Party;
- (b) if the amendment (i) does not, in the opinion of the Chair, make the proposed change to the National Constitution greater than that contained in the Constitutional Proposal, (ii) is received by the Party before noon (Ottawa local time) on Friday, June 17, 2011, at the email address notified on the public website of the Party and (iii) is unequivocally supported in emails sent to that address by at least 25 registered delegates from the email address of that delegate registered with the Party Office;

- (c) the amendment is one which, in the opinion of the Chair or the Constitutional and Legal Advisers, corrects a drafting or typographical error or deficiency in a manner consistent with the original intention of the Constitutional Proposal.

A Sub-amendment is passed by a simple majority of the votes cast by registered delegates.

**1.12 Order of proposals.** Subject to the discretion of the Chair, the proposed amendments to the National Constitution that appear on the public website of the Party (the “Constitutional Proposals”) will be put to and dealt with in the order that they appear on the public website of the Party.

**1.13 Proposals properly moved.** Each of the Constitutional Proposals will be announced by the Chair and is deemed to be properly moved and seconded.

**1.14 Consideration of Sub-amendments.** If there are any Sub-amendments to a Constitutional Proposal, then those Sub-amendments will be dealt with, after the Constitutional Proposal has been announced, in the order determined by the Chair.

**1.15 Introductory presentation by sponsor.** The Chair may allow one registered delegate who is an authorized representative of the sponsor of a Sub-amendment up to four minutes to explain or clarify the proposal.

**1.16 Presentation by Constitutional and Legal Adviser.** The Chair may allow one of the Constitutional and Legal Advisers a reasonable time after the introductory presentation or during any debate to comment on technical aspects of a Sub-amendment.

**1.17 Related but contradictory Sub-amendments.** If two or more Sub-amendments are, in the opinion of the Chair, related to substantially the same matter but are contradictory (“Contradictory Sub-amendments”), then they must be considered and debated together. The Chair will allow a presentation by a representative of the sponsor of each of the Contradictory Sub-amendments and a presentation (if any) of one of the Constitutional and Legal Advisers before inviting delegates to speak in a debate. In the debate, the Chair may increase the number of speakers in proportion to the number of proposals being considered together.

**1.18 Debate.** After the presentation by a representative of the sponsor of a Sub-amendment or the sponsors of Contradictory Sub-amendments (as the case may be) and the presentation (if any) of a Constitutional and Legal Adviser, the Chair must invite the delegates to speak in a debate. In the debate, speakers may speak for up to one minute each. Only registered delegates will be recognized as speakers. A delegate (except the representative of the sponsor) may speak only once to any proposal. A registered delegate wishing to speak to the Convention must so indicate in the manner announced by the Chair and must give his or her name and electoral district, club, commission or other affiliation or status. The Chair must recognize speakers debating a proposal, alternating between those in favour and those opposed. The Chair may, at any time, limit the number of speakers debating resolutions to two speakers in favour of the proposal and two speakers opposed to the proposal and may limit the time for each speaker to one minute. This process is subject to the discretion of the Chair.

**1.19 Sense of Convention in continuing debate.** After no fewer than 10 minutes of debate (assuming there are still delegates who wish to speak), the Chair must ask the registered

delegates at the Convention if they wish to continue the debate or vote immediately on the Sub-amendment without further debate. If a simple majority of the votes cast by registered delegates are in favour of continuing the debate, then the debate will continue for a period determined by the Chair but otherwise the Sub-amendment will immediately be put to a vote and there will be no further debate.

1.20 **Voting.** After the conclusion of debate, the Sub-amendment will be put to a vote.

1.21 **Voting on related but Contradictory Sub-amendments.** Voting on Contradictory Sub-amendments will be conducted as follows:

- (a) Each delegate will be asked to vote for one (and only one) of the Contradictory Sub-amendments, and the Contradictory Sub-amendment receiving the least number of votes will be eliminated and a new run-off vote taken until such time as one of the Contradictory Sub-amendments (the “Preferred Contradictory Sub-amendment”) obtains a simple majority of the votes cast.
- (b) There will be no further debate between the run-off votes.
- (c) The Preferred Contradictory Sub-amendment will go forward to a full vote, which will proceed forthwith without further debate, and which requires a simple majority of the votes cast in order to be passed.

1.22 **Withdrawal of Sub-amendment.** If a sponsor of a Sub-amendment wishes to withdraw such proposal, an authorized representative of the sponsor may make a request to that effect to the Chair. The Chair must ask the registered delegates at the Convention if the proposal may be withdrawn. If 25% of the votes cast by registered delegates are in favour of the withdrawal, then the Sub-amendment will be withdrawn.

1.23 **Consideration of Constitutional Proposal as amended.** After all Sub-amendments on a Constitutional Proposal which have not been withdrawn have been debated and voted on, then the Convention must consider the Constitutional Proposal as it may have been amended.

1.24 **Introductory presentation by National Board of Directors.** The Chair may allow a member of the National Board of Directors a reasonable time to explain or clarify the Constitutional Proposal.

1.25 **Debate.** After the presentation by the member of the National Board of Directors, the Chair must invite the delegates to speak in a debate. In the debate, speakers may speak for up to one minute each. Only registered delegates will be recognized as speakers. A delegate (except the representative of the sponsor) may speak only once to any proposal. A registered delegate wishing to speak to the Convention must so indicate in the manner announced by the Chair and must give his or her name and electoral district, club, commission or other affiliation or status. The Chair must recognize speakers debating a proposal, alternating between those in favour and those opposed. The Chair may, at any time, limit the number of speakers debating resolutions to two speakers in favour of the proposal and two speakers opposed to the proposal and may limit the time for each speaker to one minute. This process is subject to the discretion of the Chair.

1.26 **Sense of Convention in continuing debate.** After no fewer than 10 minutes of debate (assuming there are still delegates who wish to speak), the Chair must ask the registered delegates at the Convention if they wish to continue the debate or vote immediately on the Sub-amendment without further debate. If a simple majority of the votes cast by registered delegates are in favour of continuing the debate, then the debate will continue for a period determined by the Chair but otherwise the Sub-amendment will immediately be put to a vote and there will be no further debate.

1.27 **Voting.** After the conclusion of debate, the Constitutional Proposal as amended will be put to a vote.<sup>1</sup>

1.28 **Effective date of proposals.** In the absence of an express provision to the contrary, any Constitutional Proposal adopted at the Convention becomes effective at the close of this Convention.

1.29 **Adjournment.** The Chair may adjourn and reconvene the Convention at the Chair's discretion.

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1 Subsection 76(1) of the National Constitution provides that the proposal is adopted if passed by not less than two-thirds of the votes cast.