



Vancouver Centre NDP Constitution

(Updated December 7, 2008)

1 PREAMBLE

1 We recognize and celebrate the diversity of the people of Vancouver Centre and will strive to ensure that this diversity, including but not limited to gender, is represented in all the Association's structures and functions.

2 NAME

1 The name of the association shall be the Vancouver Centre Federal New Democratic Party Riding Association, herein after called "the Association".

3 INTERPRETATION

- 1 The Chair of the meeting shall interpret this Constitution.
- 2 Any such interpretation may be over-ruled by a majority vote of all Members present, and voting, at any meeting of the Association of its Executive.

4 OBJECT

1 The object of the Association shall be to organize the political and educational aims of the New Democratic Party (hereinafter called the NDP) in the Vancouver Centre Riding.

5 MEMBERSHIP

- 1 The Members of the Association shall be members in good standing of the B.C. NDP who:
 - i. Reside in Vancouver Centre Federal Electoral District; or
 - ii. Request Membership in the Association in accordance with the provisions for transfer members in the Constitution of the B.C. NDP.

6 AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS

- 1 An organization affiliated with the NDP or any unit or division of the NDP shall be entitled to representation at meetings of the Association in accordance with the Constitution of the B.C. NDP.
- 2 At a meeting of the Association each designated delegate of an affiliated organization shall have one vote.

7 GENERAL MEETINGS

- 1 Annual General Meetings (AGM) shall be held at intervals not exceeding fifteen (15) months, at a time and at a place determined by the Executive of the Association.
- 2 The business of the AGM shall include, but not be limited to, the election of the Executive and consideration of a written Treasurer's report.
- 3 The Executive shall convene at least one General Meeting between AGMs.
- 4 The Executive shall provide not less than seven days notice of General Meetings and not less than ten days notice of the AGM.
- 5 At written request of at least ten Members of the Association, the Executive shall convene a Special General Meeting.

8 EXECUTIVE

- 1 The Executive shall be the governing body of the Association between General Meetings, and shall meet at least eight times per year.
- 2 The Executive shall be composed of a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Fundraiser, Organizer, two Youth Representatives, up to five Members-at-Large, and other members-at-large as the Executive decides, and the Association's Member of Parliament or Nominated Candidate.
- 3 Wherever possible, women shall occupy at least fifty percent of the positions on the Executive, excluding that of the Member of Parliament or Nominated candidate.
- 4 Wherever possible, the Executive shall include a minimum of two members each from Vancouver-Fairview, Vancouver-False Creek and Vancouver-West End Provincial Constituencies.
- 5 The Executive shall be elected by secret ballot.
- 6 To be elected, the candidate must obtain fifty percent plus one of the ballots cast.
- 7 Nominations for all Executive positions shall be taken from the floor during an AGM.
- 8 Persons nominated to the Executive shall indicate willingness to serve if elected.
- 9 Persons absent from the meeting that are willing to stand for election to the Executive shall provide written notice of their willingness to stand.
- 10 Any vacancies that occur on the Executive shall be filled at the discretion of the Executive.
- 11 Any Executive member who misses three consecutive Executive meetings without notice may, at the discretion of the Executive, be removed from office.
- 12 The Treasurer shall keep the accounts of the Association.
- 13 The President shall represent the Association on the Council of Federal Ridings.

9 AMENDMENTS

- 1 This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds majority vote of those present and voting at a General Meeting of the Association.
- 2 Notice of intent of the amendment(s) shall be given with notice of the meeting.

10 QUORUMS

- 1 A quorum at General Membership Meetings shall be the lesser of five percent of the Membership or twenty-five Members.
- 2 The quorum for all Executive meetings shall be more than fifty percent of members of the Executive at the time the meeting is called to order.

11 CHARTERED CLUBS

- 1 The Association shall recognize clubs chartered by the Provincial Constituencies within the boundaries of Vancouver Centre Federal Riding.

12 CONVENTION DELEGATES

- 1 Convention delegates shall be elected at a General Membership Meeting in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Federal Constitution.
- 2 Wherever possible, at least fifty percent of convention delegates shall be women.

13 NOMINATION OF CANDIDATE

- 1 The calling of a Nominating Convention shall be the responsibility of the Executive, and the Executive shall have the responsibility of conducting the Meeting and nomination of the Candidate, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the B.C. NDP and Federal NDP Constitutions.
- 2 Notice of the Nominating Convention shall be mailed to all Members of the Association, and all Members of the B.C. NDP who are resident within Vancouver Centre Federal Electoral District, but not members of the Association, at least thirty days prior to the Nominating Convention. If the writs for an election have been issued by the Chief Electoral Officer prior to the calling of a Nominating Convention, the thirty day provision may be waived and the Executive may schedule a Nominating Convention providing notice of such a Meeting is mailed at least seven days in advance of the Meeting.
- 3 Each person seeking nomination shall be entitled to a copy of the Association's current Membership list.
- 4 When more than two persons are seeking the nomination, the name of the person who receives the lowest number of votes shall be removed from the ballot after each vote and successive ballots shall be held until a person receives fifty percent plus one of all ballots cast.
- 5 Persons seeking nomination may be nominated from the floor.
- 6 Only those persons who are members of the B.C. NDP and resident in Vancouver Centre Federal Electoral District may nominate or vote for a candidate.
- 7 Members of the Association not resident in the riding may vote on all questions, except that they may not nominate or vote for a Candidate.
- 8 A Nominating Convention shall be considered a General Meeting of the Association.

14 CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE

- 1 Prior to the call of a federal election, the Executive shall establish a PRE-ELECTION PLANNING COMMITTEE and appoint a PRE-ELECTION ORGANIZER

to chair the Committee. The duties of the PEP Committee shall be determined by the Executive and should include (where time allows) the preparation of a proposed budget for the election campaign. The PEP Committee shall report regularly to Executive and General Membership Meetings and its actions shall be subject to ratification. The duties of the PEP Committee shall be terminated upon formation of the Campaign Committee.

- 2 On the calling of an election, the President shall immediately call a special Executive meeting for the purpose of establishing a CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE and choosing a CAMPAIGN MANAGER.
- 3 The Campaign Manager and the Executive shall determine the Officers and general composition of the Campaign Committee, and the Executive shall, by motion, approve all members of the campaign Committee, with the exception of the Candidate's Official Agent, who shall be chosen by the candidate. The Official Agent shall be a full member of the Campaign Committee.
- 4 The campaign committee shall prepare and present to the Executive for approval, a Campaign budget. The campaign Manager shall be responsible for ensuring that the total monies spent on the campaign do not exceed the total allowed in the campaign Budget. The Campaign Committee shall not have the authority to increase the overall Campaign Budget and shall ask the Executive to do so if it deems an increase to be necessary.
- 5 The Executive shall have full authority to convene a meeting of the Campaign Committee to discuss any matter relating to the activities of this Committee.
- 6 The Campaign Committee shall be responsible for conducting the election campaign and shall have full authority to determine how the campaign shall be conducted, unless the Executive directs otherwise. In any matter where the Executive has not given direction, the Campaign Committee has authority to determine the question.
- 7 Following the election, the Campaign Manager, on behalf of the Campaign Committee, shall make a report to the executive and to the next General Membership Meeting on all aspects of the campaign. This report shall include a full accounting of how monies were raised, how all monies were spent, and what (if any) debt or surplus exists.
- 8 When the Executive deems the duties of the Campaign Committee to be completed, it shall, by motion, disband the Committee.

15 COMMITTEES

- 1 Wherever possible, all committees of the Association shall include at least fifty percent women.

16 RULES OF ORDER

- 1 Robert's Rules of Order shall govern except where those rules conflict with this Constitution, or the Constitutions of the BC NDP or the Federal NDP.