

**CONSTITUTION OF THE  
NATIONAL WOMEN'S LIBERAL COMMISSION**

As amended at the NWLC Biennial Meeting May 1, 2009

**1. Role and Purpose of the National Women's Liberal Commission**

- 1.01** The name of this organization shall be the National Women's Liberal Commission ("NWLC").
- 1.02** This is the Constitution of the NWLC. These bylaws shall be the operating rules of the NWLC except where there is a difference in interpretation between these bylaws and the Liberal Party of Canada ("LPC") constitution. Then the provisions of the latter shall govern the NWLC.
- 1.03** The purpose of the NWLC to ensure equal participation of women and men at all levels of the Liberal Party (the "Party"), to represent and promote the interests of women within the Party and to encourage the active participation of women at all levels of Party activities.
- 1.04** The NWLC shall:
- a) *within LPC*:
    - i) encourage the participation of women of all ages in the political process;
    - ii) seek, encourage and support women to run for office within the Liberal Party of Canada;
    - iii) promote both the nomination and the election of women of the Liberal Party of Canada to Parliament;
    - iv) assess and report on the status of affirmative action and the equality provisions of the constitution of the Liberal Party of Canada;
    - v) assist with the establishment of clubs;
    - vi) develop, determine, promote, communicate and disseminate Liberal Party of Canada policy; and
    - vii) provide assistance and leadership to provincial and territorial women's Liberal associations / commissions;
  - b) *within the nation*
    - i) advance the principle of gender equality; and
    - ii) advance the interests and well-being of women of all ages across Canada.
- 1.05** Internationally, the NWLC should:

- (a) disseminate LPC policy;
- (b) communicate the purpose of the NWLC, as well as its constitution, structure, its past achievements, present work and future goals; and
- (c) support women and women's organizations with the goal of advancing the principle of equality for women of all ages in society in general.

## **2. Membership**

**2.01** The NWLC is open to women of all ages who

- (a) are members of LPC; and
- (b) are not members of another federal political party in Canada.

## **3. National Executive and Table Officers**

**3.01** The National Executive of the NWLC shall consist of the following members:

- (a) president;
- (b) six vice-presidents, one from each of the following regions:
  - (i) British Columbia / Yukon;
  - (ii) Alberta / Northwest Territories / Nunavut;
  - (iii) Saskatchewan / Manitoba;
  - (iv) Ontario;
  - (v) Quebec; and
  - (vi) Atlantic;
- (c) presidents, or their designates, of each provincial and territorial women's association / commission. In the event that a province or territory does not have a women's association / commission, a woman representative may be designated from that province or territory by the table officers in consultation with the provincial or territorial association;
- (d) past president of the NWLC;

- (e) the president of the Judy LaMarsh Fund;
- (f) such other members (non voting) as may be appointed thereto by the National Executive of the NWLC;
- (g) the Women's Commission representative of the Young Liberals of Canada;
- (h) the Women's Commission representative of the Aboriginal Peoples' Commission;
- (i) the Women's Commission representative of the Senior Liberals Commission; and
- (j) the manager of the NWLC (non-voting).

**3.02** The table officers will serve as an administrative body to conduct the business of the Commission on a day to day basis. The table officers of the NWLC shall consist of the following members:

- (a) president;
- (b) immediate past-president;
- (c) the six vice-presidents; and
- (d) the manager of the NWLC (non voting).

**3.03** (a) In the event that a vacancy occurs in the presidency of the NWLC, a meeting of the table officers of the NWLC will be called by the NWLC manager or, in her absence, by the LPC president or his / her designate, to elect the NWLC president from among the table officers.

(b) In the event that a vacancy occurs among the vice-presidents, a replacement may be elected by the provincial / territorial women's association(s) / commission(s) of the region from which the vice president came.

(c) If a provincial / territorial women's commission does not exist, a replacement shall be designated by the NWLC table officers in consultation with the provincial / territorial federal Liberal association.

(d) Any vacancy relating to the NWLC president or the table officers shall be filled within two months of the date of the vacancy.

**3.04** Executive members shall not hold the same office for more than two (2) consecutive terms. This provision does not apply to presidents of provincial/ territorial women's associations.

**3.05** A term shall be that time between LPC biennial conventions.

**3.06** Within two (2) months of a biennial meeting of the NWLC, the president will appoint from the vice presidents in consultation with the other table officers:

(a) Finance Committee chair;

(b) Communications Committee chair;

(c) Organization Committee chair;

(d) two (2) Policy Committee chairs, one of whom shall be French speaking; and one English speaking;

(e) Constitutional Committee chair.

Where necessary and practical, co-chairs for the above committees will be appointed from among the NWLC president, the presidents / designates of the provincial and territorial women's associations / commissions.

#### **4. Responsibilities of the Table Officers**

##### **4.01** President

The duties of the president or, where applicable, her designate, shall include the following:

(a) chair all meetings of the national executive of the NWLC;

(b) chair all NWLC biennial meetings;

(c) be the official representative of the NWLC to the national executive of the Liberal Party of Canada;

(d) have overall responsibility for the activities of the NWLC;

(e) sit as a member of the board of directors of the Judy LaMarsh Fund; and

(f) in consultation with the NWLC table officers, name persons to represent the NWLC on any committee of the Liberal Party of Canada.

#### **4.02 Vice-presidents**

The duties of the vice presidents shall include the following:

- (a) promote communication among women Liberals in their regions;
- (b) develop and coordinate activities and programmes in the regions they serve;
- (c) promote an awareness of political issues, Liberal principles and policies among Canadian women;
- (d) represent the interests of women Liberals on the national executive of the Liberal Party of Canada; and
- (e) sit ex officio on the executive board of the province / territory where one exists and receive notification and minutes of all meetings.

#### **4.03 Provincial / territorial presidents or designates**

The duties of the provincial / territorial presidents or designates shall include the following:

- (a) promote communication among women Liberals in their province / territory;
- (b) encourage the participation of women at all levels of the Liberal Party;
- (c) develop and coordinate the activities and programmes of the NWLC in their province / territory including the formation of and communication with women's clubs;
- (d) promote an awareness of political issues, Liberal principles and policies among Canadian women; and
- (e) represent the women Liberals of their province / territory on the national executive of the NWLC.

#### **4.04 Committee chairs**

- (a) Finance Committee chair

The duties of the Finance Committee chair shall include, but not be limited to the following:

- (i) develop and report on the NWLC budget; and
- (ii) develop and coordinate fundraising projects.

(b) Communications chair

The duties of the Communications Committee chair shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- (i) assist with all publications of the NWLC; and
- (ii) establish communication links with NWLC member Organizations.

(c) Organization Committee chair

The duties of the Organization Committee chair shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- (i) provide organizational support to the provincial and territorial women's associations / commissions;
- (ii) prepare organizational materials for conventions, meetings and elections; and
- (iii) develop strategies for recruitment of members, involvement and participation of the NWLC within the Liberal Party of Canada.

(d) Policy Committee chair

The duties of the Policy Committee chair shall include, but not be limited, to the following:

- (i) develop policy on behalf of the NWLC;
- (ii) provide follow-up on policy and resolutions passed at NWLC biennial meetings and at NWLC executive meetings; and
- iii) represent the NWLC on the Liberal Party of Canada LPC Policy and Platform Committee.

(e) Constitutional Committee chair

The duties if the Constitutional Committee chair shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- i) review the NWLC Constitution and propose amendments when

necessary; and

ii) represent the NWLC on the LPC Constitutional Committee

## **5. Meetings of the NWLC Executive**

**5.01** The national executive of the NWLC shall meet at least twice per year. The meeting shall be called by the President or alternatively by two thirds of the Executive. These meetings shall be called by the president or by two thirds of the table officers. The meetings shall be chaired by the president or, in her absence, another table officer chosen by the table officers. Reports of these meetings shall be distributed to the national executive of the NWLC.

**5.02** The table officers cannot hold a meeting without a quorum of four (4) voting members.

## **6. NWLC Biennial Meetings**

**6.01** Biennial meetings of all women delegates and alternates will be held at every convention as defined in Chapter 16 of the *Liberal Party of Canada Constitution*.

**6.02** Business transacted at the Biennial Meeting shall be determined by the Executive and shall include and not be limited to:

(a) approval of the minutes of the previous annual meeting;

(b) report of each Executive member;

(c) the NWLC strategic, organizational and fundraising plan as presented at the most recent Council of Presidents meeting;

(d) new business.

**6.03** Elections will be held at the LPC biennial convention for the President of the NWLC and for the six Vice-Presidents.



- 6.04** All women delegates in attendance at the LPC biennial convention are eligible to vote for a Vice President from the Region they represent.
- 6.05** The nomination of candidates for the vice-presidents from British Columbia / Yukon; Alberta / Northwest Territories / Nunavut; Saskatchewan / Manitoba, Quebec, Ontario or Atlantic regional representative may be decided on a rotating basis in consultation with the provincial / territorial women's commissions in each of those regions.
- 6.06** (a) All women delegates present at the LPC biennial convention are eligible to vote for one of NWLC presidential candidates.
- (b) All women delegates present at the LPC biennial convention are eligible to vote for one of the vice-presidential candidates running from their region. No delegate is eligible to vote for a vice-presidential candidate from outside that delegate's region.

## **7. Clubs**

- 7.01** A club is formed when a group of at least 10 women Liberals hold a founding meeting, elect an executive and adopt a constitution / bylaws.
- 7.02** A Club's constitution / bylaws must be consistent with the LPC and NWLC Constitutions in that the constitution/ bylaws:
- a) incorporates the principles set out in the Preamble and defines its purposes in a manner consistent with Section 1.04;
  - b) provides that any member of the club has the right to receive newsletters, information, membership services, and notices of general meetings and other activities from the club; the right to attend, speak, and vote at a general meeting of the club and the right to be elected to any office in the association;
  - c) provides for the election of the President of the club and the officer primarily responsible for policy of the club by a vote of all members of the club;
  - d) provides for an appeal procedure in respect of any action or decision of the club and any irregularities in connection with any meetings of the club except where an appeal is within the jurisdiction of the Permanent Appeal Committee of LPC; and
  - e) provides for the establishment and maintenance of minutes of meetings and correspondence

**7.03** To be a recognized as a new club by the NWLC, a club must:

- (a) have at least 25 members;
- (b) hold a founding meeting, with at least 10 members present, for the purpose of electing an executive and adopting a constitution / bylaws;
- (c) forward the following to the NWLC director:
  - (i) minutes from the club's founding meeting;
  - (ii) the club's membership list;
  - (iii) the club's executive list;
  - (iv) the club's constitution/bylaws as certified by the Chief Executive Officer of the Club; and
  - (iv) any affiliation fee established by the NWLC executive.

**7.04** Existing clubs must annually forward the following to the NWLC director:

- (a) minutes of its annual general meeting;
- (b) a list of the club's executive and contact information including postal address, phone number and e-mail address; and
- (c) a list of the club's members and contact information including postal address, phone number and e-mail address; and
- (d) any affiliation fee established by the NWLC executive.

**7.05** The materials listed in 7.02 and 7.03 must also be forwarded to the provincial / territorial women's commission / association.

## **8. Delegates to Biennial Conventions**

**8.01** In order to be certified as a club in good standing for the purposes of sending a delegate to biennial conventions of LPC, a club must:

- (a) Be a recognized club in accordance with Article 8.02 or 8.03; and
- (b) Be recognized for the purposes of this Constitution for at least one year before the date of the call of the Biennial convention.

- 8.02** Each club must hold a delegate selection meeting to select delegates and alternate delegates to conventions at the time, and in accordance with the procedures, established under the LPC Constitution and by the National Executive. Provincial and territorial rules relating to the election of delegates to conventions of the Party must be observed unless in conflict with the LPC Constitution.
- 8.03** Each club that holds a delegate selection meeting in accordance with this section 8.06 has the right to send delegates and alternate delegates to a convention.
- 8.04** Every member of a club who is a member LPC has the right to attend a delegate selection meeting of a club and has the right to vote at that meeting if that member:
- (a) is present at the meeting; and
  - (b) has been a member of the Party for the 41 days immediately preceding the meeting.
- 8.05** Each club may elect any number of alternate delegates.
- 8.06** At least 34 days before the convention, each club must hold its delegate selection meeting.

## **9. Appeals**

- 9.01** Appeals relating to:
- (a) delegate selection from a club to any convention of the Party; or
  - (b) the NWLC's interpretation of its Constitution or the constitution of one of its Commission Clubs

shall be made to the Permanent Appeal Committee as established by Chapter 10 of the LPC Constitution.

## **10. Amendments to the Constitution**

- 10.01** All amendments to this Constitution must be made at the General Meeting at the biennial convention.
- 10.02** Amendments to this constitution may be proposed by:
- (a) The Executive; or
  - (b) Any provincial / territorial women's commissions presidents or their

designates.

- 10.03** Proposed amendments must be submitted in writing to the President at least 27 days before the general meeting at which they are to be considered.
- 10.04** The Executive must publish a copy of each proposed amendment to this Constitution that must be submitted to a General Meeting on the public website of the NWLC at least 20 days before the convention at which the proposed amendment is to be considered.
- 10.05** So long as notice is provided in accordance with 10.03 and 10.04, amendments to this Constitution may be made with the support of two thirds of the women delegates in attendance at the NWLC general meeting.

**11. Official Languages**

- 11.01** All documents of the NWLC produced for the public shall be produced in English and French and both languages shall be considered equally binding and authentic. Interpretation shall be provided at all NWLC meetings at conventions.
- 11.02** All NWLC biennial meetings shall be presided over in English and French.