



---

**RULES FOR CONSTITUTION AND POLICY DISCUSSION**  
**at VIRTUAL CONVENTION 2021**

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

1.1 The following rules and procedures for the policy and constitution discussions for Convention 2021 have been adopted by the National Council of the Conservative Party of Canada pursuant to Article 7.3 of the Constitution of the Conservative Party of Canada.

“The date, location(s), business to be transacted, and the rules and procedures for any national convention of the Party will be as determined by National Council.”

1.2 In light of the COVID19 global pandemic and associated public health guidelines, the National Council of the Conservative Party of Canada has approved the use of online technologies to permit members to participate in the discussion and voting on resolutions and amendments, without being physically present at the place of Convention 2021. Discussion and debate will be facilitated using a virtual online platform and voting will be facilitated through an online voting service.

1.3 The policy and constitution subcommittee shall endeavor to accept and consider submissions presented by the National Policy and National Constitution Committees from their respective prior consultative phases.

1.4 There are two circumstances where members may be asked to consider submissions other than those advanced in prior consultative phases;

1.4.1 Policy submissions prepared by National Council as per Section 13.7 of the Constitution.

1.4.2 Constitutional amendments proposed by National Council as per Section 16.2 of the Constitution.

1.5 In the event of a National Emergency Situation, the process for debate, voting and ratification of constitution or policy resolutions may be amended by the policy and constitution subcommittee, identified in Section 2.11, as it deems necessary, in consultation with the National Policy and National Constitution Committees.

1.6 In the event of a National Emergency Situation, the policy and constitution subcommittee shall consider the following options;

1.6.1 Deferral of advanced proposals until the next national convention.

1.6.2 Utilization of an electronic ‘handout’ ballot to be voted on by elected Delegates, while maintaining the necessary voting criteria as per Section 10.3.

1.6.3 Utilization of an electronic ‘handout’ ballot to be voted on by Electoral District Associations, while maintaining the necessary voting criteria as per Section 10.3.

1.6.4 Reducing the number of proposals considered to those considered ‘top ranked’ during the consultative phases of the National Policy and National Constitution Committees.

1.6.5 Using technology, where reasonably practicable, for the debate of any proposals in either or both a workshop or plenary situation.

1.7 If the policy and constitution subcommittee determine to proceed with any alternative methods identified in Section 1.6, supplemental Rules for Discussion shall be developed by National Council and the National Policy and National Constitution Committees and posted to the party web site as soon as reasonably practicable, in any case not later than 14 days prior to the scheduled event.

## **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” (aka: amendment) 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” or “electronic 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 a plenary session of all delegates for Policy or Constitution to be held on either Thursday March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021 or Friday March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

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 2018 Convention;

2.13 “policy resolution” (aka: amendment) means a proposed addition to, revision of or deletion from the text of the Policy Declaration, duly submitted by an electoral district association and as compiled by the National Policy Committee;

2.14 “resolution” (aka: amendment) 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.

2.16 “Online Voting Service” means the online service approved by the Convention Committee to allow for registered Delegates to vote on Resolutions, Amendments, ‘hand-out ballots’, and National Council elections.

2.17 A “National Emergency Situation” is a public health, security or catastrophic event or series of events that would render any fair and equitable facilitation of Convention 2021 untenable.

### **3. CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS**

3.1 The package of constitutional resolutions to go forward for consideration at Convention 2021 shall be based on submissions that were made to the National Constitution Committee by 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 2021 shall be posted on the public website of the Party no later than March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

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 may determine that one or more resolutions shall be voted on via an electronic handout ballot.

### **4. POLICY RESOLUTIONS (amendments)**

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, 4.3, 4.4 and 4.4.1.

4.2 The package of policy resolutions to go forward for consideration at Convention 2021 shall be based on submissions that were made to the National Policy Committee and ranked by the National Policy Committee in the prior consultative phase of that Committee’s work.

4.3 The top 30 policy resolutions as determined by the rankings determined by the democratically-elected National Policy Committee following consultation and approval from the Policy and Constitution Committee, may be considered by delegates at the Policy Plenary.

4.3.1 An additional slate of Policy Resolutions will be presented pursuant to Section 13.7 of the Constitution to be voted on individually by Delegates by way of an electronic handout ballot.

4.4 The Policy and Constitution Committee may determine that one or more resolutions shall be voted on via an electronic handout ballot rather than at the Policy Plenary.

4.5 Submissions which are deemed to be strictly grammatical will be considered by National Council and will not be presented in the policy plenary or count towards the limit of 30 policy resolutions to be considered.

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

5.1 There will be no Constitutional Break-out Workshop at Convention 2021.

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

6.1 There will be no Policy Break-out Workshop(s) at Convention 2021.

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

7.1 (If Applicable) Delegates will have until such time as voting closes for the plenary session on Friday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021 to cast their handout ballots.

7.1.1 Results of Hand-out Ballot voting will be announced during the program and available on-line.

## **8. CONSTITUTION and POLICY PLENARY SESSION(S)**

**There will be one Policy Plenary Session and one Constitution Plenary Session. These sessions will be held on either Thursday March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021 or Friday March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021.**

8.1 The Plenary Session(s) will have two Chairs, who will be assisted by a parliamentarian, and any other such individual as may be reasonably necessary.

8.2 During the Plenary Session(s), resolutions and or amendments (hereafter referred to as amendments) with respect to constitutional and policy documents will be considered.

8.3 The order of the amendments shall be set by the Policy and Constitution Committee who will consider the recommendations of the respective National Committee. Where possible, amendments which have been ranked in prior consultative processes will be ordered based upon the highest levels of support.

8.4 Motions from the floor will not be permitted unless invited by the Chair.

8.5 Motions, which, in the discretion of the Chair, are unable to be addressed in light of the virtual format or seem likely to unduly delay the efficient progress of the Plenary Session may be rejected by the Chair and not allowed to proceed. Such motions include, without limitation, motions to call the question, motions to adjourn, motions to take a recess, motions to extend debate, motions to reconsider, motions to rescind, motions to postpone, motions to consider by paragraph, motions to sever, motions to fix a time to adjourn, motions to suspend the rules, motions relating to methods of voting, motions to take an item out of order, use of points of order or points of privilege, and use of parliamentary inquiries or points of information.

8.6 In the event a motion from the floor is invited and accepted by the Chair, voting shall be conducted by way of a poll of those present on the Virtual Platform. Each Member who is present may only vote once on a motion.

8.7 The Chair may, at his or her sole discretion in light of time constraints or otherwise, determine when to adjourn proceedings.

## **9.0 DEBATE**

9.1 Debate will proceed on the Virtual Platform in the following manner, always subject to the discretion of the Chair in light of time constraints or otherwise:

9.1.1 A previously recorded audio or video from the Member who proposed the resolution or amendment (hereafter referred to as amendment) will be given a maximum of sixty (60) seconds to introduce the resolution;

9.1.2 Members will be given the opportunity to indicate to the Chair using the “Raise Your Hand Function” in the ZOOM Webinar Platform that they would like to speak to an amendment;

9.1.3 The Chair will then alternate between speakers in opposition and in favour of the amendment, each subsequent speaker will be given a maximum of thirty (30) seconds to speak;

9.1.4 Where possible, the Chair will endeavour to select speakers on a first-come, first-served basis;

9.1.5 One Member of Caucus, appointed by the Leader or in the appropriate Shadow Critic role, may present a video not to exceed 30 seconds in length in favor of, or in opposition to the proposed amendment. Such presentation should be presented to the Policy and Constitution Committee through the Caucus Chair’s Office at least seven (7) days in advance of the event.

9.1.6 Not more than three (3) speakers in favour (including the Member who proposed the amendment) and three (3) speakers against will be permitted; and

9.1.7 The Member who proposed the amendment will be permitted thirty (30) seconds for rebuttal.

9.2 Only registered delegates shall be permitted to speak.

9.3 Registered Delegates will be able to provide written comments on the Virtual Platform subject to the discretion of the Chair and the following:

9.3.1 Written comments will specify the Member’s first and last names.

9.3.2 The Chair or his or her designate will have the full authority and discretion to mute or remove comments from any Member who acts in an un-parliamentary fashion.

9.4 Anyone who attempts to disrupt the proceedings in any way may be required to leave the room or removed from the Virtual Platform.

## **10. VOTING AT PLENARY SESSIONS**

10.1 Voting on Amendments and Resolutions will be available exclusively through the Online Voting Service from the time of commencement of debate in any given plenary session and continuing until one hour after the conclusion of debate in any given plenary session.

10.2 Registered Delegates may only vote once on each amendment or resolution.

10.3 Instructions on how to use the Online Voting Service will be provided to registered delegates in advance of Convention 2021.

10.4 Only the votes on Amendments and Resolutions that have been introduced, debated, and are in order at a Plenary Session will be counted and announced.

10.5 Following the conclusion of the voting period, the Chairs of the National Policy and National Constitution Committees will review the results and declare whether each of the Amendments or Resolutions has passed or failed. The Convention Committee may appoint a member of the National Policy Committee and National Constitution Committee to serve as scrutineers who may observe the on line process. The decision of the Chairs of National Policy and National Constitution Committees with respect to the result of the vote on any resolution shall be binding and is not subject to appeal or challenge.

10.6 The voting results will be announced and posted online as soon as possible following the closure of online voting.

10.7 No Amendment or Resolution has effect until it has been confirmed by respective National Committees. The effective date of Amendments or Resolutions shall be the date of convention unless a later date is specified.

## **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 National Council.

11.2 The exercise of any discretion or the determination of any matter by a Plenary Chair, is final and not subject to review by the Plenary.

11.3 Subject to the discretion of a Plenary Chair, no changes will be made to the agenda of Plenary which will be set by the Convention Committee in consultation with its Policy and Constitution Committee.

11.4 The Executive Director 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 Plenary will be governed by Robert's Rules of Order (Newly Revised 10th Edition).