

Laying the foundation of liberty in
British Columbia

GOING TO VICTORIA

A CONSTITUTION / BYLAW
PROPOSAL





PREAMBLE

OVERVIEW

This document is the result of months of reflection on our Party. What initially began as a solitary effort by a private member, Dr. K. Van Dewark, to better clarify the Party principles quickly blossomed into a team project to create an improved governing document for the Party.

This constitution and bylaws aim to elevate the grassroots of BC Libertarians. It is drafted with the intent to develop strong local organizations throughout the province and to give these associations a voice in determining the future of the Party. By mobilizing the grassroots this Party will grow, and British Columbians will ultimately be given a greater say in the Party and the future governance of our great province.

The contained document is one that will equip this Party and its membership with the direction to bring freedom, smaller government and more choice to Victoria. Not in some nebulous time in the future - but tomorrow!

OBJECTIVE

The current constitution and bylaws of the Party are inadequate and dated. Thankfully, so far, excellent leadership and cooperation have minimized the challenges faced by such a deficient constitution. Our present governing documents do not even recognize the realities of digital communication or the need for local riding associations. To be frank, the present constitution suffers from vague terms and is often partially ignored due to lack of feasibility. We need governing documents prepared to direct a Party that will soon have 87 candidates and a multitude of riding associations. This is the way to Victoria.

The objective of this proposed constitution and bylaws are simple. To provide a framework that can clarify Party governance today, provide new tools to develop grassroots support tomorrow and reliably govern a Party at the helm of BC whilst in government.

NEW ADDITIONS

- A definition of the Party principles that is easily understood by non-libertarians.
- A framework for recognizing constituency associations, which decentralizes elements of the Party while organizing regions into a collaborative network called the Regional Caucus
- Decentralized voting at AGMs through constituency associations
- A replicable and accountable framework for selecting and retaining candidates
- A means of mediating (not dictating) internal disagreements via an Ethics Committee
- Clearer and more accountable policies



HOW WE ARE GOING TO VICTORIA

This document has one primary goal: To provide a foundation upon which this Party can grow, remain united and respond to any challenge it faces.

Individual efforts are growing this Party. This constitution will make sure old and new members alike have the governing resources and procedural framework to remain focused on the most important thing - Lighting the fires of liberty across BC.

With this document enacted we can feel assured this Party shall remain on course. A course that leads straight to freedom and Victoria



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CONSTITUTION

I.PURPOSE OF THE BC LIBERTARIAN PARTY

- A. The BC Libertarian Party exists to support the election of Party Members to the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia who aim to advance and bring forth the Principles of the British Columbia Libertarian Party within the province.
- B. The BC Libertarian Party exists to advocate for and defend the Principles of the Party which are:
 - 1. To support and to advocate for the concept that the citizens of British Columbia are to have the liberty to live as they wish provided that in doing so they do not diminish the ability of others to peacefully do the same.
 - 2. To support and promote the precept that the government of British Columbia is to serve the citizens of the province in fostering an environment where the personal potential for all British Columbians can be maximized through individual efforts.
 - 3. To support that concept that the maximization of the personal potential of the British Columbian citizen is best obtained through non-government activities, such as personal endeavor, ingenuity, resourcefulness, and industriousness. These actions are to be free of undue interference or coercion from any person or group.
 - 4. To support and advocate that liberty and prosperity can only be achieved if private property can be obtained and maintained in British Columbia without undue interference or coercion.
 - 5. To advance the idea that to be free is to live in a society where one can openly express ideas, hear the ideas of others, and associate with groups of one's choosing, without fear, prosecution, or undue interference within British Columbia.
 - 6. To support and promote the precept that fiscal prosperity in British Columbia is best achieved through the buying and selling of goods and services peacefully in an open market.
 - 7. To support and promote the idea that the citizens of British Columbia have the right to liberty and to defend and be defended from those persons or institutions that seek to diminish any of the above principles.

II.PARTY NAME

- A. The name of the Party shall be the BRITISH COLUMBIA LIBERTARIAN PARTY, henceforth to be referred to as the Party.

BYLAWS

I. AMENDING THE CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

- 1) The constitution may only be amended by a 2/3 vote in favour at a General Members Meeting of the Party and with majority support of the Party Regional Caucus. A vote of the Party Regional Caucus is only required if there are five or greater constituency associations affiliated with the Party.
- 2) Bylaws may only be amended by a majority vote in favour at a General Members Meeting of the Party.
 - a) An exception to this rule is section I of the bylaws "Amending the Constitution and Bylaws". Amendments of this section requires a vote 2/3 in favour at a General Members Meeting of the Party and with majority support of the Party Regional Caucus. A vote of the Party Regional Caucus is only required if there are five or greater constituency associations affiliated with the Party.
 - b) An exception to this rule is section III of the bylaws "Constituency Associations". Amendments of this section requires a majority vote in favour by the Executive Council of the Party and with majority support of the Party Regional Caucus. Amendments made are to be ratified by majority vote at the next General Members Meeting of the Party. If not ratified at the next General Members Meeting the previous pre-amendment version of the bylaws are to be re-enacted immediately.
- 3) Between General Members Meetings, Party and political policies consistent with the Principles of the Party and bylaws are to be determined by the Party Leader and Deputy Party Leader in consultation with and approved by a majority vote of the Executive Council.

II. PARTY MEMBERSHIP

CLASSES OF PARTY MEMBERSHIP

- 1) Membership in the Party exists in three forms:
 - a) **FULL MEMBER** – Is open to any Canadian citizen 18 years of age or older, who primarily resides within the Province of British Columbia. A full member must support the Principles of the Party which is stated in the Party Constitution. A full member may serve in any elected body or hold any elected position within the Party. A Party Member may be both a Full Member and Youth Member. In these cases, the responsibilities and privileges of Full Membership predominate.
 - b) **YOUTH MEMBER** - Is open to any Canadian citizen or landed immigrant who is 13 years of age but not older than 26 years of age, who primarily resides within the Province of British Columbia. A youth member automatically becomes a full member upon reaching the age of 18 years old and meeting the requirements for full membership. A youth member may only serve in Party roles designated as open to youth members. They may not hold any elected position in the Party if under 18 years old. If position eligibility for youth members is not defined in the bylaws, the Party President is to decide eligibility on an individual case basis if under 18 years old. Youth members are to be enrolled in the Party Youth Organization recognized by the Executive Council.
 - c) **ASSOCIATE MEMBER** - Is open to any landed immigrant over 18 years of age whose primary residence is within the Province of British Columbia or any Canadian citizen who is 18 years of age or older who primarily resides outside the Province of British Columbia. An associate member must support the Principles of the Party which is stated in the Party Constitution. An associate member cannot serve in any elected body or hold any elected position within the Party. A Party Member may be both an Associate Member and Youth Member. In these cases, the responsibilities and privileges of Associate Membership predominate.

BECOMING A PARTY MEMBER

2. Eligible applicants shall become members of the party upon completion of the following:
 - a. Payment of the membership fee
 - b. Upon signing in writing or digitally a statement agreeing to become a member of the Party and support the Principles of the Party (if full or associate membership is requested), which is stated in the Party Constitution.
 - c. Upon entering the name of the applicant in the official membership list of the Party. The date entered on this list shall be considered the day upon which party membership begins.
 - d. The children or dependents of full or associate members may be added as a youth member if the full or associate member requests such in writing to the Party. The individual in question must also be eligible

for youth membership. Similarly, prospective youth members may also directly request membership in the Party upon their own accord with the documented consent of their parent or guardian.

MEMBERSHIP FEES AND ASSOCIATED REGULATIONS

3. The duration of membership options available and associated membership fees shall be determined by the Executive Council and reaffirmed by majority vote at the next General Members Meeting of the Party.
4. Only persons may become members of the Party. No corporation, trade union, society or other organization is eligible.

TERMINATION OF PARTY MEMBERSHIP

5. Termination of membership occurs when:
 - a. Failure of a member to pay the applicable membership fee within sixty days of due date.
 - b. Resignation of the member submitted to the Party in person or by writing.
 - c. Death of the member.
 - d. No longer meeting the relevant requirements for membership in section II-1.
 - e. For just cause and for conduct judged improper or likely to adversely affect the interest of the Party or in violation of the Principles of the Party as determined by the Executive Council.
6. Any termination of membership may be appealed by the member in question within forty days of receiving written notice of termination. An appeal should be made to all members of the Ethics Committee in writing and to the President and Vice President of the Party. Final decisions regarding an appeal is to be determined by majority vote of the Ethics Committee of the Party. The decision made by the Ethics Committee is considered the final decision on the termination.

III.CONSTITUENCY ASSOCIATIONS

PURPOSE OF CONSTITUENCY ASSOCIATIONS

- 1) Constituency Associations affiliated with the Party will have the opportunity to be delegated certain tasks, among which include, but are not limited to the following:
 - a) To advocate within the Party and British Columbia on issues of particular local concern to the members of the association. The constituency association is to also help, when able, to develop solutions to local concerns consistent with the Party principles outlined in the constitution.
 - b) To advocate and promote within the region affiliated with the constituency association the Party policies and platform as approved by the Party provincial leadership.
 - c) Establish regional Party infrastructure to further the Party principles stated in the constitution. This infrastructure can be, but is not limited to, educational, material, and human resources. These resources are to be developed within the region affiliated with the constituency association and within the Party as a whole.
 - d) To support Party candidates affiliated with the region in which the constituency association operates. This support is to assist candidates in being elected as members within the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia.
 - e) To assist the Executive Council in recruiting the best possible candidates to represent the Party within provincial general and by-elections within British Columbia.
 - f) To provide locations for members to participate and vote in General Members Meetings.
 - g) To represent the Party members residing within the region affiliated with the constituency association on the Party Regional Caucus.
 - h) To regularly elect officers of a constituency association and hold meetings to advance the purposes of constituency associations as stated in the bylaws.
 - i) To assist the Party in raising funds within the region associated with the constituency association.

CONSTITUENCY ASSOCIATION RESPONSIBILITIES TO THE PARTY & PARTY MEMBER RELATIONS WITH CONSTITUENCY ASSOCIATIONS

- 2) Members of the party shall be organized according to their primary residence relative to the electoral districts of British Columbia. Any member of the party residing in an electoral district where a constituency association exists is to be considered a member of that constituency association.
- 3) Only Party members can be eligible for membership in a constituency association.

- 4) A constituency association may invite Party members to be non-voting members of any given constituency association. These non-voting members do not have their primary residence within the geographic region represented by the given constituency association. These non-voting members may run for elected positions in a constituency association, but they may not vote in all members meetings of the constituency association.
- 5) A Party member may only be a voting member in the constituency association where they have their primary residence. A party member may belong to multiple constituency associations as a non-voting member. A Party member may only hold one elected position within any recognized constituency association at any given time.

FOUNDING A CONSTITUENCY ASSOCIATION

- 6) Full members may found a Constituency Association which represents a geographic region where at least three full members of the Party reside and where no Constituency Association presently exists to represent the region.
- 7) To found a Constituency Association the following must occur:
 - a) There must be a co-founding Constituency Association President AND Vice-President registered with the Party and approved by the Executive Council. The Constituency Association President or Vice President may be registered as the "Financial Officer" of the association with Elections BC, however the association may delegate this task to another officer within its bylaws upon its discretion.
 - b) The Executive Council is to approve the geographic area represented by the proposed Constituency Association.
 - c) The Constituency Association must actively support and promote the Principles of the Party as outlined in the Party Constitution.
 - d) The co-founding Constituency Association President AND Vice-President must submit founding association bylaws to the Executive Council for approval.

DISSOLVING A CONSTITUENCY ASSOCIATION

8. A Constituency Association may be voluntarily dissociated or dissolved by the Party through the following means:
 - a. A vote at a constituency association meeting. At this meeting at least 2/3 of the members of the Party who are also registered voting members of the Constituency Association being dissolved are in favor of dissolution.
 - b. By majority vote of the Executive Council if no President of the Constituency Association is selected by the constituency association in question within ninety days of a vacancy occurring. This results in the removal of affiliation with the Party.
 - c. By 2/3 vote of the Executive Council in favor, under any condition, results in the removal of affiliation with the Party.

GOVERNING DOCUMENTS OF CONSTITUENCY ASSOCIATIONS

- 9) All Constituency Associations of the Party are to adopt as a minimum the Constituency Association Bylaws as approved by the Executive Council. Additional bylaws for a Constituency Association may be added by a majority resolution of the members of these associations on an ad hoc basis.
- 10) All Constituency Associations are subject to the provisions of the bylaws of the Party. The activities of the Constituency Associations are to be conducted in a manner that is consistent with the Principles of the Party as outlined in the Constitution of the Party.

IV.CANDIDATE RECRUITMENT, APPROVAL, TRAINING, RE-APPROVAL AND REMOVAL

CONSTITUENCY ASSOCIATIONS AND THE RECRUITING OF CANDIDATES WITHIN ELECTORAL DISTRICTS

1. In electoral districts where a Constituency Association exists this association shall conduct a thorough search to find the best possible candidate to represent the people of that electoral district in the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia. The Constituency Associations have the right to suggest a candidate for review by the Executive Council of the Party.
2. A potential candidate may be nominated by a Constituency Association. Such nominated persons shall be interviewed by the Executive Council or their designated delegate within ninety days or receiving a nomination. The Executive Council may then authorize the nominated candidate to be the officially recognized Party candidate for a given electoral district in an election.
3. If the Executive Council or Party Leader feels that approving a suggested candidate is against the interests of the Party it may nullify the proposal made by the Constituency Association. This may occur by a majority vote of the Executive Council in favor of such an act or the solitary decision of the Party Leader. In such cases, the

Constituency Association may be invited to propose another candidate to the Executive Council. Alternatively, the Executive Council may also select and approve a candidate of their choice directly (see section IV-4).

APPROVING A CANDIDATE BY THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

4. The Executive Council may lead a search for the best possible candidate to represent a given electoral district in the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia on behalf of the Party. The Executive Council or a delegated representative is to interview potential candidates when possible before voting to approve such a member as a candidate. A prospective candidate is approved by a majority vote of the Executive Council. The Party Leader may veto any nominees for a candidacy from being considered prior to a vote of the Executive Council.
5. Previous candidates from any past year are eligible for consideration as candidates, if otherwise qualifying, to serve in this role for the given electoral district.

TRAINING OF CANDIDATES

6. All approved candidates are to be offered training by the Party. This duty is the responsibility of the Executive Council in consultation with the Party Leader and Deputy Leader and any appointed coordinators of the Party dedicated towards this task.

REMOVAL OF CANDIDATES AS PARTY NOMINEES BEFORE ELECTION DAY

7. A previously approved candidate may be removed before election day as an official candidate of the Party by a majority resolution of the Executive Council. The removed candidate shall be notified of potential removal by the Executive Council seven days before the Executive Council meeting occurring by writing. This notification is to include a reason for removal. The candidate to be removed may be present during the deliberation to remove their candidacy by the Executive Council and may address the Executive Council during this meeting.
8. A candidate who is removed by the Executive Council may appeal to the Ethics Committee for a final decision regarding removal within 7 days of their removal being ratified and communicated to the removed candidate in writing. The final decision of the Ethics Committee is to be deemed binding. The candidate to be removed may be present and address the Ethics Committee directly during the appeals process.

RENEWAL OF CANDIDATES AFTER A GENERAL OR BY-ELECTION ELECTION

9. After a general or by-election the Executive Council and Candidate are to debrief post-election and decide what role they will have between elections. The constituency association affiliated with the electoral district represented by the candidate also participates in this process if existent. If the post-election candidate and Executive Council agree, the member shall remain an official candidate as they were before the election with all privileges and responsibilities. If the Executive Council or post-election candidate do not wish to continue the member's candidacy, the candidacy for the electoral region will be considered vacant.

FILLING VACANT CANDIDACIES

10. If a Party candidate position becomes vacant in an electoral district a candidate should be found and approved whenever reasonably possible according to the process outlined in IV-1, IV-2, IV-3 and IV-4.

V. EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF THE PARTY

COMPOSITION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

1. The Executive Council will consist of the following members (unless otherwise stated one of each position exists):
 - a. Leader of the Party (non-voting, except to break ties)
 - b. Deputy Leader of the Party (non-voting)
 - c. Last Former President of the Party (non-voting)
 - d. President of the BC Libertarian Youth Association (non-voting)
 - e. President of the Party
 - f. Vice President of the Party
 - g. Party Regional Caucus Chair
 - h. Directors of the Party (FOUR in number elected)
 - i. Treasurer
 - j. Secretary
 - k.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

2. The Executive Council is to abide by the Principles of the Party as stated in the constitution and abide by the bylaws of the Party. Between General Members Meetings the Executive Council is responsible for all affairs of the Party. The Executive Council is always subject to resolutions confirmed at General Members Meetings.

SELECTION OF MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

3. Members of the Executive Council are elected at a General Members Meeting designated for this purpose at least 3 months in advance and communicated as such to all Full Party Members. The following members are exempt from this provision:
 - a. The Former-President member is not elected but selected from the most recent member who served as President and who finished a full term in this role. They must consent to hold the position. If the last president is unable to hold this position then the next most recent Party President who meets eligibility criteria is to be asked to fill the role. The past-president may not hold any other position on the Executive Council. If no former president is available, the most recent member who served as Vice-President and finished a full term in this role, and consents to serve in this role, will serve as Former-President. If no former President or Vice-President can assume this position it will remain vacant.
 - b. The Party Regional Caucus Chair is elected by the Party Regional Caucus or in certain circumstances stated in the bylaws by the General Members Meeting.
 - c. The President of the BC Libertarian Youth Association is selected as per the bylaws of the BC Libertarian Youth Association which is officially recognized by the Executive Council.

TERM DURATION AND TERM LIMITS OF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS

4. The terms of members of the Executive Council are:
 - a. Party Leader
 - i. Term duration is from the date elected counted 3 years from December 31st of the year elected, or until the next annual scheduled Party elections finish in the last year of the term, whichever occurs first.
 - ii. No consecutive term limit
 - b. Deputy Leader
 - i. Term duration is from the date elected counted 3 years from December 31st of the year elected, or until the next annual scheduled Party elections finish in the last year of the term, whichever occurs first.
 - ii. No consecutive term limit.
 - c. Treasurer
 - i. Term duration is from the date elected counted 2 years from December 31st of the year elected, or until the next annual scheduled Party elections finish in the last year of the term, whichever occurs first.
 - ii. No consecutive term limit.
 - d. President
 - i. Term duration is from the date elected counted 2 years from December 31st of the year elected, or until the next annual scheduled Party elections finish in the last year of the term, whichever occurs first.
 - ii. May only hold three consecutive terms.
 - e. Vice President
 - i. Term duration is from the date elected counted 2 years from December 31st of the year elected, or until the next annual scheduled Party elections finish in the last year of the term, whichever occurs first.
 - ii. May only hold three consecutive terms.
 - f. Past President
 - i. Term duration ends when a president completes their term.
 - ii. No consecutive term limit.
 - g. Party Regional Caucus Chair
 - i. Term duration is from the time elected and then 1 year, counted from December 31st of the year elected by the Party Regional Caucus or General Members Meeting or until the next scheduled Party election to find a replacement chair, whichever occurs first. (To be elected by the Party Regional Caucus - if five or more constituency associations existing. To be elected by the General Members Meeting - if less than five constituency associations existing).

- ii. May only serve two consecutive terms.
 - h. President of the BC Libertarian Youth Association
 - i. Term conditions are determined by the bylaws of the BC Libertarian Youth Association.
 - ii. Must be under the age of 26 to sit on the Executive Council.
 - i. Director
 - i. Term duration is from the date elected counted 1 year from December 31st of the year elected until the next annual scheduled Party elections finish.
 - ii. There is no consecutive term limit.
 - j. Secretary
 - i. Term duration is from the date elected counted 2 years from December 31st of the year elected, or until the next annual scheduled Party elections finish in the last year of the term, whichever occurs first.
 - ii. There is no consecutive term limit.
5. A individual Party member may remain on the Executive Council beyond a term limit if they hold a different position on the Executive council enabling membership to continue. Only one position on the Executive Council may be held by a member at any given time.

INELIGIBILITY FOR MEMBERSHIP ON THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

6. No member elected to the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia, or under the employment of an individual elected to the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia may hold a voting position on the Executive Council. If such member is elected to the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia they must resign from a voting position on the Executive Council within 30 days of being sworn in as a Member of the BC Legislative Assembly or upon assuming employment to such a member.

CONDUCT OF MEETINGS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

7. Meetings of the Executive council are to occur once every three months at a minimum.
8. Meetings of the Executive Council are open to any member of the Party who can observe the meeting as physical space allows.
9. Upon majority vote of the Executive Council items or meetings may be designated as closed sessions and only members who sit on the Executive Council, Ethics Committee, Party Regional Caucus or are approved Party Candidates may view the proceedings. Items discussed in such closed sessions are to be excluded from the public minutes. Within the minutes a closed session is only to be recorded as: "closed session discussing" with the title of the item(s) discussed during the closed session listed.
10. The President is to chair meetings of the Executive Council. If the President is not available, the Vice President shall act as chair. If both the President and Vice President are not available, the Treasurer shall act as chair. If no designated chair is available, the Executive Council shall elect one voting member present to chair the meeting. The chair of the meeting may decide the final outcome on any items which receive a tie in votes cast by the Executive Council.
11. The Secretary shall do the following on behalf of the Executive Council during and between meetings:
- a. Issue notices of meetings.
 - b. Keep minutes of all Executive Council meetings.
 - c. To appoint one member of the Executive Council to take meeting minutes if they are unable to attend. Alternatively, the chair of the meeting may appoint one member of the Executive Council to take minutes if no replacement for this duty has been appointed.
12. Meetings of the Executive Council may occur by telephone or digitally as long as all members can hear each other.
13. Quorum of a meeting of the Executive Council is five voting members in attendance in person, by phone, or digitally.
14. Only members of the Executive Council have speaking privileges during meetings. Any member who has speaking privileges may temporarily grant speaking privileges to another non-Executive Council member attending the meeting.
15. No proxy voting is permitted on the Executive Council. Members must be present and counted as part of quorum at a meeting in order to cast a vote.

CALLING MEETINGS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

16. Meetings of the Executive Council shall occur upon request of the Party Leader, Deputy Leader, President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Party Regional Caucus Chair or upon the written request of at least two Directors

of the Executive Council. Requests are to be made collectively to all members of the Executive Council. All members of the Executive Council must be notified directly by the following means: electronically, by telephone, by writing or in person.

17. The date, time and location of an Executive Council meeting must be made known at least 48 hrs in advance of a meeting. The agenda shall be circulated 24hrs in advance.

COMMITTEES OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

18. The Executive Council may create and dissolve working committees ad hoc by majority vote. All committees created are to be chaired by a member of the Executive Council or a Party member designated by the Executive Council. Each committee created is accountable directly to the Executive Council.
19. The Party Regional Caucus is composed of representatives from the Constituency Associations and is exempt from this provision. The Chair of the Party Regional Caucus, chairs the Party Regional Caucus. The Party Regional Caucus cannot be dissolved by the Executive Council and it is accountable to the individual Constituency Associations and General Members Meeting.

VACANCIES OF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS

20. Vacancies of Directors or the Treasurer or the Secretary may be filled by interim positions. Any Full Party member is eligible for the vacant position if nominated by one member of the Executive Council. Of the Party members nominated to fill a vacancy, the nominee receiving the most support by vote of the Executive Council will fill the interim role.
21. Those selected as interim-Directors or as interim-Treasurer, or interim-Secretary will hold the vacant position until the next General Members Meeting when regular elections for the vacant position can be filled by standard means stated in the bylaws.
22. A vacancy of the Party Regional Caucus Chair can only be replaced by a vote of the Party Regional Caucus or vote by the General Members Meeting (if less than 5 constituency associations exist) to elect a new chair.
23. Vacancies of the Party Leader or Deputy Party Leader:
 - a. If the Party Leader position becomes vacant the Deputy Leader shall assume the role of Interim-Party Leader until the next annual Members Meeting. At this meeting both a new Leader and new Deputy Leader are to be elected and a new term for both positions will begin.
 - b. If the Deputy Leader position becomes vacant then it will remain unfilled until the next scheduled General Members Meeting when a new Deputy Leader can be elected. The new Deputy Leader will then serve any remaining time in the term for which the original Deputy Leader vacated. If no time is left in the vacated term after the election of a new Deputy Leader, a new term will begin.
 - c. A Deputy Leader who serves as Interim-Leader can run for regular Party Leader at the next General Members Meeting.
 - d. If both the Party Leader and Deputy Leader positions become vacant simultaneously the Executive Council will immediately appoint one Executive Council Member to assume the role of interim-Party Leader. The member selected must vacate their prior position on the Executive Council once selected. If no Executive Council Member can assume the role of interim-leader the Executive Council is to appoint a Full Party Member to assume the role of interim-Party Leader. In all cases, a General Members Meeting to elect a new regular Party Leader and Deputy Leader is then to occur within 6 months.
 - i. This appointed interim-Party Leader may not run for the Party Leadership at the next Leadership Convention.
24. Vacancies of the Party President or Vice President
 - a. If the President position becomes vacant the Vice President shall assume the role of Interim-President until the next annual Members Meeting. At this meeting both a new President and new Vice President are to be elected and a new term for both positions will begin.
 - b. If the Vice President position becomes vacant then it will remain unfilled until the next scheduled General Members Meeting when a new Vice President can be elected. The new Vice President will then serve any remaining time in the term for which the original Vice President vacated. If no time is left in the vacated term after election of a new Vice President, a new term will begin.
 - c. A Interim-President can run for regular President at the next General Members Meeting.
 - d. If both the President and Vice President positions become vacant simultaneously the Executive Council will immediately appoint one Director to assume the role of interim-President. If no Executive Council member can fill the role of interim-President the Executive Council is to appoint a Full Party member to fill the role of interim-President. A General Members Meeting to elect a new President and Vice President is to occur within 6 months. This election marks the start of a new term for both positions.

REMOVAL OF MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

25. A General Members Meeting may pass a special resolution to remove any member of the Executive Council or dissolve the entire Executive Council by 2/3 vote. If passed, then the member(s) is immediately removed from the Executive Council and forfeits their associated position on the Executive Council. Elections to replace vacancies are to immediately occur as per section IV of the bylaws.
 - a. The Party Regional Caucus Chair may only be removed by vote of the General Members Meeting if there are less than five consistency associations in existence. Otherwise, this member is to be removed by the Party Regional Caucus as outlined elsewhere in the bylaws.
 - b. A vote to remove the President of the BC Libertarian Youth Association only removes the privilege of this member to participate as a member of the Executive Council. The position may only be revoked as per the terms specified in the bylaws of the BC Libertarian Youth Association.

REPEAT ABSENCES OF MEMBERS OR FAILURES TO MEET QUORUM

26. If a member of the Executive Council is absent for more than 4 consecutive meetings of the Executive Council then a motion must be made. This motion is to be made by a member of the Executive Council during the next meeting of the Executive Council to review the performance of the member in question. If a 2/3 majority of the Executive Council supports the removal of such a member they will be immediately removed from the Executive Council during such a review. A replacement is then to be found in accordance with the bylaws on replacing vacated positions on the Executive Council.
27. If quorum of the Executive Council fails to be reached at three consecutive meetings the President or other designate of the Executive Council must call a session of the General Members Meeting within three months. At this meeting the question of replacement of members of the Executive Council must be addressed. New elections may be held to replace such members as needed at such a meeting in accordance the bylaws on removing and electing members of the Executive Council.

VI. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

1. The responsibilities of the members of the Executive Council are, but not limited to:
 - a. **PARTY LEADER** - To play a leading role in determining the policy, unity and strategic vision of the Party. These decisions are to be supervised and ratified by the Executive Council and General Members Meeting. The Party Leader is also the primary representative of Party Candidates running for MLA between and during elections. In this capacity they are to lead the search for Party candidates at the level of the Executive Council. The Party Leader is also the Chair of the BC Libertarian Party caucus within the British Columbia Legislative Assembly.
 - b. **DEPUTY LEADER** - To play the primary supporting role in determining the policy, unity and strategic vision of the Party. The Deputy Leader is also the deputy representative of Party Candidates running for office and of the Party as a whole between and during elections. The Deputy Leader is also the Deputy Chair of the BC Libertarian Party caucus within the British Columbia Legislative Assembly. When the Party Leader is unable to perform a certain duty within the Party, the Deputy Leader is to be delegated to perform such particulars by the Party Leader, or by the Executive Council should the Party Leader be indisposed.
 - c. **PRESIDENT** - Is the chief executive officer of the Party. In this role the president chairs the Executive Council and General Members Meeting. In daily operations the President represents the Executive Council within the Party. The president is to oversee fundraising, and logistical matters pertaining to the Party, and to manage the internal daily affairs of the Party. The President is to work with the Party Leader and Deputy Leader in helping coordinate the implementation of the strategic vision of the Party. The President is also to serve as a mediator for any disputes which arise within the Party and to help ensure Party unity.
 - d. **VICE PRESIDENT** - Is the chief operating officer of the Party. They are to assist the president in overseeing fundraising, and logistical matters pertaining to the Party, and in the management of the internal daily affairs of the Party. The Vice President is also to serve as a mediator for any disputes which arise within the Party and to help ensure Party unity. If the President is unable to carry out one of their responsibilities, the President or if they are indisposed, the Executive Council may delegate such responsibilities to the Vice President.
 - e. **TREASURER** - Is the chief financial officer of the Party. Is to oversee all financial activities of the Party. This includes monitoring cash flow, and financial planning. The Treasurer is also to assist in the logistical matters pertaining to Party record keeping in general and in the administration of the the Executive

Council and General Members Meeting. They are to render financial statements to Party members and others when required, and assist in developing and carrying out Party fundraising activities.

- f. SECRETARY - To be the primary member responsible for: Custody of all records and documents of the Party, including but not limited to financial records, including books of account, meeting minutes and other records necessary to comply with the Society Act. They are to maintain the Party's register of directors as per the Society Act. They are to be the primary keeper of signed consent and disclaimers on behalf of the Party. They are to have custody of the common seal of the Party. They are also to be the primary member responsible for maintaining the register of Party members and their corresponding membership classes as defined in the bylaws. They are to record meeting minutes for the Executive Council. The secretary is to be the primary member organizing all Party elections within the General Members Meeting. They are to serve as coordinators, chair committees and serve in any role deemed needed for Party success on an ad hoc basis.
 - g. DIRECTOR - Is to provide advice and council to the Party Leader and President of the Party. They are to assist in implementing the strategic vision of the Party and to help develop policy. They are to serve as coordinators, chair committees and serve in any role deemed needed for Party success on an ad hoc basis. They are to also serve as representatives of the General Members Meeting on the Executive Council.
 - h. PAST-PRESIDENT - Is to act as a source of institutional memory for the Party and provide advice and council to the President and Vice President of the Party. They may serve as coordinators, chair committees and serve in any role deemed needed for Party success on an ad hoc basis.
 - i. PRESIDENT OF THE BC LIBERTARIAN YOUTH ASSOCIATION - This member must be 26 years of age or younger by the end of their term. This member is to represent Youth Members of the Party on the Executive Council. They are to work with all members of the Executive Council in developing and implementing plans which engage youth in British Columbia towards the principles of the Party. They may serve as coordinators, chair committees and serve in any role deemed needed for Party success on an ad hoc basis.
 - j. PARTY REGIONAL CAUCUS CHAIR - This member is the primary representative of the constituency associations recognized by the Party. They also represent regional concerns where no constituency associations of the Party may exist. Where no constituency associations exist, they are to develop regional outreach plans to develop constituency associations in these areas. In this capacity they are to provide advice and council to the Party Leader and President of the Party. They are to assist the Party Leader and Deputy Leader in developing policy. They are also to help coordinate the search for Party candidates together with the Party Leader. They are to assist in helping implement the strategic vision of the Party, particularly at the level of the constituency associations and grassroots membership. Similarly, they are to help implement fundraising projects through the constituency associations alongside the President, Vice President, and Treasurer. They are to serve as coordinators, chair specified committees and serve in any role deemed needed for Party success on an ad hoc basis.
2. These responsibilities in VI-1 can be assigned to another member of the Executive Council with 2/3 approval of the Executive Council and the agreement of the affected council member if they are not indisposed.

VII.PARTY REGIONAL CAUCUS

FUNCTION AND PURPOSE OF THE PARTY REGIONAL CAUCUS

1. The Party Regional Caucus is to ensure a coordinated and close working relationship between the Constituency Associations, Executive Council, grassroots Party members, Libertarian Candidates, and Libertarian Caucus elected to the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia. It is to assist in growing Constituency Associations and to discuss policy matters relevant to various regions within the province. It is also to serve as a potential mediating body when regional issues affect internal Party matters.

MEMBERSHIP ON THE PARTY REGIONAL CAUCUS

2. Members of the Party Regional Caucus of the Party are:
 - a. Presidents of Constituency Associations (one per-constituency association)
 - b. Vice Presidents of Constituency Associations (one per-constituency association)
 - c. Party Candidates approved by the Executive Council
 - d. Party Members Elected to the BC Legislative Assembly
 - e. Leader of the Party (non-voting)
 - f. Deputy Leader of the Party (non-voting)
 - g. Party Regional Caucus Chair (non-voting / except to break ties)

- h. Youth Delegates (maximum of four selected) - selected by the BC Libertarian Youth Association (voting members if over 17 years old)
- i. President of the Party (non-voting)
- j. Vice President of the Party (non-voting)

MEETINGS OF THE PARTY REGIONAL CAUCUS

- 3. Meetings of the Party Regional Caucus are open to any member of the Party who can observe the meeting as physical space allows. However, speaking privileges during the meeting are only open to members of the Party Regional Caucus, unless otherwise granted by a member of the committee.
- 4. The Party Regional Caucus is to meet at a minimum annually and to elect a Party Regional Caucus Chair if five or more constituency associations are in existence.
- 5. The Party Regional Caucus Chair is the chairman of all meetings of the Party Regional Caucus. They only cast a ballot to break ties during voting on the Party Regional Caucus.
- 6. If the Party Regional Caucus Chair is unavailable the Deputy Leader may assume the role. If neither is available then the Leader of the Party shall appoint a meeting chair from amongst the membership of the Party Regional Caucus in attendance.
- 7. The chair of the meeting is responsible for deciding on all items that are tied after a vote.
- 8. The Chair of a meeting of the Party Regional Caucus shall appoint one member in attendance to take the minutes of the meeting. These minutes are to be approved by electronic poll or by email or in other written format by members of the Party Regional Caucus within 14 days of a meeting ending.
- 9. Members may attend and vote at a Party Regional Caucus meeting by electronic means if available. But they must attend the meeting in person, by telephone, or digitally to cast a ballot.
- 10. Each voting member is afforded one vote on each item put before the committee.
- 11. If a member of the Party Regional Caucus holds multiple positions on the committee but one of those positions is designated as non-voting, the member is not to vote.

CALLING A MEETING OF THE PARTY REGIONAL CAUCUS

- 12. All Party members must be notified of the dates of a Party Regional Caucus meeting at least 1 month in advance in writing (written and digital communications are permissible).
- 13. The Party Leader, President or Party Regional Caucus Chair can summon a meeting of the Party Regional Caucus. If 20% or greater of voting members of the Party Regional Caucus sign a petition requesting a meeting of the Party Regional Caucus, the meeting must be held within 4 months.

ELECTION OF THE REGIONAL CAUCUS CHAIR

- 14. The Party Regional Caucus Chair is elected by the Party Regional Caucus if there are five or more Party constituency associations in existence. If less than five constituency associations are in existence the Party Regional Caucus Chair is elected at the General Members Meeting.
 - a. Only presidents or vice presidents of a Constituency Association or Party Members who are approved candidates at the time of election are eligible to serve a term in this role if elected by the Party Regional Caucus. If elected by the General Members Meeting being a full Party member is the only eligibility criteria.
 - b. A member elected to the BC Legislative Assembly is not eligible to serve as Party Regional Caucus Chair.
- 15. The candidates for Party Regional Caucus Chair are to be ranked on a secret ballot in order of preference. If no candidate secures a majority of the ballots cast, the candidate with the lowest number of votes is dropped from the ballot. From the dropped ballots the next top-ranked candidate is to be considered. This process is to continue until one candidate secures a majority of the ballots cast. This candidate becomes the Party Regional Caucus Chair.
 - a. Ties are to be broken by a coin toss by a non-voting member of the Party Regional Caucus.

REMOVAL AND REPLACING A REGIONAL CAUCUS CHAIR

- 16. If the Party Regional Caucus Chair becomes vacant, the position remains unfilled until the next scheduled meeting of the Party Regional Caucus is summoned by the Party Leader, President or other member with such powers as outlined in the bylaws. If there are less than five Party Constituency associations in existence, then the position is to be filled at the next scheduled General Members Meeting. The newly elected Party Regional Caucus

Chair shall serve out the remainder of the vacated term and then start their own regular term starting December 31st.

17. A Party Regional Caucus Chair may be removed by $\frac{2}{3}$ vote in favour by the Party Regional Caucus or the General Members Meeting (if less than five constituency associations are in existence). The vacated position is then to be filled through the means outlined in the bylaws. If vacated by a Party body that has the power to replace the chair, the elections to replace the chair are to occur at that meeting.

VIII. GENERAL MEMBERS MEETING OF THE PARTY

1. The General Members Meeting of the Party shall be a meeting open to all members of the Party. Non-Member observers may be allowed upon the discretion of the Executive Council. All Full Members may attend and vote during this meeting. The General Members Meeting of the Party is the highest authority and supreme governing body of the Party.

CHAIR OF THE GENERAL MEMBERS MEETING

2. The President shall chair the General Members Meeting. If the President is not present, then the Vice President shall chair the meeting. If neither is available, the Treasurer is to Chair the Meeting. If none of the following are available, then the Party Leader or Deputy Party Leader is to appoint a chair which is approved as the first order of business at the meeting.
 - a. If a member is running for the position of Leader, Deputy Leader, President or Vice President at the General Members Meeting, they may not chair the meeting.
3. The chair of the meeting shall appoint one Party member to keep minutes of the meeting. These minutes are to be approved at the next meeting of the Executive Council.

SCHEDULING GENERAL MEMBERS MEETINGS

4. A General Members Meeting is to occur every 12 months as a minimum, at a place and time determined by the Executive Council. If at least 20% of the current Full Members of the Party state in writing with associated signatures (may be digital signatures) that a session of the General Members Meeting is requested, the Executive Council must call such a meeting within 3 months of receiving the request.
5. A regularly scheduled leadership convention is to occur before the term of the Party Leader expires. This leadership convention may occur during a regularly scheduled annual General Members Meeting. The Party Leader and Deputy Leader is to be elected at this leadership convention.

CALLING A SESSION OF THE GENERAL MEMBERS MEETING

6. Within 60 days of the meeting being called all members of the Party must be sent a written notification of the meeting, this may be an email communication or by postal mail. All constituency associations must also receive written notification of the General Members Meeting at their registered contact address.
7. Before an Annual General Members Meeting, the Executive Council is to appoint a General Members Meeting Planning Committee. The duty of this committee is to organize the logistics of the meeting and plan any elections which are to occur during the meeting. This committee is also to review all candidates and ensure that at least one candidate stands for each elected office available.
8. The Executive Council is to review all resolutions and the proposed agenda of the General Members Meeting within 20 days of the meeting.

CONDUCT OF GENERAL MEMBERS MEETINGS

9. Each Full Member attending the meeting will have one secret ballot vote for elections of members to Party positions on the Executive Council, Party Regional Caucus, or Ethics Committee. For other items put before the members, the Executive Council may decide on whether a secret ballot or show of hands will be used to determine the answer on the proposal. Resolutions proposed at the General Members Meeting are passed by majority ballot (greater than 50% ballots cast).
10. All Party members or observers upon the consent of one of the following: General Members Meeting chair, Party Leader, President or Party Regional Caucus Chair, have speaking privileges at a General Members Meeting. All Party Candidates, Party Regional Caucus members, Ethics Committee members, and members of the Executive Council have speaking privileges at the General Members Meeting granted to them by default.

VOTING AT GENERAL MEMBERS MEETINGS AND THROUGH CONSTITUENCY ASSOCIATIONS

11. Proxy votes are not accepted at a General Members Meeting or through consistency associations. All votes must be cast in person.
 - a. On resolutions that are not electing or removing a member from a Party position or involving an amendment to the constitution or bylaws of the Party, a show of hands may be deemed a sufficient manner in which to vote. This is to be determined by the Executive Council when establishing the agenda.
 - b. Votes cast at a General Members Meeting must be placed by the Party member into a sealed container monitored by those responsible for organizing the election. (See section XII of the bylaws).
12. Physical ballots for a General Members Meeting are to be accepted through constituency associations for the election of Executive Council, Party Regional Caucus and Ethics Committee positions if they are eligible for election through a General Members Meeting. Other motions brought before a General Members Meeting may also be included on physical ballots provided to constituency associations on an as needed basis as determined by the Executive Council.
 - a. Physical ballots and a sealed container(s) is to be produced by the Executive Council and provided to all constituency associations at a designated mailing address affiliated with an association within four weeks of a General Members Meeting.
 - b. Any Full Party Member may cast a single secret ballot in person for those items defined in Section VIII-11-a at a physical location designated by a constituency association. Voting is to be supervised by an officer(s) designated by the constituency association. The name of the Party Member casting a ballot must be recorded. The name of the officer(s) supervising the voting must be sent to the Executive Council.
 - c. Ballots are to be placed in the sealed container by the Party Member casting the ballot. The sealed container is not to be opened by the constituency association. It is to be mailed to an address provided by the Executive Council at least 12 days before the date of a General Members Meeting. It is to be mailed by courier with a tracking number and requires a signature by the receiver. The sealed container is only to be opened at the General Members Meeting when all ballots cast are counted.
 - d. Any container which has been tampered with as determined by the chair of a General Members Meeting and the Secretary is to be discarded.
 - e. A constituency association must forward the names of all Party Members who cast a ballot outside the General Members Meeting to the Executive Council one week before the General Members Meeting. If this list is not received then the ballots sent by that constituency association are to be discarded. The number of names on the list provided must not be less than the number of ballots in the sealed container. If there are more ballots than recorded names then the ballots cast by a constituency association are to be discarded.
 - f. If a member is recorded as casting ballot(s) through a constituency association they are not to be provided a physical ballot at the General Members Meeting.

ELECTING PARTY LEADER, DEPUTY LEADER, PRESIDENT, AND VICE PRESIDENT, PARTY REGIONAL CAUCUS CHAIR AT GENERAL MEMBERS MEETINGS

13. The positions of Leader, Deputy Leader, President, Vice President, Party Regional Caucus Chair (if elected by the General Members Meeting) are elected by ranked ballot by the Full Members of the Party. Each ballot will ask the Party Member to rank their preferred candidate from most favored to least.
 - a. The first choice on each ballot is to be counted first as the desired preference of the member. If no candidate receives more than 50% of the ballots cast then the candidate receiving the least support is to be dropped from the ballot. All ballots are to be then recounted with the least supported candidate removed and the member's next highest ranked choice considered until one candidate receives more than 50% support. The first candidate which receives majority support in this manner is elected.
 - b. If there is a tie between two candidates with the most support a coin flip by the chair of the General Members Meeting is to decide the outcome.
 - c. There is to be two separate ballots, one for Party Leader, another for Deputy Leader.

ELECTING DIRECTORS, SECRETARY, TREASURER, AND ETHICS COMMITTEE CHAIR AT GENERAL MEMBERS MEETINGS

14. The positions of Director, Ethics Committee Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer is elected by direct vote via a secret ballot by the Full Members of the Party. Each ballot will ask the Party Member to vote for four preferred candidates for director, one vote for Treasurer, one vote for Secretary, and one vote for Ethics Committee Chair.

- a. The candidates receiving the most votes in favor are elected.
- b. If there is a tie between candidates with the most support a coin flip by the chair of the General Members Meeting is to decide the outcome.

VOTING ON CONSTITUTION AND BYLAW AMENDMENTS AT GENERAL MEMBERS MEETINGS

15. Amendments to the Party Constitution and bylaws are stipulated in section I of the Party bylaws.
 - a. All proposed amendments should be circulated to all members by email or postal mail within 40 days of the General Members Meeting where the proposal will be put to a vote.

MANDATORY REVIEW OF PARTY LEADER AT ANNUAL GENERAL MEMBERS MEETINGS

16. At every regularly scheduled annual Members Meeting where a leadership convention is not occurring, a motion must be introduced by the chair of the meeting asking the following question, "Do you want an early Leadership convention to be called in the next 3 months to elect a new Party Leader and Deputy Leader?" If greater than 2/3 of the votes cast are in favour of the motion then another Members Meeting must be held within 7 months to hold an election for leader and deputy leader of the party.

IX.FINANCIAL ORGANIZATION OF THE PARTY

1. The financial affairs of the Party will be managed by a designated registered Society established for this purpose.
2. This non-profit shall have all voting members of the Executive Council as voting members of the non-profit.
3. The President and Vice President shall be jointly responsible for the daily operation of this non-profit.
4. Each member of the Executive Council and officers of the Party shall be free from all personal liability for any debts, actions, claims, demands, liabilities, or commitments of any kind made by the Party and its non-profit.
5. The members of the Executive Council in their capacity as shareholders in the Party non-profit shall ensure that the annual audited financial statements are made available to any member of the Party upon written request.
6. In order to carry out the purposes of the Executive Council, on behalf of and in the name of the Party, the Executive Council may raise or secure the payment or repayment of money in the manner they decide, and, in particular, but without limiting the foregoing, by the issue of debentures.
7. No debenture shall be issued without the sanction of a special resolution by the Executive Council.
8. The members may by special resolution at a Members Meeting restrict the borrowing powers of the Executive Council, but a restriction imposed expires in 12 months.

X.PARTY OFFICES

1. The Party shall maintain a primary registered office and other secondary office locations may be determined by the Executive Council ad hoc.

XI.PARTY OFFICERS / COORDINATORS

1. The Executive Council may create officer positions within the Party to manage defined daily functions deemed of value to the Party. Alternatively, the Executive Council may delegate such powers to create new officer positions directly to the Party Leader for a defined and limited period of time.
2. Party officers are to be called "Coordinators".
3. Members of the Executive council and members holding other Party positions may also serve as Party Officers.
4. Every officer position in the Party is to be supervised by the Party Leader and President jointly. The Party Leader or President may delegate another member of the Executive Council to supervise an officer if stated as such to the executive council and officer in writing.
5. Officer positions must have defined roles stated in writing and approved by the Executive Council. Such roles may be amended with majority support of the Executive Council.
6. A Party Member becoming an officer is to be approved by the Party Leader or President and the approval submitted to all members of the Executive Council in writing. A Party Member is removed as an officer upon the discretion of the Party Leader or President or by 2/3 vote of the Executive Council. If a Party Leader or President removes an officer this act must be submitted to all members of the Executive Council in writing.

XII.INTERNAL PARTY CAMPAIGNS & ELECTIONS

MEMBER RESPONSIBLE FOR ORGANIZING ELECTIONS

1. All elections held during a General Members meeting are to be organized by the Executive Council. The Secretary shall be designated as the primary Party member overseeing the logistics and bylaw rules pertaining to an election. If the Secretary is running as a candidate in an election they are to delegate responsibility of the election to the the following members in the following order of availability: Treasurer, President, Vice President, any Director, any member of the Ethics Committee, any Full Party Member. No member may oversee elections if standing as a candidate in the elections.
 - a. Elections outside General Members Meetings are to be organized by delegates appointed by the body holding the election.

DECLARING AND APPROVING CANDIDACY

2. Party members who intend to run for elected positions within the Party must declare themselves as running for election 4 weeks in advance of the General Members Meeting date.
 - a. This condition may be temporarily suspended for the duration of an election by the Executive Council 4 weeks before a General Members Meeting date. If suspended, candidates may declare at anytime leading upto the casting of ballots.
3. Bylaw XII-2 is automatically suspended if: (1) There is less than three candidates declared for a given position and (2) there is less than 4 weeks before a General Members Meeting where the election is to occur. In this case, members are to be allowed to declare candidacy from the floor of the General Members Meeting.
 - a. This may not delay the printing of ballots sent to constituency associations. In this situation ballots should allow additional candidates to be written in ad hoc.
4. The Secretary or their delegate overseeing an election is to review a member's eligibility as per the constitution and bylaws for Party office and approve their candidature.
5. Appeals of the Secretary or their delegate's decision on the eligibility of a candidate may be made to the Executive Council and an answer is to be delivered to the candidate within 10 days. If such an appeal regarding the eligibility of candidacy is made within 12 days of the General Members Meeting the final decision on the matter is to be determined by the President rather than the Executive Council. The answer of the Executive Committee on this matter may be appealed through the Ethics Committee if such an appeal is made at least 12 days before a General Members Meeting. If these conditions are not met, appeals cannot be made regardless of stipulations stated elsewhere in the bylaws.

DISSEMINATION OF CAMPAIGN MATERIALS BY CANDIDATES

6. All approved candidates for elected positions selected by the General Members Meeting are entitled to have campaign materials disseminated free of cost electronically to all Party members by email once every four weeks in the three months leading up to the Members Meeting. All campaign material must be reviewed and approved by the Executive Council prior to dissemination. In addition:
 - a. Each approved candidate may submit one approved post to be disseminated free of cost on all official Party social media channels once every four weeks in the three months leading up to the Members Meeting.
 - b. Each approved candidate may have one approved link to their campaign materials placed on the official Party Website free of cost for the duration of the three months leading up to a Members Meeting.
 - c. Each approved candidate may have approved campaign materials sent by post to all Members once during a three month period leading up to a Members Meeting, the cost of postage is to be borne by the candidate.
 - d. No candidate or campaign in an internal Party election may use the Party Logo or any modified version of the Party Logo on any election ad materials.

PARTY EVENTS PERTAINING TO INTERNAL ELECTION CAMPAIGNS

7. Any debate or event arranged by the Party as part of an internal Party election campaign is to be open to all approved candidates running for the position being elected. Approved candidates are to be given the opportunity to address members and take questions equally.
 - a. All candidates running in an election within the General Members Meeting shall be given time to speak and address the members at the meeting and take questions.

"ISSUE" CAMPAIGNS AND THEIR REPRESENTATION WITHIN THE PARTY

8. Any referendum or constitutional amendment "issue campaign" is to abide by the same regulations as stipulated in section XII.
 - a. The various views advocated during such elections may have specific Party Members registered with the Executive Council as spokespeople providing information and support of the various sides presented.

APPEALING ELECTION RESULTS

9. Any concerns regarding an election may be forwarded to the Executive Council during the period leading up to a General Members Meeting and three weeks after election results are publicly announced. The decisions made by the Executive Council may be appealed within 7 days to the Party Ethics Committee. The ruling of the Party Ethics Committee is final and binding.

BREACH OF CONDUCT

10. Any breach of internal Party Election rules may disqualify a candidate or campaign from the election upon the discretion of the Executive Council. Such disqualifications are eligible for appeal by the Ethics Committee.

COUNTING BALLOTS

11. All ballots are to be counted under the supervision of the Secretary or their elections delegate, along with a Party member appointed by the chair of the General Members Meeting. Additional individuals may be appointed by the Secretary or their delegate to assist in counting ballots.
 - a. All candidates or issue campaign may have a scrutineer present during the counting of the candidate's ballots. The scrutineer is to only represent the interests of the candidate they represent.
 - b. No candidate or campaign representative beyond scrutineers may be present or involved in the counting of ballots.

STORAGE OF BALLOTS

12. All physical ballots cast are to be kept in secure storage by the Secretary for 1 year. Ballots, when discarded, are to be destroyed. Access to stored ballots is only to be granted upon request to the Secretary. The act of reviewing stored ballots must be supervised by the Secretary and another member of the Executive Council at all times. Such review of ballots shall require an administration fee of \$100. This fee is waived if review is requested by the Executive Council, Party Regional Caucus Chair, Ethics Committee, Party Leader, Deputy Leader, or General Members Meeting.

ACCLAIMED CANDIDATES

13. A candidate may be acclaimed by a show of hands if there is no other member running against them for a given position.

XIII.AUDITOR

1. Section XIII applies only where the Party is required or has resolved to have an auditor.
2. The Executive Council shall appoint or remove an auditor.
3. An auditor may be removed by resolution of the General Members Meeting.
4. An auditor shall be promptly informed in writing of appointment or removal.
5. No member of the Executive Council and no Officer or employee of the Party shall be an auditor.
6. The auditor may attend General Members Meetings.

XIV.PARTY ETHICS COMMITTEE

ROLE OF THE ETHICS COMMITTEE

1. A Party Ethics Committee, separate from the oversight of the Executive Council, and accountable to the General Members Meeting is to be established to:
 - a. Ensure the core principles of the Party are maintained.
 - b. Arbitrate / mediate questions and appeals pertaining to the Constitution, bylaws and other rules, policies or decisions made by the Party and its affiliates.

COMPOSITION OF THE ETHICS COMMITTEE

2. The Party Ethics Committee is to be composed of:
 - a. Two to four Party Members elected to the BC Legislative Assembly and appointed by the Party Leader or if members sitting in the Legislative Assembly cannot fill all these positions, an approved Party candidate appointed by the Party Leader may be substituted, or if no candidates are available to fill all spots then Full Party Members appointed by the Party Leader may be substituted.
 - b. One Ethics Committee Chair.
 - c. The Party Regional Caucus Chair.
3. Only the Party Regional Caucus Chair can sit on both the Executive Council and Ethics Committee.
4. All members of the Ethics Committee serve a term lasting 1 year from January 1st. No consecutive terms are allowed, except for the Party Regional Caucus Chair, who has no consecutive term limit on the Ethics Committee while serving as chair.

VOTING ON THE ETHICS COMMITTEE

5. Each member of the Ethics Committee shall have one vote. There will be no proxy votes. If a case is being heard by the committee that directly involves a member of the ethics committee that member may not vote on the matter.
6. The Ethics Committee chair may break any ties in any votes conducted by the Party Ethics Committee.

CONDUCT OF MEETINGS OF THE ETHICS COMMITTEE

7. If the Ethics Committee chair is not present during a meeting the Ethics Committee, those members present are to elect a temporary chair to take over the duties of the absent chair for the duration of the meeting.
8. Quorum for the Ethics Committee is 3 members.
9. Meetings of the Ethics Committee may occur in person, through video conference, or by phone, providing all in attendance can hear each other.
10. The chair of the ethics committee is to appoint one member to keep the minutes of a meeting at the start of all meetings of the Ethics Committee. The minutes are to be circulated to all members of the Executive Council within 2 weeks of a meeting ending. Such minutes may only be released publicly upon the approval of the Executive Council.
11. The Party Leader, Deputy Leader and any other Party member invited by the Ethics Committee Chair may observe a meeting of the Ethics Committee. Such observers may only speak at such meeting if granted the privilege by one of the committee members in attendance.

APPEALING TO THE ETHICS COMMITTEE - REQUESTING A MEETING OF THE ETHICS COMMITTEE

12. All committee members must be given notification of a meeting of the Ethics Committee at least 5 days in advance of the meeting occurring with the meeting agenda circulated at this time.
 - a. The Ethics Committee may only meet upon the request of an appeal of a decision already made or policy which has been ratified. The following bodies and people can request an appeal: Executive Council, Party Regional Caucus, Constituency Association, or individual party member.
 - b. A individual party member or constituency association may only request one appeal to the Ethics Committee over a four month period counted since the last request to the Ethics Committee was made.
13. In requesting an appeal from the Ethics Committee the member making the request agrees to honor the final decision made by the committee.

RESPONSES FROM THE ETHICS COMMITTEE

14. All appeals must be written as queries submitted to the Ethics Committee. These matters must be discussed and an answer delivered in writing by the Ethics Committee to both the member or body making the original inquiry and the members of the Executive Council within 6 weeks.

VACANCIES ON THE ETHICS COMMITTEE

15. Any vacancies on the Ethics Committee including that of Ethics Committee Chair, may be filled by direct appointment of eligible Party Members by the Party Leader. These interim appointments last for the duration of the original term which was vacated. The position of Party Regional Caucus Chair may not be substituted in this manner and can only be filled upon the election of a new Party Regional Caucus Chair.

LIMITATIONS OF THE ETHICS COMMITTEE

16. No decision made by the Ethics Committee may alter the constitution or bylaws of the Party or governing document of any constituency association. The Ethics Committee cannot be denied the right to present amendments to the constitution and bylaws to the General Members Meeting, Party Regional Caucus, Executive Council or a constituency association. However, these bodies are to freely vote on such proposed amendments and are not bound to approve proposals made by the Ethics Committee.

XV. TRANSITION FROM PREVIOUS CONSTITUTION-BYLAWS TO NEWLY RATIFIED CONSTITUTION-BYLAWS

1. Upon ratification of this constitution and bylaws the following is to occur:
 - a. The previous bylaws and constitution of the BC Libertarian Party is to be considered null and void.
 - b. The bylaws and constitution contained within this document immediately become the active bylaws and constitution of the Party. The bylaws listed in section XV-2 are not active until additional criteria are met.
 - c. The meeting which ratified these bylaws and constitution is to be considered the first General Members Meeting held under these documents. The chair who started the meeting will continue as the chair during this first meeting.
 - d. The election of the following Party positions is to subsequently occur following ratification: Party Leader, Deputy Leader, President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Party Regional Caucus Chair, Directors (four to be elected), Ethics Committee Chair. The election of each position will occur in the order listed. Nominations will occur from the floor of this meeting.
 - e. This first election under these bylaws will forgo any ranked ballots. Ballots will be counted jointly by two individuals who are ratified by most support via a showing of hands by the General Members Meeting.
2. The following bylaws are considered inactive until the closure of the General Members Meeting which ratified this constitution and bylaws. After this time these bylaws are considered immediately active: Bylaw XII-1,2,3,11 and Bylaw VIII-2,3,5,6,12.
3. Bylaw XV expires 24 hours after the ratification of this constitution and bylaws and may be removed from the governing documents of the Party after this time.

