

**CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF THE GREEN PARTY OF NOVA SCOTIA**  
**(as amended at the Annual Convention June 27-29, 2008)**

**1. NAME**

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

**2. REGISTERED OFFICE**

The registered office shall be that place reported to Elections Nova Scotia in the annual report.

**3. DEFINITIONS**

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|------|--------------------------------------|---|
| 3.1  | Annual Convention                    | The annual meeting of the party held once a year that is its supreme authority as described in Article 8  |
| 3.2  | Annual General Meeting               | A meeting held during the Annual Convention with an agenda defined in this Constitution in Article 8.4  |
| 3.3  | Consensus                            | The process for ascertaining the will of participants as described in Article 15  |
| 3.4  | Electoral District Association (EDA) | A group of a Regional Division that is composed of members resident in a single provincial electoral district (constituency). In addition to meeting the requirements of this constitution an EDA meets requirements in Nova Scotian legislation and regulations. |
| 3.5  | Executive                            | The committee defined in Article 9 that is responsible for administration, operations, and ensuring compliance with this constitution   |
| 3.6  | Global Green Charter                 | The Charter of the Global Greens adopted in Canberra, Australia, in 2001.   |
| 3.7  | Green                                | A political tendency recognized internationally that is founded in specific principles reflected in the Global Green Charter.   |
| 3.8  | Group                                | A local political unit as described in Article 7  |
| 3.9  | Member in good standing              | Someone who meets all the membership requirements of Article 6 of this Constitution and has renewed their membership in the current financial year  |
| 3.10 | Membership fee                       | That fee set out in Article 6.5   |
| 3.11 | Officer                              | An official of the party whose duties are defined in this Constitution  |

- 3.12 Policy Networker An officer whose duties relate to policy development as described in Article 11
- 3.13 Regional Division A sub-division of the Party that is based upon regional geographic divisions that are laid out in Article 7.2 of this Constitution and is composed of members who collaborate effectively.

#### 4. OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Party are:

4.1. To foster a sustained political institution that reflects the Six Principles of the Global Green Charter: 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.

4.1.1 To discover and ratify policies consistent with these Six Principles and to advance these into the laws and policies of the Province of Nova Scotia.

4.2 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 as required by the Elections Act R.S.N.S. 1989 c. 140.

4.3. 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.

4.4. To listen to the concerns of the Nova Scotian electorate, and its community groups, and to base policy-making upon this collective wisdom.

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

4.6. To do all such things political or otherwise as are incidental or conducive to the attainment of any of the above objectives.

#### 5. PURPOSE

5.1. 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 Green principles in the political processes of the Province of Nova Scotia.

5.1.1 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, including minimizing waste. 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.

## 6. MEMBERSHIP

6.1 Any person resident in Nova Scotia who accepts and abides by this Constitution may be a member of the Party subject to the rules of this Article.

6.1.1. A person seeking membership who is also a member of another political party must state this other membership to the Executive at the time of application, as well as any position of Officer or Candidate that is held in another political party.

6.1.2. Any candidate for a position on the Executive or as a Candidate of the Party shall declare any potential or perceived conflict of interest regarding any position held as Officer or Candidate of another political party.

6.2 Membership in the Party shall commence when the membership application, on the membership form adopted by the Executive Committee and accompanied by the membership fee, is accepted and processed by the Membership Committee.

6.2.1. All members shall belong to a Regional Division, as prescribed in this Constitution, as well as the party as a whole.

6.2.2. Membership may be initiated at the level of the Executive or the Regional Division. In any case both the relevant Regional Division and the Membership Secretary shall be informed of any Member in Good Standing within one week of the application for membership.

6.3 A register of all members shall be maintained by the Membership Secretary and kept at the registered office. Regional Divisions will be entitled to the lists of their own members upon request at any time.

6.4 Members in Good Standing may vote at meetings of the Party and be delegates to Annual Convention and General meetings.

6.5 The Executive may set a Membership Fee to be paid annually by Members who wish to be Members in Good Standing for a particular financial year.

6.5.1 The Executive shall issue a receipt for payment of the Membership Fee in accordance with applicable laws.

6.5.2. One half of any Membership Fee shall be kept by the Executive for use by the Party at the provincial level, and the other half shall be paid to the EDA where the Member paying the fee resides for its use absolutely.

6.6 Members in Good Standing in any Financial Year may:

6.6.1. Nominate candidates for office or hold office at any level of the Party

6.6.2. Elect or be a voting delegate to a General Meeting of the Party

6.6.3. Nominate or stand as candidates for the Party

6.6.4. May submit resolutions on matters of policy or the Constitution for the consideration of the Annual General Meeting.

6.7 A person shall cease to be a member:

6.7.1 When their written or verbal resignation is received by the Executive either directly or through the Membership Committee;

6.7.2 When the person dies;

6.7.3 When the person is not a Member in Good Standing.

6.7.4 Membership may be revoked according to Article 9.6.3, protocol for Discipline, Complaints and Appeals

## 7. REGIONAL DIVISIONS

7.1 The Regional Division is the basic organizational unit of the Party and is a collection of Members having common local interests and who live within natural geographical boundaries. Each Regional Division has a sense of identity and those Members within any Regional Division work together to achieve the Objectives and Purpose of the Constitution.

7.1.1. There shall be 10 Regional Divisions, as follows:

7.1.1.1 Cape Breton urban division constituted of, or equivalent to, the provincial constituencies/ Electoral District Associations of Cape Breton Centre, Cape Breton North, Cape Breton Nova, Cape Breton South, and Glace Bay.

7.1.1.2 Cape Breton rural division constituted of, or equivalent to, the provincial constituencies/ Electoral District Associations of Cape Breton West, Inverness, Richmond, and Victoria-The Lakes

7.1.1.3 Mainland North division constituted of, or equivalent to, the provincial constituencies/ Electoral District Associations of Antigonish, Pictou East, Pictou Centre, Pictou West, and Guysborough-Sheet Harbour

7.1.1.4 Minas Basin division constituted of, or equivalent to, the provincial constituencies/ Electoral District Associations of Colchester North, Colchester-Musquodoboit Valley, Cumberland North, Cumberland South, Hants East and Truro-Bible Hill

7.1.1.5 Annapolis Valley division constituted of, or equivalent to, the provincial constituencies/ Electoral District Associations of Annapolis, Hants West, Kings North, Kings South, and Kings West

7.1.1.6. Sou'West division constituted of, or equivalent to, the provincial constituencies/ Electoral District Associations of Argyle, Clare, Digby-Annapolis, Shelburne, and Yarmouth

7.1.1.7 South Shore division constituted of, or equivalent to, the provincial constituencies/ Electoral District Associations of Chester-St. Margaret's, Lunenburg, Lunenburg West, and Queen's.

7.1.1.8 Halifax urban division constituted of, or equivalent to, the provincial constituencies/ Electoral District Associations of Halifax Atlantic, Halifax Chebucto, Halifax Citadel, Halifax Fairview, Halifax Needham, and Timberlea-Prospect

7.1.1.9 Dartmouth urban division constituted of, or equivalent to, the provincial constituencies/ Electoral District Associations of Cole Harbour, Cole Harbour-Eastern Passage, Eastern Shore, Dartmouth East, Dartmouth North, Dartmouth South-Portland Valley, and Preston

7.1.1.10 Bedford Basin urban division constituted of, or equivalent to, the provincial constituencies/ Electoral District Associations of Bedford, Halifax Clayton Park, Hammonds Plains-Upper Sackville, Sackville-Cobequid, Waverley Fall River Beaverbank.

7.1.2 The main functions of the Regional Divisions are to:

7.1.2.1 Co-ordinate the activities of the Members within the Regional Division.

7.1.2.2 Elect representatives to the Executive of the party, as well as Policy Networkers and such other positions as are required to carry out the regional coordinating functions of the Regional Division.

7.1.2.3 Oversee the process for selection of election candidates as defined by the relevant protocol in Article 9.6

7.1.2.4 Oversee the creation and activities of any Group within their geographic region in the manner described in Article 7.4 and further defined by the relevant protocol in Article 9.6.

7.1.3 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.

7.2 The internal organization of the party at the Regional Division level is the responsibility of the Members in the Regional Division, but shall have at least the following officers: Convenor who chairs meetings of the Regional Division, Executive representative who attends meetings of the party Executive, and two Policy Networkers (one male and one female) who are members of the Policy Committee. If there are insufficient members to fill these positions, two functions may be carried out by a single individual.

7.3. A Regional Division may include Groups, which are collections of persons with sufficient sense of local identity and local community to be able to work together to achieve the Objectives and Purpose of the Party as described in the Constitution. Each Regional Division shall include Electoral District Associations (EDAs) and may include municipal district associations.

7.3.1 The minimum number of Members for a Group shall be five.

7.3.2 Any Group shall identify itself as a member of a Regional Division, and shall keep this regional division informed of their existence, contact details and members' names.

7.3.3 The internal organization of the Group is the responsibility of the group membership provided always that the highest authority in the group shall be the group membership in a duly constituted meeting.

7.3.4 In entering any contract, undertaking any legal proceedings, or taking any other action, Groups shall not hold themselves out or represent themselves as acting with the authority of the Party without the written authorization of the Executive Committee.

7.3.5 Each Electoral District Association (EDA) shall have: a convenor; a regional executive representative who attends regional executive meetings; a secretary, and a treasurer who accounts for the funds of the EDA, keeps up to date records of transactions and reports the accounts at regular EDA meetings. If there are insufficient numbers of members to fill these positions, two functions may be carried out by a single individual, to the extent allowed by Elections Nova Scotia regulations.

## 8. ANNUAL CONVENTION AND GENERAL MEETINGS

8.1 The Annual Convention shall be considered the supreme body and set the political and administrative direction of the organization.

8.1.1 The agenda of the Annual Convention shall be consistent with this Constitution and determined by the Executive.

8.2 The Annual Convention shall include the Annual General Meeting of the members and shall be held within three months of the end of the Financial Year at such time and place as shall be designated by the Executive.

8.3 Members will be notified of the time and place of the Annual Convention not less than two months prior to such a meeting being held

8.3.1 Members will be notified of the agenda of the Annual Convention not less than one month (30 days) prior to such meeting being held.

8.4 The Annual General Meeting which is included in the Annual Convention will:

8.4.1 Elect officers as provided for by these rules;

8.4.2 Receive the financial accounts of the Party for the previous Financial Year;

8.4.3 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; and

8.4.4 Provide a forum for the consideration of matters consistent with the Constitution as judged necessary by the Executive.

8.5 A Special General Meeting may be called by the Executive or by a majority of the Regional Divisions in agreement.

8.6 The person 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. Only matters addressed in the notice shall be considered at the Special General Meeting.

8.7 A quorum at a General Meeting shall be half of those entitled to vote and who are booked into the Annual Convention or Special 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 at least one delegate.

8.8 As many as 10 Members in Good Standing from any Regional Division may vote at a General meeting. The Members represented by each Regional Division are responsible for determining the process for putting forward the delegates of their Regional Division to vote on their behalf. Voting by proxy is permitted where the proxy-holder has written and signed authority to exercise the proxy.

8.9 The Annual Convention and all General Meetings shall be open to all Members in Good Standing who have paid any applicable registration fee which may be set by the Executive.

8.10 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.

8.11 The business and procedures of the Annual Convention and General Meetings shall be governed by Rules of Order that shall include procedures for elections and decision-making.

## 9. EXECUTIVE

9.1 The Executive shall be the Party's administrative body, responsible for the day-to-day administration of the Party, instructed by and answerable to the membership, Regional Divisions, and the Convention. The Executive will act in a manner consistent with these rules and with the will of the Party as expressed through the Convention and Special General Meetings. At such time as Party members are elected to the Nova Scotia House of Assembly, the Executive and Caucus will also act in a manner consistent with any agreement made between Caucus and Executive.

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

9.2 The Executive shall consist of:

9.2.1 The Co-Presidents (one male, one female) and two Policy Co-Convenors (one male, one female) who shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting.

9.2.2 The immediate Past-President.

9.2.3 The General Secretary, the Membership Secretary and the Treasurer who shall be selected from among the members of the Executive by the Executive.

9.2.4 One Representative of each Regional District selected by the Party members of that Regional District normally within 45 days prior to the Annual General Meeting. Should a Regional district 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. Elections of Representatives will be by means of preferential balloting using a form approved in the election protocol.

9.2.5 One Mi'kmaq representative.

9.2.6. The three-person Leadership as set out in Article 12.

9.2.7. Official Agent.

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

9.4 Removal and Replacement of Officers of the Party

9.4.1 An Officer may be removed from that position by a 75% vote of the Executive, in which case the position shall be filled within one month by a means determined by the Executive.

9.4.2 The Executive shall fill any vacancy of a Representative on the Executive by calling for nominations from the relevant Regional Districts.

9.4.3 The Executive may determine whether any position elected at the Annual General Meeting that becomes vacant shall be filled by:

9.4.3.1 Electronic ballot of all Members in Good Standing, or

9.4.3.2 A Special General Meeting, or

9.4.3.3 The next highest polling candidate of appropriate gender at the previous election.

9.5 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:

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

9.5.2 Exercise any other lawful powers not inconsistent with these rules or the decisions of the Annual Convention as made from time to time; and

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

9.5.3.1 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.

9.5.3.2 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;

9.5.3.3 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.

9.5.3.4 The executive shall provide a job description, taking the form of a contract, relating to and describing the duties and expected performance of the leader. This job description shall be made available to any party who has expressed interest in entering a leadership race. This job description will take the form of a contract between the leader and the membership. The leader will agree to the contract at the time of entering the leadership race and will sign the document upon taking office.

9.5.3.5 The executive shall be responsible for ensuring the duties set out in the leadership job description are carried out to the satisfaction of the membership. Should the leader be unwilling or unable to fulfill the duties and obligations outlined in the job description/contract, the executive shall have the authority to initiate a leadership review by the membership.

9.6 Within 12 months of the adoption of this Constitution, the Executive shall ensure that the Party has by-laws and protocols consistent with this Constitution that guide actions and are available to all Party members. These by-laws and protocols shall be reviewed and revised by the Executive from time to time based upon experience and shall come into force upon approval at a General Meeting by majority vote. The minimal set of by-laws and protocols shall be the following:

9.6.1 Membership and communications with members

9.6.2 Elections of Officers and Representatives

9.6.3 Discipline, Complaints and Appeals

9.6.4 News media relations

9.6.5 Candidature for provincial elections

9.6.6 Policy development and adoption

9.6.7 Electoral Platform creation from policy

9.6.8 Issuing tax receipts and financial transfers within the Party

9.6.9 Financial and performance audit

9.6.10 Community relations

9.6.11 Municipal affairs, including municipal elections and the creation of local Groups

9.7 Within 12 months of the adoption of this Constitution, Job descriptions for all Party Officers (which must include guidelines and objectives) shall be provided by the Executive and adopted by either Executive or General Meeting.

9.8 The Executive shall meet:

9.8.1 Whenever it is scheduled by the Executive, or

9.8.2 Whenever a minimum of half of all Regional District Representatives agree to call an Executive meeting, in which case the meeting will be held within 30 days of the agreement. Notice of Executive meetings and telephone conferences shall be given to all Executive members as well as the general membership unless the executive declares the meeting closed, as defined in article 9.10.

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

9.10 Any Party member may normally attend a face-to-face Executive meeting. Speaking rights may be granted at the discretion of the Executive. The Executive may declare a meeting closed to all persons other than Executive members where to do otherwise would put at risk the privacy of an individual or seriously prejudice the interests of the Party.

9.11 The quorum for the Executive shall consist of one Co-President, two other Officers, two 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.

9.12 No Member shall occupy simultaneously more than one position of the seven Officers and three Leaders.

## 10. CANDIDATE SELECTION FOR PUBLIC OFFICE

10.1 Procedures for the selection of candidates for public office shall be the responsibility of the Regional Divisions subject to this Constitution and applicable by-laws.

10.2 Approved candidates must:

10.2.1 Uphold and abide by the rules of the Party;

10.2.2 Promote and abide by the ratified policy of the Party subject to 10.2.3;

10.2.3 State specific objections to ratified policy that candidates cannot in good conscience support.

10.3 The Executive shall ensure that conflict of interest policies are established and complied with to ensure neither selection panel members nor prospective candidates bias the selection process.

## 11. POLICY

11.1 The Policy Committee shall be the Party's policy-making body. It is responsible for the development and preparation of Party policy for review and ratification by the membership. Policy proposals and modifications to existing policy that have been developed by the committee must be presented to the membership at the Annual General Meeting or a Special General Meeting for their decision which can be: acceptance; refusal; or sending the proposal back to the committee for further development.

11.2 The Policy Committee shall consist of:

11.2.1 The two Policy Convenors and three Leaders as elected by the Annual Convention or General Meeting;

11.2.2 A maximum of two Policy Networkers per Regional Division as appointed by each Regional Division; and

11.2.3 Such other persons as the Policy Committee may appoint.

11.3 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 Article 15.

11.4 The Policy Committee may appoint such working groups from the membership, or elsewhere, as it considers necessary for the efficient development of policy. Such working groups shall not generate policy in isolation but shall listen to, and consult with, the Nova Scotia electorate and its community organizations.

11.4.1 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.

11.4.2 Any working group or person to whom the Policy Committee has delegated powers or duties will be bound by the rules of the Party and this Constitution, as well as any terms or conditions set by the Policy Committee.

11.4.3 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.

11.5 The Policy Committee will act in a manner consistent with these rules and with the will of the Party, as expressed through the Annual Convention and General Meetings and any agreement with the Executive or Caucus.

## 12. THE LEADERSHIP

12.1 The Leader, First Deputy Leader and Second Deputy Leader constitute the Leadership of the Party.

12.2 The Leader and First Deputy Leader shall be elected by the membership and all members shall have the right to vote in such elections.

12.3 Any candidate for Leader shall also present a candidate for First Deputy Leader who shall be elected on the same slate.

12.4 The Second Deputy Leader shall be selected by the Executive within one week after the Leader and First Deputy Leader have been elected by the membership. The Second Deputy Leader shall be selected to balance the Leadership for one or more of gender, age, and region of residence.

12.5 In the event that the Leader steps down or is otherwise unable to serve, the First Deputy Leader shall assume the office of Leader.

12.6 A new Leader shall be elected at the next Annual Convention or at a Special General Meeting called for this purpose held within six months of the loss of the Leader.

12.7 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 in Good Standing petition to hold such an election.

12.8 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. Such statements will reflect the provisions of this Constitution.

12.8.1 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.

12.9 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.

12.10 The Leadership is responsible for the affairs of Caucus.

## 13. CAUCUS

13.1 The role of Caucus is to organize and co-ordinate the Party's activities in the Nova Scotia House of Assembly. The Caucus shall exist for any period that the Party has members of the Nova Scotia House of Assembly.

13.2 The Caucus shall be made up of:

13.2.1 The Leader and Deputy Leaders

13.2.2 Representatives of the Party elected as Members of the Legislative Assembly

13.2.3 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.

13.3 The Caucus shall make such rules for its conduct as it sees fit in accordance with the Objectives and Purpose of the Party.

13.4 The Leadership and elected Members of the Legislative Assembly shall be the voting members of Caucus.

## 14. FINANCE

14.1 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:

14.1.1 How money will be received by the Party;

14.1.2 Who will be entitled to produce receipts;

14.1.3 How expenditure commitments will be budgeted for by the Party;

14.1.4 What bank accounts will operate for the ensuing year, including the purposes of and access to accounts;

14.1.5 Who will be allowed to authorize the production of cheques and the names of cheque signatories;

14.1.6 Who will be allowed to authorize the ordering of goods and services;

14.1.7 Policy concerning the investment of money by the Party, including what type of investment will be permitted; and

14.1.8 The type and frequency of financial reporting required during the year.

14.2 The Executive may invest surplus funds as it sees fit provided that the investment does not conflict with the Party's Objectives and Purpose.

14.3 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.

## 15. CONSENSUS DECISION MAKING

15.1 All 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. Consensus is a process 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.

## 16. CO-ORDINATION

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

16.2 Within three months of each General Meeting, the Leader, Deputy Leaders, Co-Presidents and Policy Co-Convenors shall report to the membership on the steps they have taken to fulfill their responsibilities under clause 16.1.

## 17. INCOME, BENEFIT OR ADVANTAGE TO BE APPLIED TO OBJECTIVES

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

17.2 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 open market value).

17.3 The provision and effect of Section 17 shall not be removed from these rules and shall be implied into any document replacing these rules.

## 18. ALTERATIONS OF CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

18.1 Any Article of the Constitution shall not be amended, altered, or rescinded except at an Annual or Special General Meeting of the Party and by a resolution passed by at least 75% of the persons present and entitled to vote.

18.2 Any by-law shall not be amended, altered, or rescinded except at an Annual or Special General Meeting of the Party and by a resolution passed by at least 50% of the persons present and entitled to vote.

18.3 The Executive shall give notice to all Members in Good Standing of any proposed alteration, addition or rescission of the Constitution or any by-law not less than thirty days prior to the Annual or Special General Meeting of the Party at which it is to be presented.

## 19. DISSOLUTION

19.1 90% of the Members entitled to vote at a Special General Meeting of the Party may resolve that the Party be dissolved as from the date to be named in the resolution, and may also in such resolution direct the method of disposing of the assets and property of the Party after its dissolution.

19.2 Upon the resolution defined in Article 19.1 being confirmed by 75% of the Members entitled to vote 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.

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

19.4 The property of the Party shall upon dissolution be transferred to such political parties or societies within Nova Scotia having objects 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.