

Kitchener Centre New Democratic Party Federal Riding Association Proposed Resolutions

Resolution 1 – Clarifying the Name of the Association

Moved by Paul Cyr, Seconded by Cameron Dearlove.

WHEREAS, the name of the riding association should be consistent with the terminology of the *Canada Elections Act*, S.C. 2000; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Association's Constitution, Article 1 - Preamble/Name, Section 1 be amended to read:

1.1 The name of the Association shall be the Kitchener Centre New Democratic Party Federal ~~Riding~~ **Electoral District** Association, hereinafter referred to as "the Association".

Resolution 2 – Addition to the Purpose of the Association

Moved by Mark Andrew Alward, Seconded by Cameron Dearlove.

WHEREAS, members of the Association engaged in strategic planning in 2010 to determine the best courses of action for the Association; and

WHEREAS, those members developed a mission statement to better reflect our current practices and goals for the future; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Association's Constitution, Article 2 - Purpose, Section 1, be amended to read:

2.1.2 To support and promote the principles and policies of the New Democratic Party of Canada through political education and organization; ~~and~~

2.1.3 To afford to its members a forum for participation in the development of party policy on federal issues and party governance; ~~and~~

2.1.4 To encourage the electorate to think about equality, job creation, and democratic participation for every person.

Resolution 3 - Eliminating Potential Ambiguity or Confusion

Moved by Paul Cyr, Seconded by Mark Andrew Alward.

WHEREAS, the Association's constitution is its most important document;

WHEREAS, a document as important the Association's constitution should be written with utmost care to prevent questions of ambiguity or confusion;

WHEREAS, certain clauses within the Association's constitution contain errors or ambiguity of a grammatical or technical nature; and

WHEREAS, certain clauses within the constitutions of both the Kitchener Centre New Democratic Party federal and provincial associations, intended to achieve the same objective and/or methods, have

grammatical and/or semantic differences which could create questions of ambiguity or confusion; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Association's Constitution, Article 3 - Membership, be amended to read:

3.1. The membership of the Association shall consist of:

3.1.1. All New Democratic Party members in good standing who reside ~~in~~ **within** the **boundaries of the** riding, except those who have been accepted as members in ~~another~~ **any other federal** riding ~~Association~~ **association**; and

3.1.2. New Democratic Party members in good standing who reside in other federal ridings in Ontario and who request membership in the Association and are accepted by the Executive of the Association or by the membership at a ~~general membership meeting~~ **General Meeting**.

3.2. No member of the Association may hold membership in any other federal New Democratic Party riding association.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Association's Constitution, Article 4 - Meetings, Section 1, Part 2, and Sections 2 and 4, be amended to read:

4.1.2. Election of the Association's Executive and its delegates to the Council of ~~Federal Ridings~~ **Electoral District Associations**, where one is established pursuant to the Constitution of the New Democratic Party of Canada.

4.2. Other General Meetings of the Association shall be called:

4.2.1. ~~as~~ **As** determined by the Executive, or

4.2.2. ~~upon~~ **Upon** the written request of at least fifty (50) members in good standing or one quarter of the Association's members, whichever is less.

4.2.3. A General Meeting under the provisions of Article 4.2.2 shall be held no later than forty-five (45) days after receipt of the original request. The request shall specify the business to be placed before the meeting and this information shall be included in the notice of the meeting sent to the membership of the Association. The first order of business shall be this business.

(...)

4.4. In accordance with the federal Constitution and the direction of Federal Council, a nomination meeting shall be held for the purpose of nominating the New Democratic Party candidate for Member of Parliament. Those eligible to cast ballots for the nomination shall be limited to New Democratic Party members in good standing who reside ~~in~~ **within the boundaries of** the riding.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Association's Constitution, Article 5 – Executive, Section 1, Parts 9 and 10, and Section 3, be amended to read:

5.1.9. Those delegates to the Council of ~~Federal Ridings~~ **Electoral District Associations** who have not been elected to any of the above positions.

5.1.10. At its first meeting after its election, the incoming Executive shall appoint a member of the Association as a liaison to each ~~of the New Democratic Party Provincial Constituency Associations~~ **provincial constituency associations** within or partially within its boundaries.

(...)

5.3. Those elected to positions on the Executive shall serve from the adjournment of the Annual General Meeting at which they were elected until the adjournment of the following Annual General Meeting. If the position of President is vacated, the Vice-President shall serve as interim president until the next Executive meeting, **and a new President shall be appointed by the Executive at such meeting.** If the position of Financial Agent is vacated, the President ~~is empowered to appoint immediately a Financial Agent~~ **shall immediately appoint a member to fill the vacancy,** subject to ratification by the Executive at its next meeting and the Association at its next meeting. The Executive may appoint people to fill unfilled or vacant Executive positions, subject to ratification by the Association at its next meeting.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Association's Constitution, Article 6 – Affirmative Action, be amended to read:

6.1. At least one half of the elected members of the Executive, ~~convention~~ **Convention** delegates, and delegates to the Council of ~~Federal Ridings~~ **Electoral District Associations** shall be women. The Executive shall ensure that members of Affirmative Action Target Groups, as designated by Federal Council, are encouraged to seek ~~executive~~ **Executive** positions.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Association's Constitution, Article 7 - Funds, Section 1, be amended to read:

7.1. The Association shall comply with all laws, regarding the funds of political ~~federal~~ riding ~~Associations~~ **associations.** The funds of the Association shall be kept in a clearly separate account in the name of the ~~federal riding~~ Association in chartered financial institutions;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Association's Constitution, Article 10 - Rules of Order, Section 1, be amended to read:

10.1. The Association may adopt rules for the conduct of its business. Unless otherwise governed by this Constitution, duly adopted by-laws, or the Constitutions of the New Democratic Party of Canada and the Ontario New Democratic Party, the business of the Association shall be conducted according to Robert's Rules of Order **Newly Revised.**

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Association's Constitution, Article 11 - Interpretation and Appeals, Section 4, be amended to read:

11.4. Any interpretation or appeal under sections 11.2 or 11.3 may at any stage be the subject of a complaint to the Secretary of the Ontario Section of the New Democratic Party, to be dealt with in a manner similar to Constitutional matters under Article 16 of the Constitution of the Ontario New Democratic Party. Interpretations and appeals under this section shall give some weight to the benefits of resolving Association decisions at the local level. Actions taken under the authority of this section shall take precedence over actions taken under the authority of sections 11.2 or 11.3.

Resolution 4 – Reducing Paper Use and Expenses for General Meetings

Moved by Derrick Courtens, Seconded by Mark Andrew Alward.

WHEREAS, the reduction of paper use is an important environmental goal;

WHEREAS, the cost of mailing communications produces a partially unnecessary burden on the Association's financial resources; and

WHEREAS, certain members may prefer receiving communications through email rather than postal mail; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Association's Constitution, Article 4 – Meetings, Section 5, be amended to read:

4.5.

4.5.1. Notice for all General Meetings shall be ~~mailed~~ **sent** not less than fourteen (14) days in advance of the meeting.

4.5.2. Notice period requirements for nomination meetings shall be governed by the Constitution of the Ontario New Democratic Party and the Nomination Guidelines adopted by Provincial Council.

4.5.3. Notice may be sent by email to members who have requested notice by email, otherwise it must be sent by mail.

Resolution 5 - Modification of Executive Positions

Moved by Paul Cyr, Seconded by Cameron Dearlove.

WHEREAS, the titles of certain executive positions do not accurately reflect the authority of the position, its role, or the best practices of that position; and

WHEREAS, individuals holding the same role in both the federal and provincial Kitchener Centre New Democratic Party associations may have two different titles despite the identical role, causing needless complexity; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Association's Constitution, Article 4 – Meetings, Section 1, Part 1, and Article 5 - Executive, Section 1, Parts 5 and 6 be amended to read:

4.1.1. Annual reports of the President, the Membership ~~Officer~~ **Secretary**, and the Financial Agent; and

(...)

5.1.5. Membership ~~Officer~~ **Secretary**;

5.1.6. Youth ~~Officer~~ **Representative**;

Resolution 6 - Addition of Executive Positions

Moved by Cameron Dearlove, Seconded by Paul Cyr.

WHEREAS, the principles of the New Democratic Party include a focus on individuals disadvantaged or marginalized by society;

WHEREAS, "Representatives" have been important roles on the Executive, in order to ensure representation of groups disadvantaged or marginalized by society;

WHEREAS, certain Representative roles have historically been elected onto the Executive at Annual General Meetings but have not been enshrined in the constitution; and

WHEREAS, enshrining in the constitution those historic Representative roles reaffirms their importance in guiding the views, goals, and actions of the Association; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Association's Constitution, Article 5 - Executive, Sections 1 and 2 be amended as follows with the subsequent sections renumbered accordingly:

(...)

5.1.7 Women's Representative;

5.1.8. LGBTQ Representative, where "LGBTQ" stands to mean "Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer" but includes all persons of diverse sexual orientations and gender identities;

5.1.9. Disability Representative;

5.1.10. Aboriginal Representative;

5.1.11. Diversity Representative;

~~5.1.8.~~ **5.1.12.** The Member of Parliament for the riding, provided (s)he is a member in good standing of the Federal Caucus of the New Democratic Party; and

(...)

5.2. The positions referred to in Articles 5.1.1 through ~~5.1.9~~ **5.1.13** (above) constitute the core members of the Executive. Other Executive positions may be created through by-laws adopted by the Association, according to the procedures set forth in Article 9 (below). In the absence of such by-laws, the Association may create and fill other positions on the Executive at an Annual General Meeting or at a General Meeting called for this purpose. Members of the Executive must be members in good standing of the Association.

Resolution 7 – Utilizing Qualified People for Key Roles

Moved by Mark Andrew Alward, Seconded by Paul Cyr.

WHEREAS, Delegates to the Council of Electoral District Associations are charged with the important role of coordinating and organizing with other ridings of the New Democratic Party of Canada;

WHEREAS, the Association may not always have an sufficient number of qualified individuals to fill all key roles; and

WHEREAS, the Association should not be prevented to fill key roles with qualified individuals; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Association's Constitution, Article 5 – Executive, Section 1, Part 9, be amended to read:

5.1.9. ~~Those delegates to~~ **Delegates** to the Council of Federal Ridings ~~who have not been elected to any of the above positions;~~ and

Resolution 8 – Attendance of Executive Members

Moved by Mark Andrew Alward, Seconded by Paul Cyr.

WHEREAS, members of the executive who provide considerable contributions may not always be able to meet current attendance requirements;

WHEREAS, the executive should not be forced to accept such a member's deemed resignation; and

WHEREAS, the executive should have the authority to decline or ratify the deemed resignation of a member who has exceeded allowable absences without notice; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Association's Constitution, Article 5 – Executive, Section 4, be amended to read:

5.4. Members of the Executive who cannot attend a meeting shall give notice to the President or the Secretary in advance if possible. A member of the Executive who fails to attend three consecutive meetings without such notice shall be deemed to have resigned, **subject to ratification by a simple majority of the Executive,** and shall be notified accordingly in writing. **Any member of the Executive, who's deemed resignation is not confirmed by the Executive, that fails to attend any subsequent meeting without notice shall again be deemed to have resigned, subject to ratification by a simple majority of the Executive, and shall be notified accordingly in writing.**

Resolution 9 – Ensuring a Productive Association

Moved by Cameron Dearlove, Seconded by Paul Cyr.

WHEREAS, the Executive has found that monthly meetings are necessary to plan and implement the growth of the Association and ensure a successful campaign;

WHEREAS, the Executive has a responsibility to the members of the Association to ensure that the Association remains productive;

WHEREAS, the minimum number Executive meetings currently required does not facilitate the growth and success of the Association and its campaigns, nor the Executive's responsibility of productivity;

WHEREAS, notwithstanding the aforementioned, Executive meetings may be impractical during a busy provincial or federal election campaign; and

WHEREAS, notwithstanding the aforementioned, volunteer shortfalls may require the Executive to have fewer meetings than ideal; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Association's Constitution, Article 5 – Executive, Section 6, be amended to read:

5.6. The Executive shall meet at least ~~three (3) times~~ **once every three (3) months** during its term of office. **This requirement is waived during the period from the dissolution of the Parliament of Canada or the Legislative Assembly of Ontario until the return of writs from the subsequent election.**

Resolution 10 – Building Representation of All Marginalized or Disadvantaged Groups

Moved by Paul Cyr.

WHEREAS, affirmative action requirements should ensure as much involvement from as many marginalized or disadvantaged groups as possible;

WHEREAS, affirmative action requirements should not favour the involvement of multiple members of one marginalized or disadvantage group to the exclusion of all others;

WHEREAS, the current requirements based on gender combined with the Affirmative Action Target Groups creates a conflict with the goals of affirmative action; and

WHEREAS, the only nominee from one Affirmative Action Target Group may be prevented from being an Executive member, Convention delegate, or Council of Electoral District Associations delegate, due to the current requirements based on gender, despite of the election of numerous women; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Association's Constitution, Article 6 – Affirmative Action, be amended to read:

6.1. At least one half of the elected members of the Executive, convention delegates, and delegates to the Council of Federal Ridings shall be ~~women. The Executive shall ensure that members of Affirmative Action Target Groups, as designated by Federal Council, are encouraged to seek executive positions.~~ **members of Affirmative Action Target Groups, as designated by Federal Council.**