

# **THE CONSTITUTION OF THE CANADIAN CITIZENS PARTY**

Adopted on the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2019 by the Federal Council of the Party.

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## **Article 1 The Organization Constituted**

1.1 The Organization constituted is the ***Canadian Citizens Party*** (hereinafter the "Party"). The originating Federal Council comprises current leaders and executive members of federally and provincially registered political parties and others who meet the primary requirements of being respected members of their community and whose political platforms and personal beliefs mirror principles, policies and practices the vast majority of Canadians want in their government on the federal, provincial, territorial and municipal levels.

## **Article 2 Scope of the Constitution and Bylaws**

2.1 This Constitution and the Bylaws herein shall regulate the activities of the Party, all persons operating on behalf of the Party and in furtherance of its interests and objectives, and the rights, responsibilities and duties of its Federal Council, its provincial, territorial and municipal counterparts and all committees, riding associations, constituency offices, non-arms-length associations and membership.

2.2 The Constitution shall have precedence over the Bylaws. Any Bylaw herein or enacted in the future that is inconsistent with this Constitution shall be null and void to the extent of the inconsistency. In the event only part of a Bylaw herein or made by way of amendment in the future is in violation of this sub-section, the part that is inconsistent shall be deemed severed.

2.3 The Constitution shall in perpetuity and unless amended and Bylaws herein and in the future shall be the blueprint for and have precedence over all decisions made by the Federal Council, its provincial counterparts and the membership. And any decision made that is inconsistent with the Constitution or Bylaws shall be null and void to the extent of the inconsistency.

## **Article 3 Basis of Unity**

3.1 There is unanimity amongst all founding members of the Federal Council, its provincial, territorial and municipal counterparts and the Party's membership that Canada's system of parliamentary democracy is severely dysfunctional; and there is a pressing and substantial need to effect

fundamental and nationwide structural change on the federal, provincial, territorial and municipal levels.

3.2 The Federal Council, its provincial, territorial and municipal counterparts, Party membership and non-arms-length associations are *ad idem* on the solution; being the Internet Referendum Voting System on Government Policy. (hereinafter the "IRVS"). The IRVS shall be implemented on the federal, national-regional, provincial, territorial, intra-provincial regional and municipal levels. Additionally, there ought to be referendum voting on a demographic and industry basis.

3.3 To dedicate ourselves and encourage Canadian citizens to promote and approve of macro and micro reform of Canada's system of parliamentary democracy as described herein and implement major reforms of the administration of justice, constituents of the private sector and country's economy so there is an equitable distribution of wealth and opportunity for all.

3.4 To implement other changes that facilitate public participation and pride in our parliamentary democracy by ensuring government policy reflects what Canadians want and need.

#### **Article 4 Purpose**

4.1 It is the purpose of the Party to advance its singular platform as described in Article 3(3.2) by:

4.1.1 building a nationwide organization and network of Canadians dedicated to fundamental reform as described herein; and to launch, fund

and operate associations and enter into collaborative arrangements with arms length associations that'll advance the Party's interests and objectives; to publicize, promote and advertise the Party and by way of these and non-arms-length associations using various approaches (including but not limited to print, radio, social media, town hall meetings and conferences);

4.1.2 recruiting and successfully electing candidates in federal, provincial, territorial and municipal elections to attain governance status on each of those levels;

4.1.3 enacting legislation and regulations in the Canadian Parliament, provincial and territorial legislatures and city councils that implement the IRVS;

## **Article 5 Principles**

5.1 The principals of the Party are:

5.1.1 participatory parliamentary democracy;

5.1.2 social justice; and

5.1.3 the right to pursue political, economic, social and other lawful interests and goals without government surveillance, influence or intervention.

## **Article 6 Accountability**

6.1 All members of the Party on the federal, provincial, territorial and municipal levels (including but not limited to the Federal Council, candidates, riding association personnel, constituency office staff and non-arms length associations) are accountable to the Constitution, Bylaws and the Federal Council.

6.2 The Federal Council shall initiate, operate and oversee the functions of a Review Panel that investigates and adjudicates queries, complaints and grievances filed by or against any person working or as agent for the Party and its non-arms-length associations. Members of the Federal Council are not except from this review process.

6.3 The Review Panel shall comprise three members of the Federal Council and/or provincial and territorial counterparts and two people who do not have to be Party members who are specialists in the field of adjudication and mediation. A decision shall be by majority vote and is conclusive of the issues.

## **Article 7 Official Standing and Definitions**

7.1 The following persons have official standing within the Party under this Constitution and the Bylaws:

7.1.1 Member: a person who satisfies the Constitution's membership requirements.

7.1.2 Leader: the Member identified as Leader in filings pursuant to the *Canada Elections Act*;

7.1.3 Leader: the Member identified as Leader in filings pursuant to provincial and territorial elections law;

7.1.3 President: the Member who is the Chief Executive Officer;

7.1.4 Vice-President of the Party: the Member who is the Deputy Chief Executive Officer;

7.2 The following components of the Party have official standing under this Constitution and the Bylaws:

7.2.1 Federal Council: The council referred to in Article 9 and are elected or appointed in accordance with the Bylaws.

7.2.2 The Federal Council's counterparts on the provincial, territorial and municipal levels.

7.2.2 Electoral District Association ("EDA"): There shall be an Electoral District Association in each federal, provincial and territorial electoral district.

7.2.3 Cabinet: (a) Those Members of the Party who are participating in or who comprise the federal, provincial or territorial government's cabinet of ministers or (b) an alternative cabinet to the government who shadow and provide critical opposition on matters to the government's position. This Cabinet is selected and appointed in accordance with the Bylaws.

7.2.4 Any other component of the Party created by the members in General Meeting or by the Federal Council.

7.3 Unless the context otherwise requires, the following definitions apply in this Constitution and the Bylaws:

7.3.1 Caucus: Those Members of the Party who are Members of the House of Commons, Senate of Canada and their provincial and territorial counterparts.

7.3.2 Federal Council: The component of the Party that has the highest authority in relation to managing and overseeing the activities of the Party; and which comprise founding members and those who succeed them as described in the Constitution and Bylaws.

7.3.3 Chief Agent: the person or entity identified as Chief Agent in filings pursuant to the *Canada Elections Act* and in provincial and territorial election law enactments.

7.3.4 Motion: A Federal Council or General Meeting proceeding that puts before either or both a matter of Party business that is to be investigated and decided and which does not result in a change to the Constitution or Bylaws.

7.3.5 General Meeting: A General Meeting of the entire membership of the Party.

## **Article 8 General Meetings of the Entire Membership of the Party**

8.1 General Meetings shall consist of:

8.1.1 individual Members in good standing who have one vote, and

8.1.2 Members carrying proxies of those who are in good standing, and who have voting rights under one or more Bylaws that provide for voting by proxy.

8.2 A quorum shall be fifty (50) Members present at a General Meeting who are in good standing, representing all regions as defined in the Bylaws.

8.3 General Meetings shall be held at least once a year.

8.4 Ninety (90) days notice to Members is required to call a General Meeting.

8.5 General Meetings of Members shall be called in accordance with the Bylaws.

8.6 Special General Meetings of Members shall be called in accordance with the Bylaws.

## **Article 9 The Federal Council**

9.1 The Federal Council shall be comprised of:

9.2 The Leader of the Party;

9.3 The President of the Party, who is the Chief Executive Officer;

9.4 The Vice-President of the Party who shall perform all the duties and powers of the President during absence or inability of the President to act and such other duties as are assigned by the President or the Federal Council;

9.5 The Leader from each province in which the Federal Council has launched a provincial party;

9.6 The Leader from each territory in which the Federal Council has launched a provincial party;

9.7 The Leader from each provincial capital in which the Federal Council has launched a municipal party;

9.8 The Executive Director;

9.9 The Vice President English;

9.10 The Vice President French;

9.11 The Chief Financial Officer who shall be the custodian of the financial records of the Party, oversee the preparation of the annual budget of the Party and present an audited financial statement of the Party to the Annual General Meeting and shall have such other duties as are assigned by the Federal Council or the President, and shall carry out the responsibilities of, and be designated as, the Party's "financial agent" under the *Canada Elections Act*. S/he is a voting member of the Federal Council but only if elected or appointed one of its members.

9.12 The Secretary who shall maintain all non-financial records of the Party, cause minutes and written records be kept of all meetings and proceedings of the Party and the Federal Council, shall call meetings upon the direction of the President and shall have such duties as are assigned by the Federal Council or the President.

9.13 The Management Committee, which shall consist of the President, Past President, the Vice-President, the Chief Financial Officer, two other members of the Federal Council, the Secretary (non-voting) and the Executive Director (non-voting).

9.13.1 The Management Committee shall be a committee of the Federal Council and shall be responsible for managing the staff and operations of the Party; carrying out decisions of the Federal Council; preparing the annual budget of the Party; and appointing an accountant to perform the review or audit of the financial statements of the Party.

9.13.2 The Management Committee shall meet at a minimum of eight times per calendar year, and the meetings shall be independent of the Board of Directors.

9.13.3 The Management Committee shall meet at call of the president, or at the written request of three of its members delivered in person or sent by registered mail to the president or secretary, and any meetings so requested shall take place within ten days of the receipt of the request by the president or secretary.

9.13.4 The Management Committee may invite any person to attend its meetings.

9.13.5 The quorum for the Management Committee shall be in attendance the President, the Vice-President and two other members of the Federal Council.

9.14 Upon ceasing to hold office for whatever reason, Federal Council Members shall promptly deliver to their successors, the President or the Vice President of the Association, all records, materials and property in their possession which belong to the Party.

## **Article 10 Amendments to Constitution and Bylaws**

### *10.1 Constitution*

10.1.1 Notice of Proposed Amendments to the Constitution shall be included in the Notice of Meeting at which the amendments shall be considered.

10.1.2 Amendments may be submitted to the Federal Council by its Members and the Members of any of its provincial, territorial and municipal counterparts. There must be a majority of Council executives who are in good standing that seek the amendment(s).

10.1.3 Amendments shall be adopted by a majority of the votes cast by all Council executives in good standing at a Special Meeting of the Federal Council.

10.1.4 Upon the conclusion of the Special Meeting at which this Constitution is amended and within fourteen (14) days all Members of the Party federally, provincially, territorially and municipally shall receive by regular post or e-mail a copy of the amendment(s).

10.2.1 Notice of Proposed Amendments to the Bylaws shall be included in the Notice of Meeting at which the amendment(s) shall be considered.

10.2.2 Amendments may be submitted by Members of the Federal Council and Members of any of its provincial, territorial and municipal counterparts; and there must be a majority of Council executives who are in good standing that seek the amendment(s).

10.2.3 Amendments shall be adopted by a majority of the votes cast by all Council executives in good standing at a Special Meeting of the Federal Council.

10.2.4 Upon the conclusion of the Special Meeting at which a Bylaw is amended and within fourteen (14) days all Members of the Party federally, provincially, territorially and municipally shall receive by regular post or e-mail a copy of the amendment(s).

11.1.1 The Constitution is to be interpreted and read subject to the provisions of the *Canada Elections Act*. Unless the context otherwise requires, words and phrases used in the Constitution have the same meaning as in the *Canada Elections Act* or by way of the standard principles of statutory interpretation. To the extent there is a conflict between any provision of the Constitution and the *Canada Elections Act*, the latter and the principles of statutory interpretation shall prevail.

## **Bylaws**

### **Bylaw 1 Membership**

#### *1.1 Criteria for membership*

1.1.1 Any citizen or permanent resident of Canada, who is at least fourteen (14) or older, is eligible for membership in the Party, with full voting rights, provided the person is not a member of any other political party.

1.1.2 Every Member shall uphold this Constitution and Bylaws.

1.1.3 A Member shall cease to be in good standing upon failure to pay the current annual membership fee or upon other conditions as set out by the Federal Council or in the Bylaws.

1.1.4 A person cannot be a Member of the Party if the person belongs to an organization whose actions are detrimental to the Party, as determined by Federal Council.

1.1.5 A person who is at least twelve (12) years of age but less than fourteen (18) years of age may be designated a Youth Member, without the right to vote.

#### *1.2 Application for Membership*

1.2.1 A person may apply for membership in the Party to the following bodies:

1.2.1.1 Federal Council.

1.2.1.2 An Electoral District Association.

1.2.1.3 A Provincial/Territory/Municipal Organization.

1.2.1.4 A designated agent of the Federal Council that has been authorized to accept memberships.

1.2.2 Those identified in Section 1.2.1.2 and 1.2.1.3 do not have the right to set the amount of their own membership fee; that is the exclusive jurisdiction of the Federal Council.

1.2.3 For the first two years after the date of registration federally, provincially, territorially and municipally there shall be no membership fee.

1.2.4 The Federal Council shall maintain a comprehensive and up-to-date Internet and paper register of all Members federally, provincially, territorially and municipally; and must provide full electronic access in a timely manner to all Members of the Party who request access.

1.2.5 Every Member of the Party shall maintain an active email account for the purpose of communicating with all Members, the Federal Council, its provincial, territorial and municipal counterparts and EDAs. Those Members who do not have Internet access because there is no electronic infrastructure extending to home or office may communicate by regular post. Members may piggyback on another Member's email account as long as they give written notice to the Federal Council or provincial, territorial and

municipal counterparts as the case may be (which shall maintain a database of such types of email accounts).

1.2.6 Applicants for membership and renewing Members shall pay the membership fee directly to the Federal Council and its designates and not indirectly through an intermediary person.

### *1.3 Resignation and Removal of Member*

1.3.1 A person shall cease to be a Member of the Party:

1.3.1.1 By delivering a signed and dated resignation by registered letter or personally delivering it to the Federal Council or a registered office of the Party.

1.3.1.2 On her/his death.

1.3.1.3 On being expelled as provided for in these Bylaws.

1.3.1.4 On having been a Member not in good standing for 12 consecutive months.

1.3.1.5 On stating or the verifiable discovery that a Member is working to form a new political party, or if they begin or are verifiably discovered to be working for another existing political party.

1.3.2 A Member may be expelled by a resolution of the Federal Council or a General Meeting of Members. The person who is subject to the proposed

expulsion shall have full opportunity to be heard at the meeting before the Motion is put to a vote.

1.3.3 A Member may be suspended upon being charged with a summary conviction or indictable offence under the *Criminal Code of Canada* and is automatically expelled upon conviction. A Member may be suspended upon facing disciplinary proceedings before an administrative tribunal if the citation reasonably causes the Member's reputation and fitness to be a Member to be in doubt. The Federal Council has exclusive jurisdiction whether or not to suspend or expel a member under this provision; and it may impose a period of probation and determine terms of same which upon successful completion it may decide to return the Member to good standing.

1.3.4 A Member may be expelled if after becoming a Member it is verifiably discovered s/he was convicted of a summary conviction or indictable offense. The Federal Council may review the circumstances and determine in its unfettered discretion whether or not to expel the Member or impose a term of probation. Each case shall be determined on its merits, including evidence of rehabilitation, independently certified community service and other factors and proof the Federal Council deems reasonable and appropriate.

1.4 Other than when the membership is assembled in general meeting, email will be considered the primary form of communication between the Federal Council and its provincial, territorial and municipal counterparts and the membership, including but not limited to election of the Federal Council and its provincial, territorial and municipal counterparts, distribution of official notices, and any matter requiring the participation of the general membership.

1.5 Members, at the time of application for membership, or at any time thereafter, may choose how the Party will communicate with them, whether by regular post, email or fax.

### *1.5 Voting Rights*

1.5.1 A Member's right to vote on all matters, including all elections, shall commence after s/he has been a Member for thirty (30) days.

1.5.2 When a former Member rejoins the Party after having been a Member not in good standing for more than one year, that Member's voting rights shall resume thirty (30) days after rejoining the Party, otherwise that Member's voting rights resume the day they rejoin.

## **Bylaw 2 Federal Council**

### *2.1 Selection of Members to the Federal Council*

2.1.1 The founding Members of the Federal Council and its provincial, territorial and municipal counterparts (including Leader, President, Executive Director and Chief Financial Officer) are entitled to serve on the Council for upwards of but no more than five (5) years before having to submit to the election process.

2.1.1 After that five (5) year period or should a Member of the Federal Council resign or be expelled from the Party or suspended or placed on probation, nominations shall be by twenty (20) members of the Party in good standing.

2.1.1 All Members of the Party in good standing shall be eligible to vote for these positions.

*2.1.2 Provincial, Territorial and Municipal Leaders*

2.1.2.1 Five (5) Members of the Party in good standing residing within a province territory or municipality as the case may be shall be required to nominate for the position of provincial Leader, territory or municipal Leader.

2.1.2.2 All Members of the Party in good standing residing within a province, territory or municipality as the case may be shall be eligible to vote for their provincial, territorial or municipal Leader.

2.1.2.3 A majority vote shall determine who is elected.

*2.1.3 The Leader of the Federal Council -- the Leader of the Party*

2.1.3.1 One hundred (100) Members of the Party in good standing shall be required to nominate for the position of Leader.

2.1.3.2 All Members of the Party in good standing shall be eligible to vote for the position of the Leader.

2.1.3.3 The vote for Leader shall require None-of-the-Above (NOTA) to be a contestant, shall be by preferential ballot, and a majority vote shall elect.

#### *2.1.4 Election to Federal Council and Term of Office*

2.1.4.1 One (1) Member of the Party in good standing shall be required to nominate for a position and s/he must designate on the nomination form to which office the nomination relates.

2.1.4.2 A Party Member cannot be elected to more than two positions on the Federal Council.

2.1.4.3 After the five (5) year period referred to in Section 2.1 all Federal Council members shall be elected to serve a three (3) year term or if longer until their successors are elected.

2.1.4.4 Ballots for election shall be mailed out at least thirty (30) days prior to election day.

#### *2.1.5 Removal from Office*

2.1.5.1 Any Council member on the federal, provincial, territorial and municipal level except Leaders may be removed from office for cause, including for what's referenced in Section 1.3.3 and 1.3.4, by a seventy-five percent (75%) vote of the Federal Council at a Special Meeting.

2.1.5.2 Leaders may be removed from office by motion at a General Meeting, following a non-confidence vote supported by seventy-five percent (75%) of Federal Council Members at a Special Meeting.

2.1.5.3 Leaders who are subject to removal procedures must be informed of all allegations in writing and are entitled to thirty (30) days to prepare and present a defense before any motions of non-confidence or removal.

2.1.5.4 Any Council Member on the federal, provincial, territorial and municipal level who fails to attend three (3) consecutive Council meetings without reasonable justification shall be automatically removed from Federal Council by the Leader unless the Member provides satisfactory written documentation explaining the absences and is reinstated by a majority vote of Federal Council. If the member is removed under these circumstances, the member shall be ineligible to run for a Federal Council position in the next election for Federal Council.

#### *2.1.6 Vacancy in Federal Council Office*

2.1.6.1 The Federal Council has the authority to fill by appointment any vacancy however caused until the next General Meeting or the term for that position ends, whichever occurs first. A majority vote is needed to confirm the appointment.

2.1.6.2 All Federal Council Members shall be notified of a vacancy within seven (7) days.

2.1.6.3 Notice of the vacancy shall be posted on the Party's website and each Member of the Party shall receive the Notice of Vacancy by email within the same seven (7) day period.

2.1.7 Where the Leader's term ends or the position of Leader otherwise becomes vacant:

2.1.7.1 The Federal Council by seventy-five percent (75%) vote shall forthwith appoint an interim Leader until a Leadership Contest is held and a new Leader is elected.

2.1.7.2 A Leadership Contest must be held within six (6) months of the appointment of an interim Leader.

## *2.2 Assignment of Member to a Province or Territory for Voting Purposes*

2.2.1 The assignment of a member to a province or territory shall be based on the mailing address on file thirty (30) days prior to the Federal Council election day.

## *2.3 Provincial, Territorial and Municipal Councils*

2.3.1 A provincial, territorial and municipal Council Member's permanent residence must be in the province, territories or municipality they represent.

2.3.2 A provincial, territorial or municipal Council Member's status ceases when residency ceases.

## *2.4 Meetings of Federal Council and its Provincial, Territorial and Municipal Counterparts*

2.4.1 Federal Council shall meet at least four (4) times per year.

2.4.1 Its provincial, territorial and municipal counterparts shall meet at least once (1) per year.

2.4.2 Quorum at meetings shall be a majority of voting members then in office, and if quorum drops below six (6) voting members, a General Meeting shall occur within six (6) months.

2.4.3 The Federal Council and its provincial, territorial and municipal counterparts may meet by way of visual and audio Internet technologies. The Secretary must be present and is responsible to take minutes of the Meeting.

2.4.4 All decisions of the Federal Council and its provincial, territorial and municipal counterparts shall be by a majority of vote of those present and voting, except as may be specifically stated elsewhere in the Constitution or Bylaws.

2.4.5 All Article 9 members of the Federal Council may vote. The Executive Director cannot vote but shall be given a full opportunity to make submissions.

2.4.6 The Federal Council has the exclusive jurisdiction to make procedural rules for conducting its meetings and that of its provincial, territorial and municipal counterparts. They must not inconsistent with the Constitution and Bylaws. Said counterparts shall be given a full opportunity to make submissions.

2.4.7 The Federal Council may create non-voting Federal Council positions who do not factor in the quorum calculation for Federal Council meetings.

2.4.8 Federal Council meetings shall be scheduled by a minimum of one-third (1/3) of its Members, or may be called by the Leader or President.

2.4.9 The Federal Council may make decisions between normal meetings by email and other electronic means, and the results of any such votes shall be read into the minutes of the subsequent meeting and in accordance with procedures set in the Bylaws.

## *2.5 Federal Council Committees*

2.5.1 The Federal Council may establish committees as required and it shall determine mandate, procedural rules and protocols. These committees shall directly report to Federal Council in any manner it deems reasonable and appropriate. The Federal Council's provincial, territorial and municipal counterparts shall be given notice of the creation of committees and they shall be given a full opportunity to make submissions.

## **Bylaw 3 Regions**

3.1 The six (6) regions for the purposes of the Constitution and Bylaws are:

3.1.1 The 'Atlantic Region' consisting of the provinces of Newfoundland & Labrador, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

3.1.2 The 'Quebec Region' consisting of the province of Quebec.

3.1.3 The 'Ontario Region' consisting of the province of Ontario.

3.1.4 The 'Prairie Region' consisting of the provinces of Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

3.1.5 The 'Pacific Region' consisting of the provinces of British Columbia and Alberta.

3.1.6 The 'Northern Region' consisting of Nunavut, Yukon and Northwest Territories.

#### **Bylaw 4 General Meetings of the Entire Membership of the Party**

##### *4.1 Calling of Biennial General Meeting*

4.1.1 The biennial General Meeting of Members shall be called by the Federal Council by majority vote, and shall establish the location and the date of the meeting.

##### *4.2 Calling of Other General Meetings*

4.2.1 Other General Meetings may be called by:

4.2.1.1 the Federal Council by a seventy-five (75%) vote of those voting;

4.2.1.2 a Petition to the Federal Council submitted and signed by ten percent (10%) of the Members of the Party in good standing; and

4.2.1.3 a petition to the Federal Council submitted and signed by the Leader of President of at least one-third (1/3) of the registered electoral district and provincial and territorial organizations.

4.2.2 When a General Meeting has been petitioned, the Federal Council shall select the location and the date of the General Meeting, which date shall be set within sixty (60) days of receipt of the petition.

#### *4.3 Motions at General Meetings*

4.3.1 Members shall be notified at least thirty (30) days in advance of any deadline to submit motions for consideration at a General Meeting of Members.

4.3.2 Motions shall be submitted by at least twenty (20) Party Members in good standing.

4.3.3 Motions that do not comply with this Section and are removed from the floor of the meeting shall only be considered if they are of an emergency nature and shall require a seventy-five percent (75%) vote to be considered by the Meeting.

4.3.4 Motions, including rationale and background information, submitted in advance, must be made available to Members of the Party who are eligible to vote at the General Meeting thirty (30) days in advance of the start of General Meeting.

4.3.5 In accordance with rules of procedure of the Party, the text of motions, including amendments to the Constitution or Bylaws, may be changed at a General Meeting providing the original intent of the motion or amendment, as received by the Members with the notification of the General Meeting, is maintained.

#### *4.4 Voting at General Meetings*

4.4.1 Votes cast by regular post, email or fax shall be by a process where the authenticity of the vote can be verified.

### **Bylaw 5 Selection of Candidates for Member of Parliament**

5.1 Candidates shall be selected by the Party as follows:

5.1.1 where there is an EDA, the electoral district Council shall select the candidate in accordance with the association's Bylaws;

5.1.2 where no EDA exists, candidates will be selected in accordance with a process determined by the Federal Council; and

5.1.3 where there are no Party Members in an electoral district, selection of a candidate shall be by the Federal Council or a committee established by the Federal Council.

5.2 The Federal Council shall enact and oversee the implementation of rules for the selection of candidates for Member of Parliament, Legislative Assemblies and City Councils and shall create and oversee a Candidate Nomination Committee for the purpose of recruiting candidates and administering the candidate selection process.

5.3 A person seeking a nomination shall present to the Federal Council or its provincial, territorial and municipal counterparts as the case may be all documentation as required by the Party, and meet membership and all other

requirements as specified by the Party, the Federal Council and the Constitution and Bylaws.

5.3 All approved candidates shall be invited to attend all meetings of the Federal Council and its provincial, territorial and municipal counterparts and General Meetings as the case may be.

## **Bylaw 6 Cabinet**

6.1 The federal Leader and his/her provincial, territorial and municipal counterparts upon being elected and the Party achieving sufficient elected candidates on the federal, provincial, territorial and municipal levels as the case may be shall be the Prime Minister, Premier or Mayor as the case may be.

6.2 Leaders on the federal, provincial, territorial and municipal level in consultation with the Federal Council shall appoint members to Cabinet or Shadow Cabinet from among members of the Caucus or other members of the Party.

6.3 Provincial, territorial and municipal Leaders in consultation with the Federal Council shall appoint members to Cabinet or Shadow Cabinet as the case may be from among members of the provincial, territorial and municipal Caucus as the case may be or other members of the Party who reside in that province, territory or municipality electoral district as the case may be.

6.4 The federal, provincial, territorial or municipal Leader may not replace members of the his/her Cabinet or Shadow Cabinet as s/he sees fit, but

must instead call a Special Meeting and engage in a full discussion about proposed changes. A secret ballot format and majority vote shall be employed to make a replacement.

6.5 Federal, provincial, territorial and municipal Leaders shall not appoint a Cabinet or Shadow Cabinet Minister unless s/he has (a) requisite academic and/or professional and/or technical qualifications, (b) significant work-related experience and (c) a reputation of high standing within the sector, industry or community to which the portfolio relates.

6.6 If or when constitutionally or legislatively permitted and there is nobody elected who satisfies the criteria in Section 6.5, the Leader and his/her provincial, territorial and municipal counterpart as the case may be may appoint members to Cabinet or Shadow Cabinet, as the case may be, from outside the Party.

6.7 If neither constitutionally nor legislatively permitted as stated in Section 6.6. or until the latter the Federal Council and its provincial, territorial and municipal counterparts as the case may be shall establish and oversee Committee of experts, specialists and academics which will manage the affairs of the Committee and achieve the objective of having the qualified and reputable engage in functions enumerated herein. The Committee has exclusive power to (a) chose by majority vote panels for the IRVS televised discussions and debates, (b) formulate IRVS-approved policy implementation procedures and methodologies for policy implementation assessments and (c) choose experts, specialists and academics who will conduct said assessments.

6.8 The criteria for appointments pursuant to Section 6.6 is having (a) requisite academic and/or professional and/or technical qualifications, (b) significant work-related experience and (c) a reputation of high standing within the sector, industry or community to which the portfolio relates.

6.9 The Leader on the federal, provincial, territorial and municipal level may appoint only one Deputy Leader.

## **Bylaw 7 Electoral District Associations and Provincial Divisions**

7.1 The EDA is the primary grassroots component of the Party through which Members exercise their rights.

7.2 The Federal Council may grant recognition to one EDA per federal, provincial, territorial and municipal electoral district, and:

7.2.1 Such recognition may be revoked subject to rules set out in the Bylaws.

7.2.2 EDAs shall comply with such requirements as to their governance, financial management and reporting, as may be implemented by Federal Council or by Bylaw.

### *7.3 Electoral District Association procedures and requirements*

7.3.1 All officers of an EDA must be members in good standing of the Party.

7.3.2 EDAs must provide to the Party the names and contact information for the association's Chief Executive Officer and Financial Agent within seven (7) days of any change.

7.3.3 Monies held by an EDA that is deregistered or ceases to exist are to be transferred forthwith to the Party and the Party will return the monies to the next duly elected board of the EDA whose recognition by Elections Canada has been renewed.

7.3.5 An EDA must file with the Federal Council a copy of its constitution as certified by the association Leader.

7.3.6 EDAs must:

7.3.6.1 hold Annual General Meetings at least once (1) a year, except when election writs are filed;

7.3.6.2 submit copies of General Meeting minutes to the Federal Council promptly; and

7.3.7 provide such financial information to the Party as the Federal Council may require.

7.3.7.1 EDAs shall adopt a constitution that is not inconsistent with this Constitution and shall adopt Bylaws that are not inconsistent with this Constitution or these Bylaws and may adapt them to local situations. Any amendment(s) must be approval by seventy-five percent (75%) of votes by the Federal Council.

7.3.8 The Party may deregister an EDA if it does not govern itself in accordance with its Constitution and Bylaws and the Constitution and Bylaws of the Party.

## **Bylaw 8 Party Documents**

8.1 The Federal Council shall maintain for viewing by all Members the following Party documents:

8.1.1 The Constitution and Bylaws.

8.1.2 The original and added and amended Rules of Procedure.

8.1.3 All minutes of previous General Meeting and Federal Council meetings.

8.2 Documents in this Section shall be forwarded by regular post or email to Members at a reasonable cost upon request.

8.3 Provincial, territorial and municipal Councils shall comply with the requirements of the Section.

## **Bylaw 9 Financial Procedures**

9.1 Agency: In strict compliance with the *Canada Elections Act* the Federal Council or a General Meeting may:

9.1.1 appoint a person to be a registered agent of the Party, to issue tax receipts and maintain books for any recognized component of the Party, and

9.1.2 revoke the agent and dismiss the registered agent from office with or without cause.

9.2 Fundraising: All components of the Party may conduct legal fundraising activities.

9.3 Borrowing: Only a General Meeting by majority vote and the Federal Council may by seventy-five percent (75%) vote authorize borrowing by the Party. On the provincial, territorial and municipal levels the same procedure applies.

9.4 Revenue Sharing: Revenue sharing and borrowing that accrue to any component of the Party shall be forfeited to the Party for the current quarter and any following quarters when:

9.4.1 officers of the component are not all members in good standing;

9.4.2 the component has not filed a copy of its constitution with the Federal Council;

9.4.3 the component doesn't holds an annual general meeting at least once (1) a year;

9.4.4 the component doesn't provide for the election of officers at annual general meetings;

9.4.5 the component does not provide full financial disclosure in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles;

9.4.6 the component does not provide financial information to the Party as the Federal Council may require; and

9.4.7 the component does not make all the filings required by, or has complied fully with, the *Canada Elections Act*;

9.4.8 the Chief Executive Officer, Financial Agent, or equivalent, of the component do not respond to any form of communication from the Party for at least one (1) month;

9.4.9 the component does not comply with any other requirements as may be implemented by the Federal Council; and

9.4.10 the component continues to be in breach of its Constitution or Bylaws after being given formal notice by the Federal Council it is in breach of same.

## **Bylaw 10 Sovereignty**

10.1 Each component of the Party has sovereignty over its internal procedures and protocols except when it is in violation of or inconsistent with this Constitution and Bylaws or its own Constitution and Bylaws, at which time this Constitution and Bylaws shall be paramount.

10.1 No component has any rights to funds raised by the Federal Council or any other component except insofar as the Federal Council or a General Meeting permits

10.2 The Federal Council and General Meetings may unilaterally levy fees on or from any component to cover the costs of Party activities.

## **Bylaw 11 Protection / Indemnity**

11.1 When acting honestly, in good faith and exercising due diligence and within the scope of their authority under this and provincial, territorial and municipal constitutions, bylaws and other duly passed Party rules, no lawfully sitting component member, volunteer, employee, officer, director, member of any committee established by the Party or any other person duly acting in any approved capacity on behalf of the Party shall be liable for any debts, actions, claims, demands, liabilities or commitments of any kind of the Party howsoever incurred. The Party shall indemnify and hold harmless each such person against any such debt, action, claim, demand, liability and commitment whatsoever.