

Constitution of the Indigenous Peoples' Commission Liberal Party of Canada

As amended at the 2016 Biennial Meeting
May 26, 2016

Winnipeg, Manitoba within Treaty 1 territory and the Traditional Homeland of the
Métis People



PREAMBLE

BELIEVING in the right of all Indigenous people to participate in the political process in Canada in order to achieve a just and equitable position for Indigenous peoples in Canadian society;

COMMITTED to the socio-economic betterment of Indigenous people and the recognition of the Indigenous and treaty right of Indigenous peoples, including the inherent right of self-determination;

DEDICATED to the creation of a caring society and healthy environment in which all peoples may peacefully flourish in harmony with our Mother the Earth, so as to ensure a place for our generations to come;

BELIEVING that the philosophy and ideology of the Liberal Party of Canada is compatible with the aspirations of Indigenous people and best suited to accommodate the interests of Indigenous peoples in Canada;
and,

THEREFORE the hereinafter described organization is constituted as a Commission of the Liberal Party of Canada with the principal objectives of representing and promoting the interests of Indigenous Peoples within the Liberal Party of Canada and encouraging the active participation of Indigenous people as all levels within the Party.



**ARTICLE I
NAME**

1.01 The name of the organization shall be “The Indigenous Peoples’ Commission of the Liberal Party of Canada,” hereinafter referred to as the Indigenous Commission.

**ARTICLE II
MEMBERSHIPS**

2.01 Any Indigenous person, “*who, in accordance with the Liberal Party of Canada’s current Constitution, has met the qualification for membership with the Liberal Party of Canada and is a member in good standing with the Liberal Party of Canada,*”

2.02 Membership cards may be issued by the Indigenous Commission in accordance with the Constitution of the Liberal Party of Canada.

2.03 For the purposes of this Commission and for the purposes of determining Indigenous delegates to Conventions of the Liberal Party of Canada, an Indigenous person shall be defined in accordance with the following:

- a. “Indigenous” refers to the Indian, Inuit and Métis peoples of Canada; and
- b. Without limiting the generality of paragraph (a) an Indigenous person includes a person who (1) self identifies as an Indigenous person and (2) provides either reasonable proof of Indigenous ancestry or reasonable proof that the Indigenous community accepts him/her as an Indigenous.

2.04 Where a person’s Indigenous identity is challenged the Vice-President for Membership and Organization shall hold a hearing in accordance with the principles of fundamental justice and fairness to consider and rule on the challenge.

2.05 The Indigenous Peoples’ Commission shall establish a membership committee at every Biennial Convention of the Liberal Party of Canada to hear any challenges that may arise over the identity of any Indigenous person.

**SECTION III
ALLIED SUPPORTER**



- 3.01** Qualification as an Allied Supporter: To be eligible to become an Ally of the IPC, a person must be either a member of the Party, a Supporter of the Party or a person who:
- a. Is at least 18 years of age;
 - b. Supports the purposes of the IPC;
 - c. Is qualified as an elector who may vote in accordance with part 11 of the Canada Elections Act or ordinarily lives in Canada;
 - d. Is not a member of any other federal political party in Canada; and
 - e. May be Indigenous or non-Indigenous ancestry
- 3.02** Application and admission as an Allied Supporter is As follows:
- a. A person may apply to become an Ally of the IPC by completing an application form and delivering it to an office designated by the National Executive Board of Directors or submitting it electronically in a manner prescribed by the National Board of Directors.
 - b. The IPC may admit as an Ally of the IPC each person who has applied in accordance with Application & admission and meets the requirements of Qualifications as an Allied Supporter.
 - c. The IPC may refuse to admit any person as an Ally of the IPC if it has reasonable grounds to believe that a person does not meet the requirements of Qualifications as an Allied Supporter.
- 3.03** National register of Allied Supporters:
- a. The Vice President of Membership & Organization in conjunction with the National Office is responsible to maintain a national register of the Ally of the IPC.
 - b. Subject to reasonable procedures prescribed by the National Board of Directors to ensure compliance with applicable privacy legislation, each PTA is entitled to timely access to all information concerning the identification of the Ally contained in the national register of Ally about all Ally of the IPC who may be entitled to participate in the affairs of the PTA.
- 3.04** Registration as an Ally of the IPC takes effect on the date prescribed by the National Board of Directors that is no later than the next business day after the application to become an Ally is delivered, submitted & endorsed in the province or territory in which the applicant lives and with the approval of the National Board of Directors



3.05 A person ceases to be an Ally of the IPC:

- a. When the Ally no longer meets all the requirements of Qualifications as an Allied Supporter;
- b. When the Ally's registration is terminated by the National Board of Directors; or
- c. When the Ally presents to the IPC a request to be no longer registered as an Ally.

3.06 Rights of Allied Supporters:

- a. Subject to the relevant provisions of this Constitution, an Ally of the IPC has the right to vote on the Leadership Vote conducted in their EDA.
- b. May be appointed to any committee, task force, working group or other such group within the IPC.
- c. May not stand for election as an Indigenous Delegate as outline in the Constitution.
- d. May not vote nor stand for election for any elected position within the IPC.
- e. May not vote on any proposed Constitutional Amendments at the IPC Biennial(s)

ARTICLE IV HEAD OFFICE

4.01 The head office of the Indigenous Commission shall be in the City of Ottawa, Ontario.

ARTICLE V-NATIONAL EXECUTIVE

5.01 There shall be a National Executive of the Indigenous Commission consisting of twenty-one people, including all of the Officers and Provincial/Territorial Representatives of the Indigenous Commission.

5.02 The National Executive shall be responsible for the overall management and policy development of the Indigenous Commission.

5.03 A majority of the National Executive shall constitute a quorum, “ at any duly convened meeting of the National Executive.” All decisions of the National Executive shall be by a majority vote.

5.04 The National Executive may amend or reverse any decisions of the Officers of the Indigenous Commission. Any major policy, management or political decision requires



the prior approval of the National Executive. In particular, any non-budgeted financial expenditure in excess of \$2,000.00 must be approved by the National Executive.

- 5.05** The National Executive shall meet at least once per year at the call of the Presidents or fifty-one percent of the National Executive. In addition, the National Executive shall hold at least two conference calls per year between meetings and a minimum of ten days notice is required for the calling of meetings and a minimum of two days notice is required for the conduct of conference calls. All meetings and conference calls of the National Executive shall be co-chaired by at least one Co-President.

ARTICLE VI PROVINCIAL/TERRITORIAL REPRESENTATIVES

- 6.01** The Indigenous Peoples' Commission shall be composed of thirteen (13) provincial and territorial Indigenous Associations or Commissions, and there shall one IPC PTO representative from each province or territory as follows:

- a. The Indigenous Associations or Commissions are:
1. Indigenous Peoples' Commission - British Columbia (IPCBC)
 2. Indigenous Peoples' Commission – Alberta (IPCA)
 3. Indigenous Peoples' Commission – Saskatchewan (IPCS)
 4. Indigenous Peoples' Commission – Manitoba (IPCM)
 5. Indigenous Peoples' Commission – Ontario (IPCO)
 6. Indigenous Peoples' Commission – Quebec (IPCQ)
 7. Indigenous Peoples' Commission – (IPCNB)
 8. Indigenous Peoples' Commission – (IPCNS)
 9. Indigenous Peoples' Commission – Prince Edward Island (IPCPEI)
 10. Indigenous Peoples' Commission – Newfoundland & Labrador (IPCNFLD)
 11. Indigenous Peoples' Commission – Nunavut (IPCN)
 12. Indigenous Peoples' Commission – Northwest Territories (IPCNWT)
 13. Indigenous Peoples' Commission – Yukon (IPCY)

- 6.02** The provincial and territorial Indigenous Associations or Commissions represent and promote the interests of Indigenous peoples in the Party and encourage the active participation of Indigenous peoples at all levels of the Party structure. They shall encourage and coordinate the activities of the membership and function as a body which coordinates and communicates the views of Indigenous Liberals on a regular basis. They shall be known as Indigenous Associations or Commissions of the Indigenous Peoples' Commission of the Liberal Party of Canada. They shall maintain an up to date list of their current executive with the Indigenous Commission.



- 6.03** The Provincial/Territorial Representatives to the National Executive of the Indigenous Peoples' Commission shall be appointed to the Indigenous Peoples' Commission National Executive in the following manner:
- a. Where there is an Indigenous Association or Commission within the province/territory, the representative shall be the president of the Association or Commission or the designate of the Indigenous Association or Commission;
 - b. Where there is not an Indigenous Association or Commission within the province/territory, the representative shall be selected by the Indigenous Association or Commission members within the province/territory.
 - c. While respecting the autonomy of the regional commission to designate their Representative, the following criteria shall apply:
 - (i) Must be a member in good standing;
 - (ii) Must be a resident of the PTA Region;
 - (iii) (Shall not be either current National Co-Chairs;
 - (iv) May appoint a current National VP on an Interim basis only, along with a provisional designate should any conflict in duties or voting status arise
- 6.04** If there is a vacancy on the Indigenous Peoples' Commission National Executive as a result of the failure by an Indigenous Association or Commission pursuant to section 6.03, or the Indigenous Association or Commission members of the province/territory, to name a representative, the National Executive of the Indigenous Peoples' Commission may appoint a person to fill the vacancy until the next provincial/territorial Indigenous Association or Commission annual meeting.
- 6.05** The Provincial/Territorial Representatives shall be responsible for advancing the interests of the Indigenous Commission within their respective regions.
- 6.06** Any Indigenous person, as defined in the Indigenous Peoples' Commission's Constitution, who is a member of the Liberal Party of Canada, may be a member of the Indigenous Associations.
- 6.07** The Indigenous Associations or Commissions shall, in their respective Constitutions:
- a. Define their status and objectives within the Party and Indigenous Peoples' Commission and recognize the full membership and participation in their ranks of all Indigenous peoples, women and youth while ensuring equitable representation in the structure and operations and incorporate the principles set forth in the Preamble and Article 2, section 3 of the Constitution of the Liberal Party of Canada;



- b. Specify the qualifications and procedures required for obtaining membership;
 - c. Provide for general meetings and for election of officers thereof at such meetings which shall be held in conjunction with respective provincial/territorial Liberal Associations of the Liberal Party of Canada general meetings;
 - d. Provide for a right of hearing and an appeal procedure from all decisions of their respective executive committees or officers dismissing members from office in such Associations, denying membership therein to applicants, and suspending or expelling members there from;
 - e. Provide for the establishment and maintenance of proper financial records, minutes of meetings and correspondence;
 - f. Provide for the appointment or election of representatives to participate in the Indigenous Peoples' Commission;
 - g. Provide for procedures for the selection and substitution of Indigenous delegates attending provincial/territorial or national Conventions of the Liberal Party of Canada in accordance with the Constitution or by-laws of the Indigenous Peoples' Commission, Liberal Party of Canada and provincial/territorial Liberal Party of Canada Associations;
 - h. Specify a formula for the amending of such Constitutions by a vote of their respective general memberships, and specify the effective date of each amended version of such Constitutions; and
 - i. Ensure that the current version of their Constitution is filed with the National Office of the Indigenous Peoples' Commission, Liberal Party of Canada and the respective provincial/territorial Associations of the Liberal Party of Canada.
- 6.08** One of the primary objectives of the Liberal Party of Canada is to ensure equitable representation of Indigenous Peoples at all levels of the Party. An assessment to determine the extent to which equitable Indigenous representation has been achieved will be reported to every Biennial Convention by the President of the Indigenous Associations in consultation with the Indigenous Peoples' Commission.
- 6.09** The Presidents of the Indigenous Associations shall report to the National Executive of the Indigenous Peoples' Commission at every Biennial Convention on the achievements of their respective Associations.

ARTICLE VII OFFICERS



7.01 There shall be eight Officers of the Indigenous Commission:

- a. Two Co-Chairs, one of whom is a male and the other of whom is a female;
- b. Six Vice-Presidents with responsibility over the following subject areas:
 - I. Operations;
 - II. Communications;
 - III. Policy;
 - IV. Membership & Organization;
 - V. Youth Representative to the Young Liberals of Canada (YLC); and
 - VI. Womens' Representative to the National Womens' Liberal Commission (NWLC).

7.02 The Officers, as a committee of the National Executive, shall be accountable to the National Executive and responsible for fulfilling the directions of the National Executive and attending to the management and policy development of the Indigenous Commission between meetings of the National Executive.

7.03 A majority of the Officers shall constitute a quorum, "at any duly convened meeting of the Officers." All decisions of the Officers shall be by majority vote.

7.04 The Officers shall meet at least "...twice per year, subject to budgetary constraints..." at the call of the Presidents or two-thirds of the Officers. In addition, the Officers may hold as many conference calls as they deem necessary for the efficient operation of the Indigenous Commission. A minimum of ten days notice is required for the calling of meetings. All meetings and conference calls shall be co-chaired by at least one Co-President.

ARTICLE VIII DUTIES OF OFFICERS

8.01 The Co-Chairs shall:

- a. Promote the interest of the Indigenous Commission both within the Party and externally;
- b. Co-chair or chair all meetings of the Indigenous Peoples' Commission;
- c. Report as required detailing the activities of the National Executive;
- d. Be the primary spokesperson of the Indigenous Commission;



- e. Maintain all duties normally associated with a chief executive officer and such other duties as delegated to them by the National Executive; and
- f. Represent the Indigenous Commission, on an alternating basis, on the National Executive of the Liberal Party of Canada and on other Committees of the Liberal Party of Canada as required.

8.02 The duties of each of the Vice-Presidents shall be as follows:

- a. Vice-President for Operations:
 - I. Develop proposed fundraising projects for the Indigenous Commission;
 - II. Maintain accurate records, financial and otherwise, of the Indigenous Commission and make such records available to individual members upon request;
 - III. At least two months prior to the National Executive meeting in the spring of each and every year, prepare a comprehensive budget for the Indigenous Commission including:
 - 1. Estimates of upcoming expenditures by each Officer in the operation of his/her area of concern including a complete estimate and description of these proposed expenditures and projects;
 - 2. Expenditures related to National Executive meetings; and
 - 3. Expenditures related to paid staff members of the Indigenous Commission;
 - IV. Report as required detailing the financial expenditures of the Indigenous Commission;
 - V. Shall ensure minutes are accurately recorded of all meetings of the Indigenous Commission and logged/forwarded to the National Office;
 - VI. Shall ensure agendas for all meetings of the Indigenous Commission are sent to all Executive members 7 days prior to any meetings;
 - VII. Shall ensure all meeting reports and packages of the Indigenous Commission are sent to all Executive members 5 days prior to any meetings and logged/forwarded to the National Office;
 - VIII. Shall ensure any research, projects and/or events are properly documented and reports submitted to the Indigenous Commission as scheduled; and
 - IX. Such other duties as delegated by the Officers or the National Executive.



- b. Vice-President for Communications:
 - I. Maintain a national membership list in conjunction with the Vice-President responsible for Organization;
 - II. Develop and implement communications strategies for the Indigenous Commission;
 - III. Act as the Indigenous Commission representative on Liberal Party communications committees as required;
 - IV. Report as required detailing the communications activities of the Indigenous Commission; and
 - V. Such other duties as delegated by the Officers or the National Executive.

- c. Vice-President for Policy:
 - I. Ensure a functional policy process which includes:
 - 1. Indigenous Commission policy development;
 - 2. The communication of Indigenous Commission policies to the National Policy and Platform Committee.
 - 3. Direct lobbying and communication of developed Indigenous Commission policies to the parliamentary wing of the Party, and
 - 4. Report as required detailing the policy activities of the Indigenous Commission.
 - II. Collect, co-ordinate, and compile adopted Indigenous Commission provincial/territorial Indigenous Policies;
 - III. Distribute such a compiled policy package to each Provincial/Territorial Representative and policy director on a yearly basis;
 - IV. Distribute policy background material to provincial/territorial Indigenous organizations;
 - V. Act as one of the Indigenous Commission representatives on the National Policy and Platform Committee; and
 - VI. Such other duties as delegated by the Officers or the National Executive.

- d. Vice-President for Membership and Organization:
 - I. Provide organization support to the provincial/territorial Liberal Indigenous organizations by developing organizational materials and information packages prepared with their co-operation and agreement;
 - II. Maintain an ongoing constitutional review process
 - III. Maintain an ongoing national membership list in conjunction with the Vice-President responsible for Communications;



- IV. Act as the Indigenous Commission representative on Liberal Party organizational committees;
 - V. Report as required detailing the organization activities of the Indigenous Commission; and
 - VI. Such other duties as delegated by the Officers or the National Executive.
- e. Vice-President Youth Representative to the YLC:
- I. Work with the other Vice Presidents in promoting the interest of Indigenous youth within each of the subject areas or responsibility described herein;
 - II. Develop policies and programs in respect of Indigenous youth;
 - III. Encourage the participation of Indigenous youth in the Indigenous Commission;
 - IV. Act as the Indigenous Commission representative on the Commission of the Young Liberals of Canada;
 - V. Report detailing his or her activities in the Commission of the Young Liberals; and
 - VI. Such other duties as delegated by the Officers or the National Executive.
- f. Vice-President Womens' Representative to the NWLC:
- I. Work with the other Vice-Presidents in the interest of Indigenous women within each of the subject areas of responsibility described herein;
 - II. Develop policies and programs in respect of Indigenous women;
 - III. Encourage the participation of Indigenous women in the Indigenous Commission;
 - IV. Act as the Indigenous Commission representative on the National Women's Liberal Commission of the Liberal Party;
 - V. Report as required; and
 - VI. Such other duties as delegated by the Officers or the National Executive.

**ARTICLE IX
ADDITIONAL REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

9.01 All Officers shall report on their respective activities to the Vice-President responsible for Communications prior to his/her deadline of submissions to existing Liberal publications.

**ARTICLE X
CONVENTIONS**



10.01 The Indigenous representation at any Convention shall be as follows (requirements for qualifications as a delegate or alternate must be met as of the opening of registration):

- a. One co-president of the Indigenous Peoples Commission, as the voting member of the National Executive of the Liberal Party of Canada;
- b. Up to seven officers of the Indigenous Peoples' Commission;
- c. The presidents of the provincial/territorial Indigenous Commissions, as members of the Council of Presidents; and
- d. Up to two persons who are each an Indigenous person, as defined in the Constitution of the Indigenous Peoples' Commission, elected from each Electoral District Association.

ARTICLE XI

BIENNIAL COMMISSION MEETINGS AND NATIONAL CONVENTIONS

11.01 The Indigenous Commission shall hold biennial meetings concurrently with the Liberal Party of Canada Biennial Convention provided for in the Constitution of the Liberal Party of Canada.

11.02 At the Indigenous Commission Convention held concurrently with the Liberal Party of Canada Biennial Convention, delegates to the Indigenous Commission Convention shall be such members of the Indigenous Commission who are accredited delegates to the Liberal Party of Canada Convention, pursuant to the provisions of the Liberal Party of Canada Constitution.

11.03 Members of the Indigenous Commission who are observers may run for elective position, but not vote in elections of the Indigenous Commission

11.04 The representation of the Indigenous Peoples' Commission at any Convention of the Liberal Party of Canada shall be in accordance with the Party Constitution.

11.05 Quorum – the minimum number of delegates to constitute a Biennial meeting shall be equal to the quorum of the current National Executive Board

ARTICLE XII

APPOINTMENT/ELECTION OF THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE

12.01 The election of Officers shall take place at the biennial meetings of the Liberal Party of Canada.



12.02 The following rules shall be in force for the election of Officers:

- a. All Officers shall hold office from the date of their election until the next biennial meeting of the Liberal Party of Canada;
- b. All nominations for the offices of Co-President and Vice-President of the Indigenous Commission shall be in writing and supported by at least 25 members (in accordance with the LPC National Constitution) and be received at the IPC National Office at least 34 days prior to the biennial meeting, “and has met all other qualifications under Party By-Law #5 Section 3.2 Qualifications.”
- c. All Indigenous delegates are eligible to vote in the elections of Officers. Officers shall be considered elected if they receive 50% plus one of the votes cast in the election for that position.

12.03 Any member of the National Executive may be removed upon the vote of two-thirds of the National Executive.

12.04 Vacancies in any of the Officer positions shall be filled by a majority vote of the National Executive within one month of the vacancy occurring. Any Officer so named shall serve until the next biennial meeting of the Indigenous Commission.

ARTICLE XIII AMENDMENTS

13.01 This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds majority at any biennial meeting of the Indigenous Peoples’ Commission.

13.02 “Proposed amendments must be submitted in writing to the National President at least 27 days before the convention of the IPC at which they are to be considered. Amendments to this Constitution may be proposed by

- a. The National Elected Officers;
- b. The National Executive Board of Directors;
- c. Any PTA; or
- d. Any 15 members in good standing of the IPC.”

13.03 “The National President must publish a copy of each proposed amendment to this Constitution that must be submitted to a convention of the IPC on the public website of the IPC at least 20 days before the Convention at which the proposed amendments are to be considered.”



ARTICLE XIV
BYLAWS

14.01 The National Executive may enact bylaws as provided in this Constitution and is further authorized to make bylaws with respect to any matter over which this Constitution is silent.

