

**Rules for Constitution and Policy Discussions**  
**Conservative Party of Canada Convention 2008**



August 2008  
Revised October 2008

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 The following rules and procedures for the policy and constitution discussions at Convention 2008 have been adopted by the National Council of the Conservative Party of Canada.

## **2. DEFINITIONS**

- 2.1 “amendment” means an amendment provided for in these Rules to a constitutional resolution;
- 2.2 “Party” means the Conservative Party of Canada;
- 2.3 “Constitution” means the Constitution of the Conservative Party of Canada;
- 2.4 “constitutional resolution” means a proposed addition to, revision of or deletion from the text of the Constitution, duly submitted and compiled pursuant to these Rules;
- 2.5 “electoral district association” means an electoral district association of the Party;
- 2.6 “Executive Director” means the Executive Director of the Party;
- 2.7 “handout ballot” means a written ballot by which the delegates will vote for certain constitutional or policy resolutions rather than by voting at Plenary;
- 2.8 “National Constitution Committee” means the constitution committee established pursuant to Article 16.5 of the Constitution;
- 2.9 “National Policy Committee” means the policy committee established pursuant to Article 13.1 of the Constitution;
- 2.10 “Plenary” means the plenary sessions of all delegates to be held on Saturday, November 15, 2008;
- 2.11 “Policy and Constitution Committee” means the policy and constitution subcommittee of the Convention Committee;
- 2.12 “Policy Declaration” means the Policy Declaration as approved at the 2005 Convention;
- 2.13 “policy resolution” means a proposed addition to, revision of or deletion from the text of the Policy Declaration, duly submitted by an electoral district association or the National Caucus and as compiled by the National Policy Committee;
- 2.14 “resolution” means a constitutional resolution or a policy resolution to be proposed to the Convention;
- 2.15 “Rules Committee” means the rules subcommittee of the Convention Committee.

### **3. CONSTITUTIONAL RESOLUTIONS**

- 3.1 Given that the final consultation phase originally set for September and October 2008 was overtaken by the federal election, the package of constitutional resolutions to go forward for consideration at Convention 2008 shall be based on submissions that were made to the National Constitution Committee by members of the Party and electoral district associations in the prior consultative phase of that Committee, and shall contain as well additional resolutions prepared by or on behalf of National Council.
- 3.2 Pursuant to Article 16.3 of the Constitution, the package of constitutional resolutions to go forward for consideration at Convention 2008 shall be posted on the public website of the Party no later than November 5, 2008.
- 3.3 The posting of the text referred to in section 3.2 does not preclude National Council from proposing further resolutions. Any further resolutions proposed by National Council shall also be posted forthwith on the public website of the Party in both official languages.
- 3.4 The Policy and Constitution Committee in consultation with the Rules Committee may determine that one or more of constitutional resolutions shall be voted on via a hand-out ballot rather than at workshop and Plenary.

### **4. POLICY RESOLUTIONS**

- 4.1 In accordance with the process outlined by the National Policy Committee, no policy resolutions may be considered at Convention other than what is provided for in sections 4.2 to 4.4.
- 4.2 The National Policy Committee may bring new resolutions to the policy break-out workshops at Convention as it sees fit.
- 4.3 Given that the final consultation phase originally set for August and September 2008 was overtaken by the federal election, the package of policy resolutions to go forward for consideration at Convention 2008 shall be based on submissions that were made to the National Policy Committee in the prior consultative phase of that Committee.
- 4.4 The top 20 - 25 policy resolutions in each of the three policy streams, as determined by the rankings given by the democratically-elected National Policy Committee, shall be considered by delegates at the policy breakout workshops as set out in section 6 for possible consideration at Plenary.
- 4.5 The Policy and Constitution Committee in consultation with the Rules Committee may determine that one or more of policy resolutions shall be voted on via a hand-out ballot rather than at workshop and Plenary.

## **5. CONSTITUTIONAL BREAK-OUT WORKSHOP**

- 5.1 On Friday, November 14, 2008, there will be a constitutional break-out workshop with a Moderator who will be assisted by a parliamentarian and a recording clerk.
- 5.2 Delegates, alternate delegates and member observers may attend the constitutional breakout workshop. However, only delegates will be permitted to speak and vote. Anyone else who attempts to speak or vote, and anyone who attempts to disrupt the proceedings in any way, may be required to leave the room. Delegates shall be given priority in seating.
- 5.3 Delegates, alternate delegates and member observers are responsible for accessing the simultaneous interpretation facilities.
- 5.4 Resolutions which are, pursuant to section 3.4 of these Rules, to be voted on via a handout ballot, may be discussed at the constitutional break-out workshop as time allows in the discretion of the Moderator, but will proceed to the vote via handout ballot without a vote at the workshop.

[Note: Section 2 provides that in these Rules, “amendment” means an amendment provided for in these Rules to a constitutional resolution]

- 5.5 Subject to the discretion of the Moderator, there shall be no amendments proposed or considered to a constitutional resolution and in any event no amendments may be proposed or considered in relation to a constitutional resolution being voted on via a handout ballot.
- 5.6 Subject to the discretion of the Moderator in light of time constraints or otherwise, constitutional resolutions to be put to a vote at the workshop will proceed in the order designated by the agenda in the following manner:
  - 5.6.1 In the case of a constitutional resolution originally suggested to the National Constitution Committee by one or more particular electoral district associations, a delegate agreed to by those electoral district associations or recognized by the Moderator will be provided with up to one minute to introduce it.
  - 5.6.2 A delegate designated by each of National Council and the National Constitution Committee to deal with the resolution may be recognized by the Moderator and provided with up to one minute each to give a technical commentary or perspective on the resolution.
  - 5.6.3 Subject to debate and vote on any amendment in accordance with section 5.7, the debate on the constitutional resolution will begin with up to one additional speaker in favour and up to two speakers against in an order to be determined by the Moderator. Each speaker may take no more than one minute. To ensure balanced debate, the Moderator may shorten or lengthen the time and vary the number of speakers.
  - 5.6.4 The Moderator may call a vote on a resolution at any time the Moderator believes the debate has reached a conclusion or that all relevant aspects of the issue have been raised.

- 5.7 Where an amendment to a resolution will be considered and put to a vote in the discretion of the Moderator, the Moderator shall allow a reasonable opportunity for debate of the amendment. Where an amendment is supported by more than 50% of the delegates present and voting, the resolution shall proceed as amended.
- 5.8 Voting on constitutional resolutions and amendments will be done by delegates by a show of authorized voting cards. The Moderator's determination as to the results of any vote is binding.
- 5.9 Subject to section 5.4, only those constitutional resolutions which receive an affirmative vote by a majority of delegates voting in the break-out workshop will be listed on the agenda for Plenary.
- 5.10 An affirmative vote on a resolution at a workshop shall not constitute approval, approval in principle or any sort of approval by the delegates of the substance of the resolution but rather shall only constitute the will of the delegates at the workshop that the resolution may be placed on the agenda of the Plenary for further consideration. Contradictory/incompatible resolutions may go forward from the break-out workshop to Plenary and will be considered at Plenary in the order set out on the Plenary agenda with a notation as to the related procedural implications resulting from voting on those resolutions.
- 5.12 In order to guide setting the agenda for Plenary, all delegates present at the end of the break-out workshop may, at the request of the National Policy and Constitution Committee, be provided with a form to list up to five resolutions which received a majority vote at the workshop and which, in their view, should be considered as priority for listing on the agenda of Plenary.

## **6. POLICY BREAK-OUT WORKSHOPS**

- 6.1 Policy resolutions to be debated at the policy break-out workshops have been categorized by the National Policy Committee into three streams so break-out workshops can operate simultaneously. Each stream deals with a different broad subject matter or collection of subject matters.
- 6.2 Each break-out workshop will have Co-Moderators who will be assisted by a parliamentarian and a recording clerk.
- 6.3 Delegates, alternate delegates and member observers may attend any policy break-out workshop or combination of policy break-out workshops. However, only delegates will be permitted to speak and vote. Anyone else who attempts to speak or vote, and anyone who attempts to disrupt the proceedings in any way, may be required to leave the room. Delegates shall be given priority in seating.
- 6.4 Delegates, alternate delegates and member observers are responsible for accessing the simultaneous interpretation facilities.
- 6.5 Subject to the discretion of the Moderator in light of time constraints or otherwise, policy resolutions will proceed in the order designated by the agenda in the following manner:

- 6.5.1 In the case of a policy resolution proposed by one or more electoral district associations, a delegate agreed to by those electoral district associations or recognized by the Moderator will be provided with up to one minute to introduce it; and,
  - 6.5.2 A caucus member appointed to deal with the resolution will be recognized by the Moderator and provided with up to one minute to give a caucus commentary or perspective on the resolution; or,
  - 6.5.3 In the case of a policy resolution proposed by caucus, a delegate designated by caucus will be recognized by the Moderator and provided with up to one minute to introduce it.
  - 6.5.4 The debate on the policy resolution will continue with one additional speaker in favour and up to two speakers against in an order to be determined by the Moderator. Each speaker may take no more than one minute. To ensure balanced debate, the Moderator may shorten or lengthen the time and vary the number of speakers.
  - 6.5.5 The Moderator may call a vote on a resolution at any time the Moderator believes the debate has reached a conclusion or that all relevant aspects of the issue have been raised.
- 6.6 Voting on policy resolutions will be done by delegates by a show of authorized voting cards. The Moderator's determination as to the results of any vote is binding-
  - 6.7 An affirmative vote on a resolution at a workshop shall not constitute approval, approval in principle or any sort of approval by the delegates of the substance of the resolution but rather shall only constitute the will of the delegates at the workshop that the resolution may be placed on the agenda of the Plenary for further consideration. Contradictory/incompatible resolutions may go forward from a break-out workshop to Plenary and will be considered at Plenary in the order set out on the Plenary agenda with a notation as to the related procedural implications resulting from voting on those resolutions.
  - 6.8 A maximum of ten (10) policy resolutions per break-out workshop which receive an affirmative vote by a majority of delegates voting in the break-out workshop will be listed on the agenda of Plenary. In order to guide setting the agenda for Plenary, all delegates present at the end of a break-out workshop will be provided with a form to list up to five resolutions which received a majority vote at the workshop and which, in their view, should be considered for listing on the agenda of Plenary.

## **7. POLICY AND CONSTITUTION HANDOUT BALLOTS**

- 7.1 Delegates will have until 5:00 p.m. CST on Friday, November 14, 2008 to cast their handout ballots.

## **CONSTITUTIONAL PLENARY SESSION**

- 8.1 Subject to the discretion of the Chair, no amendments will be permitted at Plenary.
- 8.2 Constitutional Plenary will have a Chair or Co-Chairs, who will be assisted by two parliamentarians, a member of the National Constitution Committee and a recording clerk.
- 8.3 In the case of a constitutional resolution originally suggested to the National Constitution Committee by one or more particular electoral district associations,, a delegate agreed to by the electoral district associations or recognized by the Chair may be provided with up to one minute to introduce it. For other resolutions, a delegate designated by the National Constitution Committee or National Council may be recognized by the Chair and will be provided with up to one minute to introduce it.
- 8.4 Debate will then proceed in the following manner, always subject to the discretion of the Chair in light of time constraints or otherwise:
  - 8.4.1 The Chair will recognize one speaker against and one additional speaker in favour in an order to be determined by the Chair. Each of these speakers may take no more than 30 seconds.
  - 8.4.2 The question will then be put to a vote in accordance with section 10.
- 8.5 Only delegates will be permitted to speak and vote. Anyone else who attempts to speak or vote, and anyone who attempts to disrupt the proceedings in any way, may be required to leave the room.

## **9. POLICY PLENARY SESSION**

- 9.1 Subject to the discretion of the Chair, no amendments will be permitted at Plenary.
- 9.2 Policy Plenary will have a Chair or Co-Chairs, who will be assisted by two parliamentarians, two members of the National Policy Committee and a clerk.
- 9.3 At Plenary, a Moderator of the break-out workshop will be given a brief period in the discretion of the Chair of the Plenary to provide a summary of the policy resolution and report the vote results of the resolution at the break-out workshop, if applicable.
- 9.4 The Chair of the Plenary, upon receiving the report from a Moderator of the break-out workshop, will immediately call the question, and propose to put the policy resolution to a vote of the Plenary without debate.
- 9.5 If two or more delegates of the Plenary call for debate, the Chair will immediately call for a vote with voting cards in support of debate. Only where, in the Chair's determination, the vote shows that a clear majority of delegates wish to have a debate, will a limited debate be permitted in the following manner, always subject to the discretion of the Chair in light of time constraints or otherwise:

- 9.5.1 In the case of a policy resolution proposed by one or more electoral district associations, a delegate agreed to by those electoral district associations or recognized by the Chair may be provided with up to 30 seconds to introduce it and the Chair may also recognize a caucus member to provide a caucus perspective on the resolution for no more than 30 seconds.
- 9.5.2 In the case of a policy resolution proposed by caucus, a delegate designated by caucus may be recognized by the Chair and will be provided with up to 30 seconds to introduce it.
- 9.5.3 The Chair will then recognize one additional speaker in favour and up to two speakers against in an order to be determined by the Chair. Each of these speakers may take no more than 30 seconds.
- 9.5.4 The question will then be put to a vote in accordance with section 10.
- 9.6 Only delegates will be permitted to speak and vote. Anyone else who attempts to speak or vote, and anyone who attempts to disrupt the proceedings in any way, may be required to leave the room.

## **10. VOTING AT PLENARY**

- 10.1 Delegates must be present to vote in Plenary.
- 10.2 One of the Chairs may call a vote on a resolution at any time he or she believes the debate has reached a conclusion or that all relevant aspects of the issue have been raised.
- 10.3 As provided in the Constitution, a resolution amending either the Constitution or the Policy Declaration may only be amended by a majority of votes cast by delegates from each of a majority of individual provinces. The territories together shall constitute one province.
- 10.4 The Chair will initially call the vote by show of voting cards. In the event, in the Chair's determination, the vote by voting cards provides a clear result, the Chair will declare the result. In the event, in the Chair's determination, the vote by voting cards does not provide a clear result, the Chair will call for a vote by electronic voting machines or a hand count.

## **11. GENERAL**

- 11.1 These Rules may at any time be supplemented or amended, which includes, without limitation, the alteration, extension, abridgement or suspension of any time periods provided for in these Rules, by the Rules Committee.
- 11.2 The exercise of any discretion or the determination of any matter by a break-out workshop Moderator or Plenary Chair, as the case may be, is final and not subject to review by the workshop or Plenary.

- 11.3 Subject to the discretion of a break-out workshop Moderator or Plenary Chair, no changes will be made to the agenda of a break-out workshop or Plenary which will be set by the Convention Committee in consultation with its Policy and Constitution Committee.
- 11.4 The Rules Committee may at any time make minor changes to the wording of a resolution or amendment to clarify its intent or make it consistent with the wording of the Policy Statement or Constitution of the Conservative Party of Canada.
- 11.5 Unless otherwise provided in these Rules, the procedures during break-out workshops and at Plenary will be governed by Wainberg's Society Meetings, including Rules of Order (CCH Canadian).