



# **The CONSTITUTION and BY-LAWS of the GREEN PARTY of NOVA SCOTIA**

## **THE CONSTITUTION** (adopted 2006; revised 2009; amended 2010)

### The Constitution

1. NAME.....	3
2. REGISTERED OFFICE .....	3
3. PURPOSE OF THE CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS.....	3
4. PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES OF THE PARTY .....	3
5. ORGANIZATIONAL UNITS .....	4
6. GENERAL MEETINGS.....	5
7. INCOME, BENEFIT, OR ADVANTAGE TO BE APPLIED TO OBJECTIVES .....	6
8. AMENDMENT OF CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS .....	6
9. DISSOLUTION .....	6

### The By-Laws

By-law on Accountability for Performance .....	8
By-law on Amendment of Constitution and By-laws.....	9
By-law on Budget and Expense Approval.....	11
By-law on Caucus .....	14
By-law on Constituency Divisions .....	15
By-law on Discipline, Complaints, and Appeals .....	16
By-law on Election of Officers of the Party by the Membership .....	17
By-law on Electoral District Associations .....	18
By-law on Executive of the Party .....	19
By-law on Finance .....	23
By-law on General Meetings and the Annual Convention .....	24
By-law on Leadership .....	26
By-law on Leadership Election.....	28
By-law on Membership.....	30
By-law on Payment of the Leader .....	32
By-law on Policy Committee.....	33
By-law on Policy Development and Ratification .....	34
By-law on Regional Divisions .....	36

By-law on Regional Representation .....	38
By-law on Rules of Order .....	39
By-law on Selection of Candidates for Members of the Legislative Assembly .....	40
By-law on Shadow Cabinet .....	41
By-law on Voting by Preferential Ballot .....	42

**BY- LAWS** (adopted 2007; revised 2009; last amended as noted)

Accountability for Performance (adopted 2009; amended 2010)	
Amendment of Constitution and By-laws (adopted 2009; amended 2010)	
Budget and Expense Approval (adopted 2007; amended 2010)	
Caucus (adopted 2009)	
Constituency Divisions (adopted 2009)	
Discipline, Complaints and Appeals (adopted 2007; amended 2010)	
Election of Officers of the Party by the Membership (adopted 2007; amended 2015)	
Electoral District Associations (adopted 2009)	
Executive of the Party (adopted 2009; amended 2010; amended 2016)	
Finance (adopted 2009)	
General Meetings and the Annual Convention (adopted 2009; amended 2012; amended 2016)	
Leadership (adopted 2009; amended 2010; amended 2016)	
Leadership Election (adopted 2007; amended 2010; amended 2016)	
Membership (adopted 2009; amended 2012; amended 2016)	
Payment of the Leader (adopted 2011)	
Policy Committee (adopted 2009; amended 2010; amended 2016)	
Policy Development and Ratification (adopted 2007; amended 2010)	
Regional Divisions (adopted 2009; amended 2010)	
Regional Representation (adopted 2009)	
Rules of Order (adopted 2009)	
Selection of Candidates for Members of the Legislative Assembly (adopted 2009)	
Shadow Cabinet (adopted 2009; amended 2010; amended 2016)	
Voting by Preferential Ballot (adopted 2010)	



## The Constitution

### **1. NAME**

The name of the organization is The Green Party of Nova Scotia

### **2. REGISTERED OFFICE**

The registered office shall be that place reported to Elections Nova Scotia.

### **3. PURPOSE OF THE CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS**

3.1. The purpose of this Constitution is to provide for the effective and efficient operation of the Party and to facilitate the inclusion of Nova Scotians who seek to uphold the purpose and objectives of the Party.

3.1.2. This Constitution and By-laws shall govern the activities of the Party, all persons operating on behalf of the Party, and the rights, responsibilities and duties of its recognized units, committees, and membership.

3.2.2 The Constitution has precedence over the By-laws, and any By-law that is inconsistent with the Constitution shall be null and void to the extent of the inconsistency.

### **4. PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES OF THE PARTY**

4.1. The purpose of the Party is to foster a sustained political institution that reflects the Six Principles of the Charter of the Global Greens: ecological wisdom, social justice, participatory democracy, nonviolence, sustainability, and respect for diversity, and in so doing to consider the interests of all Nova Scotians, their future generations, and the biosphere.

4.2. The objectives of the Party toward this purpose are:

4.2.1. To base policy-making upon the collective wisdom of the Nova Scotian electorate and its community groups, to ratify policies consistent with the Six Principles of the Charter of the Global Greens, and to advance these policies into the laws and policies of the Province of Nova Scotia.

4.2.2. To maintain registration as a political party with Elections Nova Scotia and therefore to provide a sufficient number of candidates for election to the House of Assembly of the Province of Nova Scotia in all relevant elections and to meet all requirements under the Elections Act and other relevant legislation of the Province of Nova Scotia.

4.2.3. To engage in such provincial and municipal political activities as are judged appropriate by the members of the Party within the Province of Nova Scotia.

4.2.4. To honour all lawful Treaties made with the First Nations of Nova Scotia.

## **5. ORGANIZATIONAL UNITS**

### **5.1. Members**

5.1.1. Any person resident in Nova Scotia who accepts and abides by this Constitution and By-laws may be a member of the Party.

### **5.2. Constituency level units**

#### **5.2.1. Electoral District Association**

5.2.1.1 An association as defined in the *Elections Act* of Nova Scotia that is composed of members resident in a single provincial electoral district. In addition to meeting the requirements in the legislation and regulations of the province of Nova Scotia, an Electoral District Association meets requirements of this Constitution and By-laws.

#### **5.2.2. Constituency Division**

5.2.2.1. A group that is composed of members resident in a single provincial electoral district where an Electoral District Association is not formed. This group functions in accordance with this Constitution and By-laws.

### **5.3. Regional Division**

5.3.1. An organizational unit in which membership and voting rights are granted to all Party members residing within a group of contiguous electoral districts, as defined in the *Elections Act* of the province of Nova Scotia, or within geographic regions having another basis for political identity. The boundaries, structure, and function of a Regional Division are governed by this Constitution and By-laws.

### **5.4. Executive of the Party**

5.4.1. The Executive is the Party's administrative body, responsible for the day-to-day administration and operations of the Party, and for ensuring compliance with this Constitution and By-laws, and answerable to the membership. The composition and functions of the Executive of the Party are defined in this Constitution and By-laws.

## 5.5. Leadership

5.5.1. The Leader and any Deputy Leaders constitute the Leadership of the Party. The election and appointment of leadership positions and the duties of the leadership are executed in accordance with this Constitution and By-laws.

## 5.6. Shadow Cabinet

5.6.1. As an alternative cabinet to the government, the Shadow Cabinet provides critical analysis of the government's position on policy matters. This cabinet is appointed and its functions are executed in accordance with this Constitution and By-laws.

## 5.7. Caucus

5.7.1. The Caucus exists to organize and co-ordinate the Party's activities in the Nova Scotia House of Assembly in accordance with this Constitution and By-laws, for any period when the Party has members of the Nova Scotia House of Assembly. The Caucus is composed of the leadership, the representatives of the Party elected as Members of the Legislative Assembly, and may include other representatives of the Party as defined in the *By-Law on Caucus*.

# 6. GENERAL MEETINGS

6.1 General Meetings must consist of members with voting rights which can include

6.1.1. individual members who each have one vote

6.1.2. members carrying proxies who have voting rights as set out in the By-laws

6.1.3. delegates who are to be selected and have voting rights as set out in the By-laws (Proviso: This clause does not come into effect until the members have adopted a bylaw or bylaws providing the mechanism whereby delegate voting is established.)

6.2 A quorum at a General Meeting is half of those entitled to vote and who are booked into the General Meeting on that day provided that at least half of all Regional Divisions, that are organized and registered with the Party, are represented by those with voting rights.

6.3 The Annual Convention must include the Annual General Meeting and must be held within four months of the end of the Financial Year, unless an exception is supported in the By-laws.

6.4 The Annual Convention and Annual General Meeting must be called and carried out in accordance with the By-laws.

6.5 Special General Meetings must be called and carried out in accordance with the By-laws.

## **7. INCOME, BENEFIT, OR ADVANTAGE TO BE APPLIED TO OBJECTIVES**

7.1 Any income, benefit, or advantage will be applied to the Objectives and Purpose of the Party.

7.2 No member of the Party or any person associated with a member shall participate in or materially influence any decision made by the Party in respect of any payment to or on behalf of that member or associated person of any income, benefit or advantage whatsoever. Any such income paid shall be reasonable and relative to that which would be paid in an arm's length transaction (being the fair market value).

7.3 The provision and effect of Article 7 shall not be removed from these rules and shall be implied into any document replacing these rules.

## **8. AMENDMENT OF CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS**

8.1 The Constitution must not be amended except at a General Meeting of the Party and by a resolution passed by at least 75% of the members entitled to vote in accordance with this Constitution and By-laws.

8.2 Any By-law must not be amended, added, or rescinded except at a General Meeting of the Party and by a resolution passed by at least 60% of the members entitled to vote in accordance with this Constitution and By-laws.

8.3 The Executive must give notice to all Members of any proposed amendment of the Constitution or any By-law not less than thirty days prior to the General Meeting of the Party at which it is to be presented.

8.4 Submission of any proposed amendment of the Constitution or any By-law must be made to the Executive in accordance with this Constitution and By-laws.

## **9. DISSOLUTION**

9.1 90% of the Members entitled to vote and registered at a General Meeting of the Party may resolve that the Party be dissolved as from the date to be named in the resolution, and must also in such resolution direct the method of disposing of the assets and property of the Party after its dissolution.

9.2 Upon the resolution defined in Article 9.1 being confirmed by 75% of the Members entitled to vote and registered at a subsequent Special General Meeting called for the purpose and held not earlier than thirty days after the date on which the first resolution was passed, the Party shall be dissolved.

9.3 A notice of the resolution and its confirmation shall be sent to Elections Nova Scotia.

9.4 The property of the Party shall upon dissolution be transferred to such organizations within Nova Scotia having objectives and purposes similar to those of the Party as the meeting shall determine, or in default as may be determined by the relevant Court on the application of the Party.



## The By-Laws

### **By-law on Accountability for Performance**

1. The Party is to do such things political or otherwise that are incidental or conducive to the attainment of the Party's purpose and objectives.
  - 1.1 The members carry the responsibility for the direction of the Party, the functional and financial organization of the Party, and the effectiveness of the Party in meeting its purpose and objectives.
  - 1.2 For the various structural units and individuals in positions of trust, the mechanisms for approval and accountability are to be established within the By-laws relevant to those structures and positions, and enforced by the membership as a whole at General Meeting or through those avenues that the membership has set in the By-laws.
2. So as to operate in an effective and efficient manner, the Party shall constantly strive to improve its operations with respect to the Six Principles of the Charter of the Global Greens, including minimizing waste.
3. An annual audit of the performance of the Party relative to the Six Principles shall be conducted independently and reported at the Annual General Meeting after the members have adopted a bylaw or bylaws to establish what qualifications are required of the auditor, what specifically is to be audited, and how the details are to be evaluated. (Proviso: This clause shall not come into effect until the members adopt such a bylaw or bylaws.)

[Back to Contents](#)



## **By-law on Amendment of Constitution and By-laws**

1. The members entitled to vote on an amendment of the Constitution or a By-law are those members who have individual voting rights for the relevant General Meeting,
  - 1.1 members may vote using any one of the available voting methods: in-person, electronic, or mailed ballot.
2. The Executive of the Party is responsible for the proposal of amendments to the *Constitution and By-laws* and for review of such proposals submitted by members for presentation to the membership at a General Meeting.
  - 2.1 In the preparation of a proposal for amendment of the *Constitution and By-laws*, the Executive is to ensure that the foundational nature of the document, the legal language, the required clarity of intent, and the required consistency throughout the document are carefully considered.
3. The Executive of the Party may appoint a working group from the membership to develop proposals for amendments of the Constitution and By-laws, and to receive submissions of proposals by members.
  - 3.1 The working group is directly responsible to the Co-Presidents, who may be members of the working group.
4. At least 60 days before a General Meeting, the Executive or its working group must invite the membership to submit specific statements of concern pertaining to the *Constitution and By-laws*, which the Executive or its working group is to address as appropriate through proposals for presentation to the membership at a General Meeting.
  - 4.1 The notice must include
    - 4.1.1 the electronic or mailing address for statements of concern
    - 4.1.2 the closing date by which submissions must be received
    - 4.1.2 the requirements for a statement of concern
  - 4.2 The statement of concern must include
    - 4.2.1 the member's name and contact information
    - 4.2.2 the relevant article number in the Constitution or the specific By-Law, and the original wording that is of concern
    - 4.2.3 the nature of the concern.
5. The call for members' formal submissions of proposals for amendments to the *Constitution and By-laws* must be issued by the Executive or its working group not less than 60 days before the starting date of the General Meeting at which proposals are to be considered.
  - 5.1 The notice must include:
    - 5.1.1 the electronic or mailing address for statements of concern
    - 5.1.2 the closing date by which submissions must be received
    - 5.1.2 the required minimum number of endorsements by members
    - 5.1.3 the requirements for submissions
6. The submissions of proposals for amendments to the *Constitution and By-laws* must include:
  - 6.1 the date and the principal member's name to appear at the top of the submission
  - 6.2 the name, address, phone number, signature with date for each member endorsing the

- proposal, to appear at the end of the proposal
- 6.3 the name of the member endorsing the proposal who will speak to the proposal if required at the General Meeting
- 6.4 the body of the proposal, which must contain:
  - 6.4.1 if amendment of an article is being proposed, then
    - 6.4.1.1 the number of the article of the Constitution, or the By-Law title and article number of concern;
    - 6.4.1.2 the reason for amendment;
    - 6.4.1.3 the wording of the original article;
    - 6.4.1.4 the exact wording of the proposed article
  - 6.4.2 if the addition of a new article is being proposed, then
    - 6.4.2.1 the reason why this addition is thought necessary;
    - 6.4.2.2 where in the Constitution and By-laws the proposed addition is to be made and the suggested number of the proposed article; and
    - 6.4.2.3 the exact wording of the proposed article
  - 6.4.3 if rescinding an article is being proposed, then
    - 6.4.3.1 the reason for this proposed removal;
    - 6.4.3.2 the number of the article of the Constitution, or By-Law title and article number of concern; and
    - 6.4.3.3 the exact wording of material for which removal is proposed.

7. After each General Meeting where the Constitution or a By-law is amended, the Executive of the Party, or a committee appointed by the Executive, must oversee the drafting of the amended *Constitution and By-laws (date of amendment)* and may, in so doing, and subject to steps that ensure amendments are made as passed by the membership:

- 7.1 Renumber the articles of the Constitution and By-laws to accommodate the changes that have been made
- 7.2 Correct typographical and spacing errors
- 7.3 Correct spelling errors
- 7.4 Remove *proviso* statements and similar clauses referring to conditions that have been met through amendments passed at a General Meeting
- 7.5 Correct cross-references to article numbers which are no longer accurate.

[Back to Contents](#)

## **By-law on Budget and Expense Approval**

1. The Executive will prepare and approve a detailed annual budget immediately following the Annual Convention. Adjustments to this budget will be made and approved by the Executive as required by changing circumstances.
2. All party members, including the Leadership, Executive, and Officers, must submit an Expense Approval Form for all Party expenses.
3. Non-Party members may not submit an Expense Approval Form.
4. The Expense Approval Form contains information about the expense. Each Expense Approval Form has a number for identification purposes.
  - 4.1 The member is required to provide information about the expense, including:
    - 4.1.1 a description of the expense;
    - 4.1.2 the dollar amount of the expense, tax inclusive;
    - 4.1.3 the name and contact information of the member requesting the expense;
    - 4.1.4 the date the Expense Approval Form was filled out; and
    - 4.1.5 the date the expense needs to be purchased by.
  - 4.2 The approvers must provide information as well, including:
    - 4.2.1 their signature and position;
    - 4.2.2 whether or not they approve of the expense;
    - 4.2.3 the maximum dollar amount which can not be exceeded;
    - 4.2.4 the date on which the expense was approved; and,
    - 4.2.5 in the case of limited funds, a condition where part of the funds are approved based on future donations. (In this case, if funds do not become available, the rest of the expense is not approved.)
5. Expense Approval Forms are financial documents and must be archived for 5 years.
6. Approval is subject to availability of Party funds and the relevance of the expense to the Party. Availability of funds is determined by the current bank account balance, plus funds received but not deposited, minus outstanding cheques, minus previously approved expenses that have not been paid for yet.
7. Approval must be made by Signing Officers
  - 7.1 Only the Executive may elect members of the Executive to be Signing Officers with signing authority on the Party bank account.
  - 7.2 There must be at minimum four Signing Officers.
  - 7.3 All Signing Officers should attempt to authorize all Expense Approval Forms, but at minimum:
    - 7.3.1 Two Signing Officers are necessary for approving an expense amounting to \$1000 or less, tax included.
    - 7.3.2 Three Signing Officers are necessary for approving an expense over \$1000, tax included.

8. Except in an emergency, no expense may be approved unless it has been authorized by a budget item or by a special executive motion. In an emergency, the following provisions will apply:

- 8.1 For an expense of not more than \$1000 including taxes, the expense may be approved if at least 30% of executive members (with a minimum of three executive members) have been consulted and agreed to the expense.
- 8.2 For an expense exceeding \$1000 including taxes, the expense may be approved if at least 60% of the Executive members (with a minimum of six executive members) have been consulted and agreed to the expense.
- 8.3 The Executive members agreeing to the emergency approval will be noted on the Expense Approval Form.
- 8.4 All Executive members will be immediately notified of the emergency approval.
- 8.5 The emergency approval will be reviewed at the Executive meeting following the approval.

9. The Signing Officer who is the last necessary officer to approve an Expense Approval Form is charged with the responsibility of notifying the member who applied that the expense has been given final approval.

10. The Signing Officers must review: the detailed annual budget and expense authorizing motions of the Executive, the legitimacy of each expense, the applicable Nova Scotian legislation and regulations, the *Constitution and By-laws* of the Party, any anticipated requests for large amounts, and the availability of funds.

11. All Signing Officers are automatically on the finance committee with the treasurer as chair.

12. Cheques may be written only when final approval has been granted.

13. Even if more than two Signing Officers were necessary to authorize an expense, only two Signing Officers are necessary to sign cheques for authorized expenses.

14. Party members may submit Expense Approval Forms after they have purchased the expense with personal funds.

- 14.1 An approval or reimbursement is not guaranteed.
- 14.2 A reimbursement may be made to a party member for a party expense purchased with personal funds if
  - 14.2.1 detailed receipts and/or invoices have been submitted and verified by any Signing Officer, AND
  - 14.2.2 an EAF is submitted, AND
  - 14.2.3 the expense meets all of the other requirements as decided by Signing Officers and set the *Constitution and By-laws* and applicable Nova Scotian legislation and regulations.

15. Conflict of interest: Members of the Executive may not be vendors to the Party.

16. Only the Executive has the power to hire staff, who are not party members and offer salaries for those holding Party positions. However, the finance committee must give approval for reoccurring expenses related to wages and salaries before the Executive hires or offers salaries.

17. For tendering contracts, the Signing Officers must
  - 17.1 first authorize the Expense Approval Form,
  - 17.2 then write up the details of the tender for posting on the party website. The details should include
    - 17.2.1 the responsibilities to be executed under the contract,
    - 17.2.2 the contact information to apply, and
    - 17.2.3 the deadline.
  
18. Adoption of these expense approval by-laws by the Executive replaces the power vested by the Executive to the current signing officers.

[Back to Contents](#)

## **By-law on Caucus**

1. The Caucus may include any representative of the Policy Committee or the Executive appointed by those bodies and agreed by the elected Caucus to be non-voting members of Caucus.
2. The Caucus shall make such rules for its conduct as it sees fit in accordance with the Objectives and Purpose of the Party.
3. The Leadership and elected Members of the Legislative Assembly shall be the voting members of Caucus.

[Back to Contents](#)

## **By-law on Constituency Divisions**

### 1. A Constituency Division

- 1.1 supports the work of the members toward the purpose and objectives of the Party
- 1.2 has the responsibility to seek, select, and support their Candidate for Member of the Legislative Assembly during and between provincial elections in accordance with the Constitution and By-laws, and provincial legislation and regulations.

### 2. A Constituency Division

- 1.1 must elect annually a convenor, a secretary, and their Representative to be a member of the Regional Division Executive
- 1.2 may have other positions as needed for effective operation
- 1.3 must report in a timely manner the names of the members holding the elected positions to the Regional Division and the Executive of the Party.

3. A Constituency Division may not be involved directly in fundraising, may not raise funds in the name of the constituency, may not have a bank account, and may not transfer funds from or to any other organization.

[Back to Contents](#)

## **By-law on Discipline, Complaints, and Appeals**

1. If a person has a problem with the actions of a Green Party member, the actions to be taken, can include:
  - 1.1 statement of complaint
  - 1.2 verbal warning to repeat the statement of complaint
  - 1.3 written warning re statement of complaint
  - 1.4 If there is still no change: send the complaint to an ombuds committee composed of at least three people (known to the Green Party / in good standing with the Green Party / with knowledge of the Green Party) , who will listen to both sides, allow time for submissions by both parties, and then come to a decision.
  - 1.5 If, at any time, during the procedure, legal counsel is obtained, then all communication with the person will cease, and communication will be through a lawyer.

[Back to Contents](#)



## **By-law on Election of Officers of the Party by the Membership**

1. Elections of Officers of the Party of Nova Scotia by the membership will be conducted in accordance with the *Constitution and By-laws*, and will normally be part of the Annual General Meeting.

2. The Executive will appoint an election team to organize and conduct the election of Officers by the membership. This team will consist of at least an organizer and a returning officer. This team will be responsible to the current executive and membership for:

2.1 the election notice to the membership to be received not less than 60 days prior to the Annual General Meeting at which the election is to be held

2.1.1 the election notice will include

2.1.1.1 the voting methods and dates; mail-in ballots must be received at least one business day before in-person voting

2.1.1.2 the voting rights requirements

2.1.1.3 the Officer positions that are open; and

2.1.1.4 the requirements to declare intent to run for one of the Officer positions

2.1.1.5 the electronic and/or mailing address to which “Declaration of Intent to Run” documentation is to be sent

2.1.1.6 the closing date for documentation to be received which should allow for appropriate notification to the membership of the candidates for each position normally 30 days before a General Meeting at which the election is to take place.

2.2 the production and distribution of voting materials such as ballots, online voting process and voting stations;

2.3 accepting and vetting candidate declarations and nominations;

2.4 ensuring, to the maximum extent possible, that information on candidates is made available to the membership prior to voting;

2.5 actively seeking candidates for the positions.

3. To formally declare their intent to run for one of the Officer positions, candidates shall submit “Declaration of Intent to Run” documentation to be received by the date published in the election announcement. Declaration of intent to run documents shall include:

3.1 a 250-word letter stating reasons for seeking the executive position in the GPNS; this document will be given the widest possible distribution among the membership; and

3.2 a current resume or CV.

4. The voting is to be done by preferential ballot and all members who have

4.1 individual voting rights for the relevant General Meeting may vote using any one of the available voting methods: in-person, electronic, or mailed ballot

4.2 proxy voting rights at the relevant General Meeting must vote in-person and meet the requirements to exercise the proxy vote.

[Back to Contents](#)

## **By-law on Electoral District Associations**

1. An Electoral District Association (EDA) is a legislatively defined association with legal status and it is the responsibility of each EDA to maintain its registration with Elections Nova Scotia and meet the requirements of provincial legislation and regulations.
2. An EDA
  - 2.1 must have an Official Agent whose duties are set out in provincial legislation and summarized in a handbook produced by Elections Nova Scotia
  - 2.2 must elect annually a convenor, a secretary, a treasurer, and their EDA Representative to be a member of the Regional Division Executive
  - 2.3 may have other positions as needed for the effective operation of the EDA
  - 2.4 may have two positions held by one member unless not permitted by provincial legislation and regulations
  - 2.5 must report in a timely manner the names of the members holding the positions in its internal structure to the Regional Division and the Executive of the Party.
3. An EDA has both business and political functions. An EDA
  - 3.1 must have a bank account and file financial reports as required under the provincial *Elections Act*
  - 3.2 can raise funds, transfer funds and accept donations in accordance with provincial legislation and regulations
  - 3.3 can initiate membership in accordance with this Constitution and By-laws
    - 3.3.1 must inform Treasurer and Membership Secretary of the Party of the membership and all pertinent information
    - 3.3.2 must transfer half of the membership fee to the Treasurer of the Party
  - 3.4 supports the work of the members toward the purpose and objectives of the Party
  - 3.5 has the responsibility to seek, select, and support their Candidate for Member of the Legislative Assembly during and between provincial elections in accordance with the Constitution and By-laws, and provincial legislation and regulations.

[Back to Contents](#)

## **By-law on Executive of the Party**

1. The Executive will act in a manner consistent with the *Constitution and By-laws*, and with the will of the Party as expressed through the General Meetings.

1.1 At such time as Party members are elected to the Nova Scotia House of Assembly, the Executive and Caucus also will act in a manner consistent with any agreement made between Caucus and Executive.

1.2 The primary responsibility to ensure that the Constitution is upheld shall lie with the two Co-Presidents.

2. The Executive shall consist of:

2.1 the Co-Presidents (one male, one female) who shall be elected at an Annual General Meeting in accordance with the Constitution and By-laws

2.1.1. the Co-Presidents serve a staggered two-year term with the female Co-President to be elected in even-numbered years and the male Co-President to be elected in odd-numbered years

2.2 the immediate Past-President

2.3 two Policy Co-Convenors (one male, one female) who shall be elected annually at the Annual General Meeting in accordance with the *Constitution and By-laws*.

2.4 the General Secretary, the Membership Secretary, and the Treasurer who must be selected from among the members of the Executive by the Executive

2.5 one Representative of each Regional Division that is formed and functioning, selected in accordance with the By-law on Regional Representation.

2.6. the two-person Leadership as set out in the By-laws

2.7. the Official Agent or agents, for whom the requirements and duties are set by current provincial legislation and regulations, and whose selection by the Executive will be guided by these requirements

2.7.1 if the Party has more than one Official Agent, the Executive is to select one Official Agent to have voting rights at Executive meetings, and the selected Official Agent may designate in writing or verbally through the Co-President another Official agent of the Party who is to exercise their voting right in their absence.

3. The Co-Presidents, Policy Co-Convenors, General Secretary, Membership Secretary, and Treasurer are the Officers of the Party.

4. Filling a Vacancy in the Executive, except for the elected Leadership

4.1 Any vacancy of a Regional Representative on the Executive must be filled by calling for nominations from the relevant Regional Division.

4.2 A vacant Officer position, regardless of the reason for the vacancy, must be filled as soon as possible by a means determined by the Executive.

4.2.1 Any Officer position elected by the membership at the Annual General Meeting that is vacant must be filled by:

4.2.1.1 Electronic ballot of all Members, or

4.2.1.2 A General Meeting, or

4.2.1.3 Appointment of a qualified member as an Interim Officer by the Executive from members offering for the position in response to its availability having been

announced to all members; an interim appointment terminates at the next General Meeting.

4.2.2 Any Officer position elected by the Executive that is vacant must be filled by:

4.2.2.1. Election of an eligible member from the Executive, or

4.2.2.2 Appointment of a member with the necessary qualification from members offering for the position in response to its availability having been announced to all members.

4.3 The Official Agent position must not be vacant at anytime, therefore the Executive is to have always a Signing Officer of the Party designated to move into the interim position as Official Agent should the Official Agent position unexpectedly be vacated.

5. Removal of a Member of the Executive of the Party:

5.1 Any Member except the Leader may be removed from the Executive of the Party by a 75% vote of the full Executive except the Member in question.

5.1.1 The Executive is to have used the processes in the By-laws to attempt to address the situation, except those cases involving serious disobedience to the Constitution and By-laws or gross misconduct where the Executive can act directly for removal.

5.2 If the Member removed is a Regional Division Representative then the Regional Division is to be informed within 24 hours of the action taken by the Executive.

6. The Executive shall, subject to this Constitution, be the administrative body in all matters connected with the affairs of the Party excluding policy, and shall pursue the objects and protect the interests of the Party and shall have authority to:

6.1 Raise money from time to time upon such terms as the Executive thinks fit, but not by incurring debt.

6.2 Exercise any other lawful powers not inconsistent with these rules or the decisions of the General Meetings as made from time to time; and

6.3 Appoint such working groups from the membership as it considers necessary for the efficient administration of the Party's affairs.

6.3.1 In doing so it may delegate any of its powers and duties to any such committee or to any person. The committee or person may without confirmation by the Executive exercise or perform the delegated powers or duties in the same way and with the same effect as the Executive could itself have done, subject only to this Constitution.

6.3.2 Any committee or person to whom the Party has delegated powers or duties will be bound by the rules of the Party and any terms or conditions of the delegation set by the Executive;

6.3.3 The Party will be able to revoke such delegation at will, and no such delegation will prevent the exercise of any power or the performance of any duty by the Executive.

6.4 Establish a contract between the Leader of the Party and the membership

- 6.4.1 The Executive will provide a job description, for the leader position prior to a leadership election taking the form of a contract, relating to the duties and expected performance of the leader, with a proviso that this contract will be subject to amendment based on decisions taken by the membership at the same General Meeting where the election takes place and subsequent General Meetings.
  - 6.4.2 This job description shall be made available to any member who has expressed interest in entering a leadership race and a candidate for leader will agree to the contract and its conditions at the time of entering the leadership race
  - 6.4.3 The Executive will provide the contract amended to reflect any amendments to the *Constitution and By-laws* and relevant decisions passed by the membership following the General Meeting at which the leader is elected and each subsequent General Meeting, for the Leader's signature.
  - 6.4.5 The Executive is responsible for ensuring that the duties set out in the Leader's contract are carried out. The Executive shall establish written reasonable expectations for the Leader in the short term and longer-term plan of the Party and set guidelines for assessment of the Leader, which are to be appended to the Leader's contract.
  - 6.4.6 Should the leader be unwilling or unable to fulfill the contract, the Executive has the authority to initiate a leadership review by the membership.
7. The Executive shall ensure that the Party has by-laws consistent with the Constitution that guide actions and are available to all Party members. The Executive shall review and propose amendment of or additions to these by-laws from time to time, which shall come before the membership for ratification at a General Meeting.
8. The Executive shall ensure that the Party has job descriptions for all Party Officers consistent with the Constitution and By-laws, that guide actions and are available to all Party members. These job descriptions shall be reviewed and amended by the Executive from time to time based upon experience and shall come into force upon approval by the Executive or a General Meeting.
9. The Executive shall meet:
- 9.1 Whenever it is scheduled by the Executive, or
  - 9.2 Whenever a minimum of half of all Regional Division Representatives agree to call an Executive meeting, in which case the meeting will be held within 30 days of the agreement.
  - 9.3 Notice of Executive meetings shall be given to all Executive members, as well as the general membership unless the executive declares the meeting closed.
10. Any Party member may normally attend a face-to-face Executive meeting. Speaking rights may be granted at the discretion of the Executive.
- 10.1 The Executive may declare a meeting closed to all persons other than Executive members where to do otherwise would
    - 10.1.2 put at risk the privacy of an individual or
    - 10.1.3 seriously prejudice the interests of the Party.
      - 10.1.3.1 The Executive will provide means for members to obtain a

reasonable level of information on the proceedings  
without compromising privacy or party security

11. The quorum for the Executive shall consist of one Co-President, two other Officers, one of the Leadership, and Representatives of at least half of the Regional Divisions that are organized and registered with the Party. Attendance may be in person, by telephone, or such other means as the Executive shall determine.

12. Members of the Executive shall act in the interests of the Party as a whole rather than simply as representatives of their Regional Divisions.

13. A Member shall not occupy simultaneously more than one position of the seven Officers and three Leaders.

13.1 A member in any Officer position on the Party Executive may hold also a Regional Division representative position.

14. The Leader, Deputy Leader(s), Co-Presidents and Policy Co-Convenors are jointly responsible for ensuring effective co-ordination and communication among the Executive, Policy Committee, and Caucus.

14.1 Within three months of each General Meeting, the Leader, Deputy Leader(s), Co-Presidents and Policy Co-Convenors shall report to the membership on the steps they have taken to fulfill their responsibilities to ensure effective co-ordination and communication.

[Back to Contents](#)

## **By-law on Finance**

1. The Treasurer and Official Agent shall act at the direction of the Executive. At the first meeting of the Executive following each Annual General Meeting, the Executive will decide by resolution the following:
  - 1.1 How money will be received by the Party;
  - 1.2 Who will be entitled to produce receipts;
  - 1.3 How expenditure commitments will be budgeted for by the Party;
  - 1.4 What bank accounts will operate for the ensuing year, including the purposes of and access to accounts;
  - 1.5 Who will be allowed to authorize the production of cheques and the names of cheque signatories;
  - 1.6 Who will be allowed to authorize the ordering of goods and services;
  - 1.7 Policy concerning the investment of money by the Party, including what type of investment will be permitted; and
  - 1.8 The type and frequency of financial reporting required during the year.
2. The Executive may invest surplus funds as it sees fit provided that the investment does not conflict with the Party's Objectives and Purpose.
3. A Treasurer's report must be prepared and all books and records so kept must be completed up to date for presentation at the Annual General Meeting, according to the requirements of law.
4. The Treasurer and Official Agent must work together and with Organizational Units of the Party to ensure that all financial reporting as required under provincial legislation is done in a timely manner.

[Back to Contents](#)

## **By-law on General Meetings and the Annual Convention**

1. The Annual General Meeting, held during the Annual Convention, shall be considered the supreme body and set the political and administrative direction of the organization.
  - 1.1 The Annual Convention is held at such time and place as designated by the Executive.
  - 1.2 The agenda of the Annual Convention must be
    - 1.2.1 consistent with the Constitution and By-laws
    - 1.2.2 determined by the Executive.
  - 1.3 Members are to be notified of the time and place of the Annual Convention not less than two months prior to the start date of that Annual Convention.
  - 1.4 Members are to be notified of the agenda of the Annual Convention not less than one month (30 days) prior to the start date of that Annual Convention.
  - 1.5 The Annual Convention and Annual General Meeting may be delayed beyond the normal period from the end of the Financial Year provided
    - 1.5.1 there are exceptional circumstances relating to a provincial or federal election, a major storm event, or other situation which the Executive and Cabinet, or Shadow Cabinet, unanimously agree requires such a delay, and
    - 1.5.2 the Annual General Meeting is held as soon as possible.
2. The Annual General Meeting will:
  - 2.1 Elect officers as provided for by these rules;
  - 2.2 Receive the financial accounts of the Party for the previous Financial Year;
  - 2.3 Receive the annual audit of the performance of the Party relative to the Six Principles of the Global Green Charter conducted by an independent auditor, after the members have adopted a bylaw or bylaws to establish what qualifications are required of the auditor, what specifically is to be audited, and how the details are to be evaluated. (Proviso: This clause shall not come into effect until the members adopt such a bylaw or bylaws.)
  - 2.4 Provide a forum for the consideration of matters consistent with the Constitution as judged necessary by the Executive.
3. A Special General Meeting may be called by the Executive or by a majority of the Regional Divisions in agreement.
  - 3.1 The organizational unit calling the Special General Meeting shall notify the Members of its time, place, and purpose not less than seven days prior to such meeting being held, with the exception when the purpose includes changes to the Constitution or By-Laws then not less than 30-days' notice is required.
  - 3.2 Only matters addressed in the notice shall be considered at the Special General Meeting.
4. The Annual Convention and all General Meetings shall be open to all Members who have paid any applicable registration fee which may be set by the Executive.
  - 4.1 The Call for a General Meeting must specify the voting rights that apply for that General Meeting in accordance with the *Constitution and By-laws*.
  - 4.2 Only members who have held registered membership for at least 14 days prior to the date of the start of a General Meeting can have delegate, proxy, or individual voting rights for election of Officers and Leadership, and for amendment to the Constitution and By-laws, at that General Meeting.



- 4.2.1 a member may vote by proxy at a General Meeting, or in an election at any Party level, for those matters that use a paper ballot provided that
  - 4.2.1.1 the member has completed the official proxy voting form delegating a qualified member with voting rights to carry the proxy, and
  - 4.2.1.2 the member has registered the form with the returning officer for the relevant Meeting within the required timeframe, and
  - 4.2.1.3 the member carrying the proxy carries no more than one proxy vote, and
  - 4.2.1.4 the member carrying the proxy has been verified by the returning officer at the time of the vote.

5. The Annual Convention and all General Meetings shall, except where the Executive decides otherwise, be open to the public and the news media as non-participating observers, subject to a requirement to pay a registration fee that may be set by the Executive.

6. The business and procedures of the Annual Convention and General Meetings shall be governed by Rules of Order that include procedures for elections and decision-making in accordance with the *Constitution and By-laws*.

[Back to Contents](#)

## **By-law on Leadership**

1. The Leader and First Deputy Leader constitute the Leadership of the Party.
2. The Leader and First Deputy Leader are to be elected by the membership in accordance with the *Constitution and By-laws*.
3. The First Deputy Leader shall be selected by the Executive within one week after the Leader has been elected by the membership. The First Deputy Leader shall be selected to balance the Leadership for one or more of gender, age, and region of residence.
4. In the event that the Leader steps down or is otherwise unable to serve, the First Deputy Leader shall assume the office of as Interim Leader.
  - 4.1 If the First Deputy Leader is unable to serve, the Executive will appoint an Interim Leader, such an appointment to terminate at the next General Meeting.
5. A new Leader shall be elected at a General Meeting held within six months of the loss of the Leader.
6. The Leadership shall be reviewed annually at the Annual Convention and a leadership election shall be held at any time if more than 50% of Members petition to hold such an election.
7. The First Deputy Leader position that becomes vacant must be filled by appointment by the Executive:
8. The Leadership shall be the spokespersons for the Party in any formal statements made to the news media on behalf of the Party as a whole.
  - 8.1 The Leadership in consultation with the Shadow Cabinet or Cabinet is to base position statements on the Principles of the Party, the policies ratified by the membership, the Platform, and the collective wisdom of Nova Scotians.
  - 8.2 Such statements must be consistent with the Party's *Constitution and By-laws*.
  - 8.3 From time to time as judged necessary the Leadership may appoint a spokesperson, or spokespersons, to deal with local and regional issues and to speak on behalf of the Party with respect to the specified issues. Regardless of who speaks, responsibility for any such communications rests with the Leadership.
9. The Leadership, in consultation with the Shadow Cabinet or Cabinet, will apply the Genuine Progress Index approach
  - 9.1 To evaluate the cost of the Party's position statements, the Platform, and

policies as appropriate  
9.2 To critique government expenditures and priorities, and the position statements and platforms of other Parties.

10. At least one member of the Leadership shall attend annually at least one meeting of each Regional Division to hear about regional issues and concerns, and facilitate actions in response to those concerns.

11. The Leadership is responsible for the affairs of Caucus.

[Back to Contents](#)

## By-law on Leadership Election

1. The executive will appoint a leadership election team to organize and conduct the leadership election. This team will consist of an organizer and a returning officer.
  - 1.1 In addition to the process of running the election, this team will be responsible for the election notice to the membership to be received not less than 60 days prior to the General Meeting at which the election is to be held.
    - 1.1.1 The election notice will include
      - 1.1.1.1 the voting methods and dates; mail-in ballots must be received at least one business day before in-person voting
      - 1.1.1.2 the voting rights requirements
      - 1.1.1.3 the requirements to declare intent to run
      - 1.1.1.4 the electronic and/or mailing address to which “Declaration of Intent to Run” documentation is to be sent
      - 1.1.1.5 the closing date for documentation to be received, which must allow for verification of documentation followed by notification to the membership of the candidates for each position normally 30 days before a General Meeting at which the election is to take place.
2. The voting is to be done by preferential ballot and all members who have
  - 2.1 individual voting rights for the relevant General Meeting may vote using any one of the available voting methods: in-person, electronic, or mailed ballot
  - 2.2 proxy voting rights at the relevant General Meeting must vote in-person, and meet the requirements to exercise the proxy vote.
3. Candidacy for a leadership position is open to all members who are residents of Nova Scotia, who are Canadian citizens, and who are of provincial legal voting age by the first day of the General Meeting at which the election is to be held.
4. To formally declare their intent to run for Leader, candidates must submit “Declaration of Intent to Run” documentation to be received by the date published in the election notice.
  - 4.1 Declaration of Intent to Run documents must include:
    - 4.1.1 a 250-word letter of application stating reasons for seeking the leadership of the Green Party of Nova Scotia
    - 4.1.2 proof of Nova Scotia residence and Canadian citizenship (photocopies accepted)
    - 4.1.3 a current resume or *Curriculum Vita*; and
    - 4.1.4 a current photograph in a format specified in the election notice for electronically submitted or mailed documents.
5. In the Declaration of Intent to Run documentation, each candidate for Leader must name the candidate for First Deputy Leader who is to run on the same ticket under the name of the candidate for Leader.
  - 5.1 Failure to receive Declaration of Intent to Run documentation from the candidate for First Deputy Leader by the promulgated closing date will be regarded as formal withdrawal of the candidate for Leader from the leadership race.

6. No candidate for the Leadership of the Green Party of Nova Scotia may spend more than \$7,500 total, including campaigning before and during the convention.

6.1 Any candidate for the Leadership of the Green Party of Nova Scotia must submit a financial report detailing all campaign contributions of money, services, and material within 60 days of the convention. The report need not be complicated but should record all contributions and clearly indicate when, from whom, and what (money, material or service) was received.

7. Any candidate for the Leadership of the Green Party of Nova Scotia who is also a member of the Executive must resign from the Executive on or before one month prior to the first day of the General Meeting at which the election is to be held.

8. At the General Meeting at which the election is to be held, each candidate for the position of Leader must:

8.1 be nominated by a party member in a speech of no more than 10 minutes

8.2 accept the nomination in a speech that will not exceed 30 minutes and will immediately follow the nominator's speech, and

8.3 participate in a 30-minute question and answer session with the membership

[Back to Contents](#)

## **By-law on Membership**

1. Any resident in Nova Scotia is eligible for membership if the person:
  - 1.1 is over 15 years of age
  - 1.2 is not a member of any other provincial political party.
  - 1.3 pays the appropriate membership fees
  
2. A person's membership is initiated or renewed as of the date recorded in the Membership Secretary records and on the official receipt for the annual membership fee issued electronically or by mail from
  - 2.1. one of the Signing Officers of the Executive of the Party, or
  - 2.2. one of the Signing Officers of the Electoral District Party Association of the provincial electoral district in which the applicant resides.
  
3. A membership allows a person to be a member of the:
  - 3.1 Green Party of Nova Scotia
  - 3.2 the Regional Division if formed in the region in which the member resides
  - 3.3 the Electoral District Association Electoral District Association if formed in which the member resides
  - 3.4 the Constituency Division if formed in the electoral district in which the member resides
  
4. A register of all members shall be maintained by the Membership Secretary and kept at the registered office. Regional Divisions, Electoral District Associations and Constituency Divisions are entitled to the list of their own members upon request at any time, provided adequate steps are taken to abide by the ten fair information principles as stated in the Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act (PIPEDA), and adhere to the intent of PIPEDA.
  
5. The membership fee that the member pays shall
  - 5.1 be determined by the Executive of the Party
  - 5.2. be acknowledged by a receipt issued in accordance with the law to the member who paid
  - 5.3 be divided equally between the Executive of the Party for use at the provincial level, and the Electoral District Association of the electoral district in which the member resides
  - 5.4 apply for one year from the date on which it is initiated or renewed.
  - 5.5 be deducted from the contributions of those members who are on a regular donation scheme and have elected to have their membership fee paid annually in this manner.
  
6. Any member accepting membership fees on behalf of Green Party Nova Scotia from a person to renew membership or to apply for membership must:
  - 6.1 collect the contact information that is required on the Party membership application, and a statement that this person is not a member of another provincial political party.
  - 6.2 issue a personal receipt to verify acceptance of the fee
  - 6.3 notify the EDA Treasurer or Party Treasurer within 24 hours of the membership

application and fee received, and make arrangements to have application and payment delivered to the Treasurer, who will verify payment, notify the Party Membership Secretary, and arrange for an official membership receipt.

7. Members may:

- 7.1 nominate candidates for office at any level of the Party
- 7.2 hold office at any level of the Party as permitted by provincial laws
- 7.3 be voting delegates to a General Meeting of the Party (Proviso: This clause does not come into effect until the membership have adopted a bylaw or bylaws providing the mechanism whereby delegate selection and voting is established.)
- 7.4. vote at
  - 7.4.1.1. General Meetings of the Party, with the exception that voting rights for election of Officers and Leadership, and for amendments to the Constitution and By-laws require that their membership was granted at least 14 days prior to the meeting at which the vote is to be taken.
  - 7.4.1.2. If a former member renews their membership within 90 days after the expiry of their membership then the exception in article 7.4.1.1 does not apply.
  - 7.4.2 Meetings of the Regional Division of the region where the member resides
  - 7.4.3 Meetings of the Electoral District Association of the electoral district in which the member resides
  - 7.4.4 Meetings of the Constituency Division of the electoral district in which the member resides
- 7.5 Nominate or be Party candidates for Members of the Legislative Assembly as permitted by provincial laws
- 7.6 Submit proposals on matters of policy or the Constitution and By-laws to be considered at General Meetings.

8. A person shall cease to be a member when:

- 8.1 their written or verbal resignation is received by the Executive either directly or through the Membership Committee;
- 8.2 the person dies;
- 8.3 their membership expires with fees past due
- 8.4 their membership is revoked due to serious disobedience of the Constitution or By-laws, or gross misconduct.

[Back to Contents](#)

## **By-law on Payment of the Leader**

1. Payment of the Leader shall be not less than minimum wage for the contracted hours.
2. Payment above minimum wage for contracted hours may be made by the Executive provided
  - 2.1 when determining an offer for additional payment, the Executive is guided by the financial status of the Party, the annual budget, fund raising projections based on experience, funds required for election preparedness, and maintaining a reasonable number of hours for the Constitutional and contracted responsibilities of the Leader  
And
  - 2.2 there is sufficient annual revenue to meet an additional payment without using reserves;  
And
  - 2.3 the Executive does not exceed the ceiling for payment set by the membership at a General Meeting
    - 2.3.1 the ceiling is to be set in terms of the maximum allowable multiple of the minimum wage that can be paid per hour.
3. The Leader shall be reimbursed for expenses in accordance with the By-law on Budget and Expense Approval, and these reimbursements are not part of “payment.”

[Back to Contents](#)



## **By-law on Policy Committee**

1. The Policy Committee is responsible for the development and preparation of Party policy proposals for presentation to the membership at a General Meeting.
2. The Policy Committee shall consist of:
  - 2.1 The two Policy Convenors, the Leader and the Deputy Leader(s)
  - 2.2 The members of the Cabinet or Shadow Cabinet, who particularly provide expertise in their portfolio areas and who may serve as Policy Networkers for the Regional Division in which they reside.
  - 2.3 A maximum of two Policy Networkers per Regional Division can be elected by a Regional Division in order to bring their representation on the Policy Committee to the minimum of one man and one woman, and
  - 2.4 Other members with expertise whom the Policy Committee may appoint.
3. All members of the Policy Committee shall be kept fully informed of all issues of policy that are being considered, and decisions shall be made by Consensus as defined in the By-laws.
4. The Policy Committee may appoint such working groups from the membership, or elsewhere, as it considers necessary for the efficient development of policy proposals. Such working groups shall not generate policy proposals in isolation but shall listen to, and consult with, the Nova Scotia electorate and its community organizations.
  - 4.1 In doing so it may delegate any of its powers and duties to any such working group or to any person. The working group or person may without confirmation by the Policy Committee exercise or perform the delegated powers or duties in the same way and with the same effect as the Policy Committee could itself have done.
  - 4.2 Any working group or person to whom the Policy Committee has delegated powers or duties will be bound by the Constitution and By-laws, as well as any terms or conditions set by the Policy Committee.
  - 4.3 The Policy Committee will be able to revoke such delegation at will, and no such delegation will prevent the exercise of any power or the performance of any duty by the Policy Committee.
- 5 The Policy Committee will act in a manner consistent with the Constitution and By-laws and with the will of the Party, as expressed through the General Meetings and any agreement with the Executive or Caucus.

[Back to Contents](#)

## **By-law on Policy Development and Ratification**

1. All members of the Policy Committee submit policy proposals to the committee, and develop and refine proposed policy, and Policy Co-Convenors oversee and facilitate the policy development process.

2. The Policy Committee will use consensus in policy proposal development and the Committee's approval of a proposal as ready to be presented to the membership will be determined by Bonser vote with at least 75% of the Policy committee members voting.

3. Individual members can make policy proposal submissions for consideration by the Policy Committee or for presentation directly to the membership at the next General Meeting.

Policy proposals from a member must be in the following format and order:

3.1 subject/policy area title

3.2 relevant principles, beliefs and the current state of affairs on the subject

3.3 a numbered list of specific subject-based policy suggestions

3.4 a concluding section including cost estimates if applicable

3.5 date of submission

3.6 citations

3.7 endorsing members if submission is to go directly to membership.

4. The Policy Committee is required to issue a policy notice at least 60 days before the General Meeting at which policy proposals are to be considered. The notice must include:

4.1 a call for policy proposal submissions from the membership

4.2 the details on the requirements for a policy proposal submission

4.3 the required minimum number of endorsements by members

4.4 the date by which submissions must be received by the Policy Committee

4.5 the address for electronic submissions and/or mailed submissions

5. The Policy Committee must give notice to all members of all policy proposals not less than thirty days prior to the General Meeting of the Party at which they are to be presented. Policy proposals include

5.1 proposals approved by the Policy Committee

5.2 proposals submitted by the membership that met all requirements.

6. Policy proposals are presented to the membership at a General Meeting for voting by the Bonser process in which proposals with 60% support by membership are passed, proposals with less than 40% support are rejected, and any policy that neither passed nor failed may be sent to a revision committee.

6.1 All policy proposals that have been prepared for the General Meeting will be presented for ratification before the membership considers revisions

6.2 As time permits, a policy that neither passed nor failed the first vote will go to a revision committee formed at the General Meeting to prepare a revision to be brought back for a second membership vote at that General Meeting.

6.2.1 Any member may participate in this committee

6.2.2 A member of the Policy Committee or a member with policy proposal experience should Chair this committee

6.3 After committee revision of a proposal, a second membership vote will be held as

time permits, and proposals that do not obtain 60% support on this second vote are rejected.

6.4 Any policy proposal that neither passed nor failed and was not presented for a second membership vote at that General Meeting is returned to the Policy Committee for further work, along with a copy of any revision done by a committee at that General Meeting.

7. Each adopted policy is valid for three years only, unless renewed or removed at a General Meeting.

[Back to Contents](#)

## **By-law on Regional Divisions**

1 Each Regional Division has a sense of identity, having common local interests within geographical boundaries, and members within a Regional Division work together to achieve the objectives and purpose of the Party.

2. There are 11 Regional Divisions, as follows:

- 2.1 Cape Breton Urban Division constituted of the members in the provincial electoral districts of Cape Breton Centre, Sydney-Whitney Pier, Northside-Westmount and Glace Bay.
- 2.2 Cape Breton Rural Division constituted of the members in the provincial electoral district of Sydney River-Mira-Louisbourg, Inverness, Cape Breton-Richmond, and Victoria-The Lakes.
- 2.3 Mainland North Division constituted of the members in the provincial electoral districts of Antigonish, Pictou East, Pictou Centre, Pictou West, and Guysborough-Eastern Shore-Tracadie.
- 2.4 Minas Basin Division constituted of the members in the provincial electoral districts of Colchester North, Colchester-Musquodoboit Valley, Cumberland North, Cumberland South, Hants East and Truro-Bible Hill-Millbrook-Salmon River.
- 2.5 Annapolis Valley Division constituted of the members in the provincial electoral districts of Annapolis, Hants West, Kings North, Kings South, and Kings West.
- 2.6 Sou' West Division constituted of the members in the provincial electoral districts of Argyle-Barrington, Clare-Digby, Queens-Shelburne, and Yarmouth.
- 2.7 South Shore Division constituted of the members in the provincial electoral districts of Chester-St. Margaret's, Lunenburg, and Lunenburg West.
- 2.8 Halifax Urban Division constituted of the members in the provincial electoral districts of Halifax Atlantic, Timberlea-Prospect, Hammonds Plains-Lucasville, Halifax Chebucto, Halifax Armdale, Fairview-Clayton Park, Halifax Needham and .
- 2.9 Dartmouth Urban Division constituted of the members in the provincial electoral districts of Cole Harbour-Portland Valley, Cole Harbour-Eastern Passage, Dartmouth East, Dartmouth North, Dartmouth South, and Preston-Dartmouth.
- 2.10 Bedford Basin Urban Division constituted of the members in the provincial electoral districts of Bedford, Clayton Park West, Sackville-Beaverbank, Sackville-Cobequid, Waverley-Fall River-Beaverbank.
- 2.11 Mi'kmaq Division constituted of the Party members in the Mi'kmaq First Nation communities: Acadia, Annapolis Valley, Bear River, Chapel Island, Eskasoni, Glooscap, Membertou, Millbrook, Paq'tnekek, Pictou Landing, Indian Brook, Wagmatcook, and We'koqma'q.

3. The main functions of a Regional Division are to:

- 3.1 Co-ordinate the activities of the members within the Regional Division toward the purpose and objectives of the Party
- 3.2 Elect a representative to the Executive of the Party
- 3.3 Elect Policy Networkers and such other positions as are required to carry out the

regional coordinating functions of the Regional Division with the Executive of the Party and its committees

3.4 To assist as needed in the process of selection of Party candidates for Members of the Legislative Assembly in accordance with the By-laws

4. A Regional Division may not be involved directly in fundraising, may not raise funds in the name of the region, may not have a bank account and may not transfer funds from or to any other organization.

5. The internal organization of a Regional Division is the responsibility of the members in the Regional Division, but shall have at least the following

5.1 a Convenor who chairs meetings of the Regional Division

5.2 a Regional Division Representative, elected annually by the members in the Regional Division, to be a voting member of the Executive of Party

5.3 two Policy Networkers (one male and one female) who are members of the Policy Committee

5.4 a representative from each Electoral District Association and Constituency Division that is formed within the boundaries of the Regional Division if electoral districts define that Regional Division.

5.5 If there are insufficient members to fill these positions, two functions may be carried out by a single member.

6. The Regional Division is to report in a timely manner to the Executive of the Party the names of those members holding the required positions in the internal organization of that Regional Division.

[Back to Contents](#)

## **By-law on Regional Representation**

1. One Representative of each Regional Division that is formed and functioning is to be selected annually by the Party members of that Regional Division, normally within 45 days prior to the Annual General Meeting.

1.2 Should a Regional Division fail to elect a Representative prior to the Annual General Meeting, this shall be done at the Annual Convention by all those members of the Regional District who are present.

1.3 Elections of Representatives will be by means of preferential balloting using a form approved in the By-laws.

[Back to Contents](#)

## **By-law on Rules of Order**

1. Consensus decision-making shall be the standard practice.
  - 1.2 Consensus is a process for ascertaining the will of participants by which agreement is reached that reflects the will of most participants, with dissenters and abstainers agreeing to recognize the majority opinion as being the decision.
2. Decisions by any Group, Regional Division, General Meeting, Executive, Policy Committee, Caucus, or any other body overseen by the Party shall be made by the Bonser method with 60% necessary to secure approval, except for those decisions made by another method in accordance with the Constitution and By-laws.
3. In matters not provided for in the Constitution and By-laws for the orderly running of meetings, *Roberts Rules of Order* apply.
  - 3.1 Discussion on motions will be by co-operative consensus, and adversarial debate is to be discouraged by the Chairperson of the meeting.

[Back to Contents](#)

## **By-law on Selection of Candidates for Members of the Legislative Assembly**

1. Any member offering as a prospective candidate for the Party must declare to the members of the electoral district that the prospective candidate wishes to represent and to the Leadership
  - 1.1 any potential or perceived conflict of interest
  - 1.2 any specific objections to ratified policy, Party principles, or Party objectives that the member cannot support in good conscience.
  
2. The selection of a candidate for public office shall be
  - 2.1 by preferential ballot by the members in the electoral district that the prospective candidate wishes to represent, at a nomination meeting held by
    - 2.1.1 the relevant Electoral District Association, where it is formed
    - 2.1.2 the relevant Constituency Division, where it is formed
    - 2.1.3 the relevant Regional Division, where it is formed and there is no functioning Constituency Unit for the electoral district
  - 2.2 by appointment by the Leader, where no approved candidate is in place and no nomination meeting is planned within a reasonable timeframe of the writ being dropped
  - 2.3 in accordance with requirements of Elections Nova Scotia.
  
3. The Executive shall ensure that conflict of interest policies are complied with and ensure no bias in the selection process.
  
4. The Leader may reject a selected candidate provided the majority of the Executive supports this decision.
  
5. Approved candidates must:
  - 4.1. Uphold and abide by the rules of the Party
  - 4.2. Promote and abide by the ratified policy of the Party subject to 4.3
  - 4.3. Address with the Leadership specific objections to ratified policy that candidates cannot support in good conscience, and come to agreement on how these differences are to be handled.

[Back to Contents](#)



## **By-law on Shadow Cabinet**

1. The Leader and any Deputy Leader(s) are members of the Shadow Cabinet.
2. Any Party member elected as a Member of the Legislative Assembly is a member of the Shadow Cabinet.
3. Additional Shadow Cabinet members may be appointed by the Executive from the Party membership.
4. Shadow Cabinet portfolios are assigned by the Executive, taking into consideration recommendations from the leadership.
5. Shadow Cabinet members are individually and in collaboration
  - 5.1 to keep abreast of the issues relevant to the given portfolio,
  - 5.2 to review the stands of Nova Scotia's non-governmental organizations, industry associations, and the input from Nova Scotians on issues relevant to the given portfolio,
  - 5.3 to study the Genuine Progress Index material relevant to the given portfolio,
  - 5.4 to critique the government material on the issues
  - 5.5 to advise the Leadership on positions for the issues and help to draft communications
  - 5.6 to prepare material for the Policy Committee,
  - 5.7 to advise fellow Shadow Cabinet members on interdependent issues
  - 5.8 to prepare material for the Platform
  - 5.9 to draft the responses to questions in questionnaires from NGO, industries, interest groups, and individuals, particularly during the election.
6. The Shadow Cabinet members are to apply the Genuine Progress Index
  - 6.1 to guide policy and Platform development
  - 6.2 to evaluate the cost of the Party's position statements, the Platform, and policies as appropriate
  - 6.3 to critique government expenditures and priorities, and the position statements and platforms of other Parties.

[Back to Contents](#)

## **By-law on Voting by Preferential Ballot**

1. Regardless of how many candidates are on the ballot, the option “None of the Above” must appear on the ballot.
2. The voter must express their preference in numerical order where each candidate and the choice of “None of the Above” must be assigned a distinct number indicating the order of preference: “1” for first choice, “2” for second choice, and so on:
  - 2.1 duplication of a number or failure to assign a number to each choice, including “None of the Above,” will spoil the ballot.
3. Each candidate may have a scrutineer present during the counting of the ballots.
4. The candidate with the highest total support will be declared elected
  - 4.1 support is calculated with the first preference votes weighted highest and each lower preference vote weighted one whole number lower, the highest weighting being equal to the number of candidates
5. The results of voting are to be announced to the membership by
  - 5.1 first stating the total number of ballots cast and the total number of spoiled ballots, and affirming that all preference levels were used to declare a winner and the Winner is being declared based on the highest level of support
  - 5.2 stating the level of support for each candidate, in ascending order with the winner announced last
6. If “None of the Above” defeats the candidates, the Executive must treat the position as vacant and take the measures provided in the *Constitution and By-laws*.
7. After the results are released to the membership, ballots will be retained for a 24 hour period before they are destroyed, during which time any candidate may request that they not be destroyed but held for a decision on a contested result.

[Back to Contents](#)