

**CONSERVATIVE PARTY
OF CANADA
RULES AND
PROCEDURES FOR
THE 2020 LEADERSHIP**



January 11th, 2020



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Introduction

- 1.1.1 The Leadership Election Organizing Committee (LEOC) was appointed on December 23, 2019 and pursuant to paragraph 10.9.2 of the Constitution is responsible for conducting the Leadership Election Process for the Conservative Party of Canada (Party).
- 1.1.2 Voting will be by single secret ballot on which the member will indicate his or her preferred Candidates by ranking the choices.
- 1.1.3 These leadership election rules (Rules) are issued pursuant to paragraph 10.9.2 of the Constitution, which mandates LEOC to “determine the rules and procedures for the conduct of the leadership selection process.” LEOC may amend these Rules or issue further rules or procedures from time to time, as it deems necessary to conduct an open, fair, and equitable Election Process while respecting the Constitution as passed by the Membership at the start of the leadership process.

1.2 Appointment of Officials

- 1.2.1 LEOC may appoint officials as it determines necessary to conduct the Election Process and may delegate in writing to him or her or them (collectively and individually “Delegated Decision-maker”) the authority to apply or interpret these Rules and any other rules, regulations, guidelines and/or procedures related to this Election Process.
- 1.2.2 Delegated Decision-makers of LEOC act with the full authority of LEOC and decisions rendered by Delegated Decision-makers shall have the same force and effect as having been issued by LEOC.
- 1.2.3 All authorities set out herein may be delegated by the individual or committee responsible except for those specifically reserved for subcommittees of LEOC set out in Sections 1.6, 1.7 and 1.8.

1.3 Chief Returning Officer

- 1.3.1 LEOC shall appoint a Chief Returning Officer (CRO).



1.3.2 The CRO shall:

- a) Be responsible for all matters pertaining to the conduct of the vote other than those specifically reserved for LEOC, the LCNC or the DRAC herein;
- b) Appoint and oversee training for neutral Electoral District Returning Officers (EDRO) and other election officers as required;
- c) Recommend to LEOC for its approval Leadership Voting Procedures which shall set out (i) the process for postal voting; (ii) the process for the selection of in-person polling stations (if any); (iii) identification requirements; (iv) the criteria for ordering Candidate names on the ballot; (v) any other clarification that the CRO deems advisable.
- d) Authorize the selection of any in-person polling stations;
- e) Certify the list of names of eligible voters for each Electoral District and provide each in person polling station with the appropriate list and approved ballots;
- f) Prescribe the form of the ballot;
- g) Carry out such other duties as may be determined by LEOC from time to time.

1.3.3 All notices to the CRO must be sent to:

Chief Returning Officer
Conservative Party of Canada
130 Albert St, Suite 1720
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5G4
CRO@conservative.ca

1.4 Electoral District Election Officials

- 1.4.1 The CRO shall appoint an Electoral District Returning Officer (EDRO), and may appoint Electoral District Assistant Returning Officer(s) (EDARO) for each Electoral District where a polling station is authorized.
- 1.4.2 Where more than one polling station is established for any Electoral District as specified in these Rules, the CRO must designate the EDARO who shall be responsible for the conduct of balloting at that Polling station and answer to the EDRO.
- 1.4.3 The EDRO, EDARO(s) need not reside in the Electoral District and the CRO may appoint the same person as EDRO or EDARO for more than one Electoral District.
- 1.4.4 The CRO may revoke or replace any appointment under this section.



- 1.4.5 The Rules shall not be interpreted to require the establishment of a polling station in any Electoral District.

1.5 Electoral District Returning Officers

- 1.5.1 The EDRO shall preside over the Election Day process including registration, voting, vote counting, communication with the CRO, security and the establishment of Voting and Counting areas at the Polling Station for his or her Electoral District.
- 1.5.2 The CRO shall hold training sessions for EDROs. The EDRO shall train the EDARO(s), and anyone else assisting the EDRO on Election Day.
- 1.5.3 The EDARO shall act under the direct supervision of the EDRO and shall assist the EDRO in the performance of his or her duties. In the event that the EDRO is unable to carry out his or her duties, the CRO may appoint the EDARO or any other person as EDRO.

1.6 Dispute Resolution Appeals Committee

- 1.6.1 LEOC shall appoint a Dispute Resolution Appeals Committee (DRAC). The DRAC Committee will have the power to set its own rules and procedures.
- 1.6.2 Any notice required to be provided to the DRAC may be provided to:
DRAC@conservative.ca

1.7 Leadership Candidate Nomination Committee

- 1.7.1 LEOC shall appoint a Leadership Candidate Nomination Committee (LCNC) which may include any LEOC member not serving on the DRAC and shall include a Chair of LEOC.
- 1.7.2 Any notice required to be provided to the LCNC may be provided to:
LCNC@conservative.ca

1.8 Leadership Debate Committee

- 1.8.1 LEOC shall appoint a Leadership Debate Committee (LDC).



1.9 Independent Auditor

- 1.9.1 LEOC shall appoint an independent auditor to monitor and verify the Leadership Election result.

1.10 Neutrality of Election Officials

- 1.10.1 Members of LEOC, the CRO, each DRO, each EDRO, EDARO and other Delegated Decision-makers shall sign a neutrality commitment in the form prescribed by LEOC and shall abide by it. The chair(s) of LEOC shall remove and replace anyone who contravenes the neutrality commitment.

2 MEMBERSHIP

2.1 Eligibility to vote

- 2.1.1 To vote in the Election Process a person must be a member in good standing of the Party as of 11:59 pm Eastern Time (ET) on April 17, 2020.
- 2.1.2 The Cut-off Time is determined as follows - Memberships purchased on-line at www.conservative.ca until 11:59 pm ET on April 17, 2020 will be eligible to vote. All other membership submission methods must be received at Conservative Party Headquarters by 5:00 pm ET on April 17, 2020 to be eligible to vote.
- 2.1.3 Any membership or membership renewal received after the Cut-off Time will be processed and the member's name will be added to the membership list of the Party, but any such member will not be entered on the National Voters List and will not be eligible to vote in the Election Process.
- 2.1.4 The CRO shall establish a list of all members of the Party in good standing as at 11:59 pm ET on April 17, 2020.

2.2 Residency

- 2.2.1 Each member's vote shall count for the Electoral District in which the member's place of ordinary residence is located.
- 2.2.2 "Place of ordinary residence" shall be determined according to Section 8 of the *Canada Elections Act*.



- 2.2.3 The National Voters List shall state the Electoral District in which each member is entitled to vote and, unless changed or challenged in accordance with these Rules, the National Voters List shall be determinative of the issue of residence.

2.3 Membership Submissions by Candidates

- 2.3.1 Bulk memberships submitted by Candidates must be filed electronically using the template provided by the Party. The Party will not accept memberships submitted by Candidates in any other form.
- 2.3.2 Candidate membership submissions may only be paid by certified cheque from the campaign bank account, bank draft or wire transfer from the campaign bank account.
- 2.3.3 Membership payments must be accompanied by a prescribed membership form signed by each applicant, and a copy of the applicant's cheque, money order or first and last 4 digits of the applicant's credit card number used to purchase such membership.
- 2.3.4 All candidate bulk membership submissions must be received at Conservative Party Headquarters by 5:00 pm ET on April 17, 2020.

2.4 National Voters List

- 2.4.1 The CRO shall have the absolute discretion to take whatever steps necessary to ensure the accuracy of the National Voters List. Verification programs may be random or as otherwise determined by the CRO. Verification by the CRO of membership, eligibility to vote and accuracy of information may take place at any time and there is no obligation to notify any Candidate of verification efforts.
- 2.4.2 The CRO shall send, to each EDRO, a Final National Voters List for the applicable Electoral District by June 24, 2020.

2.5 Changes Related to Residence

- 2.5.1 This section applies only to determination of the Electoral District in which the member is eligible to vote.



- 2.5.2 Any request for a change of a member's Electoral District must be made in writing and received by the CRO along with any supporting documentation no later than 5:00 pm ET on May 16, 2020.
- 2.5.3 The CRO shall have the absolute discretion to leave the member's Electoral District as entered on the National Voters List unchanged or substitute an alternative Electoral District.

2.6 Challenges Related to Membership (Eligibility or otherwise)

- 2.6.1 This section applies to the determination of membership in the Party and the eligibility of a member to vote.
- 2.6.2 A Candidate may challenge the eligibility of any individual entered on the membership list on the grounds that any such individual is not a member in good standing.
- 2.6.3 Any challenge pursuant to this section must be made in writing and received by the CRO along with any supporting documentation no later than seventy-two (72) hours after receipt of the final voters list.
- 2.6.4 After the Cut-Off the CRO shall provide a Preliminary National Voters List to Candidates.
- 2.6.5 The CRO shall provide a Final National Voters List to Candidates no later than 5:00 PM ET on May 29, 2020.
- 2.6.6 In the event that a Candidate,
 - a) Is not in compliance with the filing requirements of the rules;
 - b) has a compliance deposit below the level set by LEOC or;
 - c) has not complied with a non-compliance direction from LEOC, that Candidate shall not be entitled to receive updates to the membership list or to receive the Preliminary or Final National Voters List until they return to full compliance.
- 2.6.7 Any challenge pursuant to this section must specify the membership number, name of the member, the date on which the member first appeared on the membership list and the basis of the challenge.
- 2.6.8 The onus of proof where a challenge has been submitted is on the candidate who submitted the challenge.



- 2.6.9 The CRO shall investigate the challenge, request further information as deemed necessary and make a determination.
- 2.6.10 Candidates may appeal the decision of the CRO to the Dispute Resolution Appeals Committee (DRAC) within 24 hours of the determination of the CRO along with any supporting documentation. If no appeal is received by the DRAC within 24 hours, the CRO's decision is final.
- 2.6.11 DRAC may request further information from the Candidate that has made the challenge, the member in question, from other Candidates or any other person. However, DRAC is not obliged to receive representations with respect to any challenge other than the initial submission of the Candidate making the challenge.
- 2.6.12 Decisions of the DRAC are final.
- 2.6.13 In the event that the CRO determines that a challenge pursuant to these sections has been made frivolously then the LEOC shall be entitled to levy a fine against the compliance deposit of the challenging Candidate.
- 2.6.14 DRAC may, in its sole discretion, refuse to allow further eligibility challenges and/or appeals of CRO determinations on eligibility challenges from a Candidate who has been determined to have made frivolous challenges.



2.7 Candidates access to the Membership List and National Voters List

- 2.7.1 Forthwith after confirmed receipt from a candidate of the following,
- a) the first and second instalments of the registration fee of twenty-five thousand (\$25,000) dollars each;
 - b) the first and second instalments of the endorsement signatures totalling two thousand (2,000) member signatures;
 - c) A maintained compliance deposit balance of one hundred thousand (\$100,000) dollars; and
 - d) the Candidate's acknowledgement that the Membership List and the National Voters List is confidential and the exclusive property of the Conservative Party of Canada

the CRO shall provide the following information to that Candidate:

- e) The active membership list of the Party at the time.
 - f) The historic membership records of the Conservative Party of Canada back to January 1, 2015.
- 2.7.2 Each time a new Candidate meets the requirements laid out in section 2.7.1, all other Candidates who are also eligible will receive the most up to date active membership list.

3 CANDIDATES

3.1 Requirements of Candidacy

- 3.1.1 No person shall be eligible to be a Candidate unless the Candidate:
- a) Unless waived by the LCNC, has been a member of the Party for at least six (6) months prior to filing his or her application;
 - b) Supports the founding principles of the Party as set out in the Leadership Contestant Questionnaire (LCQ).



- 3.1.2 Candidates may apply to enter the race between January 13, 2020 and February 27, 2020 by submitting the following (collectively referred to as the “Filing Documents”):
- a) The Leadership Contestant Questionnaire (LCQ) fully and frankly completed in a form prescribed by the LEOC; which may be obtained on request from the LCNC at LCNC@conservative.ca.
 - b) One thousand (1,000) signatures of endorsement, as laid out in Section 3.2.
 - c) The first instalment of the registration fee, twenty-five thousand (\$25,000) dollars, as per Section 3.3.
 - d) The contact document as per Section 3.5.1.
- 3.1.3 Incomplete filing documents will not be considered.
- 3.1.4 An Applicant may be interviewed by the LCNC within seven (7) days of the completed Application having been received by the Chair of LEOC.
- 3.1.5 If a majority of the LCNC believes that there may be cause to reject an Applicant, the Chair of the LCNC shall immediately inform the LEOC. The LEOC shall render a decision to allow or disallow an Applicant within four (4) days of receiving notice from the LCNC that there may be cause to reject said Applicant.
- 3.1.6 Within 14 days following the receipt of a Candidate Applicant’s submission of the Filing Documents and provided all prerequisites for certification have been met, the Chair of LEOC shall send, in writing, a Notice of Certification to the Candidate Applicant confirming that the Candidate Applicant has met all prerequisites for seeking the leadership of the Party.
- 3.1.7 If the Candidate Applicant is disallowed by LEOC, the Co-Chairs of LEOC shall return the Filing Documents and all submitted fees to the Candidate Applicant with a notice that their candidacy has been disallowed.
- 3.1.8 The LCNC has the absolute discretion to consider a fresh application from a candidate who was previously disallowed and who otherwise follows the Rules set out herein.
- 3.1.9 All decisions of the LEOC are final and are not subject to internal appeal or judicial review.



- 3.1.10 To become a Verified Leadership Candidate and appear on the ballot, each Certified Candidate must submit to the Chair of LEOC at Suite 1720, 130 Albert Street Ottawa ON, in complete and good order no later than 5:00 PM ET on March 25, 2020, the following:
- a) All endorsement signatures as set out in Section 3.2.
 - b) The full registration fee as set out in Section 3.3.
 - c) The full compliance deposit as set out in Section 3.4.

3.2 Endorsement Signatures

- 3.2.1 To be accepted as a Verified Leadership Candidate, each contestant must submit legible nomination forms containing the names, signatures, residential addresses, telephone numbers and Electoral Districts of not less than three thousand (3,000) members of the Party.
- 3.2.2 The first instalment of one thousand (1,000) signatures must contain members who reside in not less than 30 Electoral Districts and who represent not less than seven different provinces/territories; and shall be submitted at the time of application.
- 3.2.3 The second instalment of one thousand (1,000) member signatures is required in order for candidates to gain access to the membership list as per section 2.7.1 and participate in leadership forums as per section 3.6.2
- 3.2.4 The third instalment of one thousand (1,000) member signatures is due no later than 5:00pm ET on March 25, 2020.
- 3.2.5 In order to be eligible to sign the nomination papers, the member must have been active at least twenty-one (21) days prior to submission by the candidate.

3.3 Registration Fee

- 3.3.1 To help defray the costs of administering the Election Process a registration fee of two-hundred thousand (\$200,000) dollars will be levied.



- 3.3.2 The first instalment of twenty-five thousand (\$25,000) dollars must be tendered either:
- a) in the form of a certified cheque payable to the Conservative Fund Canada from the personal account of the Candidate Applicant and shall accompany the Filing Documents at the time of filing. In order to be compliant with the Canada Elections Act: (i) these funds must be from the Candidate Applicant's own funds; (ii) the cheque will be deposited if the Candidate Applicant is approved as a Candidate and returned if disallowed; (iii) must be treated by the Candidate's Financial Agent as either a personal contribution or a personal loan of the Candidate to their campaign and appropriately reported to Elections Canada; or
 - b) any other method deemed acceptable by the CRO after consultation with Elections Canada.
- 3.3.3 The second instalment of the registration fee of twenty-five thousand (\$25,000) dollars is due prior the candidate being eligible to receive membership lists or participate in candidate forums as per sections 2.7 and 3.6.2.
- 3.3.4 The registration fee is non-refundable.
- 3.3.5 Once the Candidate has been approved by the LCNC and certified by the Co-chairs of LEOC, they will be able to accept donations as outlined in Section 4.4.
- 3.3.6 The remaining one hundred and fifty thousand (\$150,000) dollars is due no later than 5:00pm ET on March 25, 2020.

3.4 Compliance Deposit

- 3.4.1 To ensure compliance with these Rules and good conduct of the Candidates in the Election Process, a compliance deposit of one hundred thousand (\$100,000) dollars will be levied.
- 3.4.2 Payment towards the Compliance Deposit must be paid by one of two methods:
- a) A certified cheque, drawn on the Leadership Nomination account, payable to the Conservative Fund Canada; or
 - b) The Candidate's Official Agent may instruct the Party to apply all directed contributions towards the Compliance Deposit, until paid. In this case, the Compliance Deposit will be deemed paid once the applied directed contributions has equalled the required level.



- 3.4.3 As per Section 2.7.1 and 3.6.2 the full compliance deposit as set out in Section 3.4.1 must be deposited with the Party before the Candidate may receive any Membership Lists or participate in any Party sanctioned Leadership Forums.
- 3.4.4 The compliance deposit shall be held as security for the Candidate's completion and submission of all the required financial filings and compliance with these Rules. Following completion of the Election Process and once LEOC has determined that all required financial filings have been made and no amounts remain chargeable against the compliance deposit pursuant to these Rules, the remainder of the compliance deposit which has not been drawn upon will be returned to the Candidate.
- 3.4.5 A Candidate shall have Seventy-Two (72) hours from the date of receiving notice of any fine levied by the CRO or by LEOC to replenish the compliance deposit by certified cheque. At any time that a Candidate's compliance deposit is less than the amount set out in Section 3.4.1, that Candidate shall not be entitled to receive any information or lists or participate in the Election Process unless otherwise determined by LEOC.
- 3.4.6 If a Candidate's compliance deposit is less than the amount set out in Section 3.4.1 at 5:00 PM ET March 25, 2020 then that person's name shall be struck from the Election Process and their name shall be removed from the ballot unless otherwise determined by LEOC.

3.5 Communications Notice

- 3.5.1 Candidates must provide, in the form provided by the CRO, a list of their contact information along with the contact information for: (i) their Campaign Manager; (ii) their Financial Officer (as filed with Elections Canada); and (iii) their Candidate Agent. There is no requirement in these Rules that these be separate persons. Candidates must keep this information current at all times.
- 3.5.2 Communications with a Candidate's Campaign Manager, Financial Officer or Candidate Agent shall be the same as communicating directly with the Candidate and all communications or notices delivered to any one or combination of these shall be the same as notice having been given to the Candidate.
- 3.5.3 Any communication received from a Candidate's Campaign Manager, Financial Officer or Candidate Agent shall be the same as a communication directly from the Candidate and all communications or notices delivered to any one or combination of these shall be the same as notice having been given by the Candidate.



3.6 Leadership Forums

- 3.6.1 LEOC may schedule, after having received input from Candidates, mandatory Leadership forum(s) or event(s) for the purpose of ensuring that the Party and the Candidates have the widest range of exposure to the membership and general public across the country while at the same time minimizing the burden placed on Candidates and his or her travel schedules.
- 3.6.2 The full compliance deposit as set out in Section 3.4, the first two instalments of the registration fee as set out in Section 3.3 and two thousand (2,000) member signatures of endorsement as set out in Section 3.2 must be received by the Party before the Candidate may participate in any Party sanctioned Leadership Forums.

4 FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

4.1 Financial Controls and Regulations

- 4.1.1 This Election Process shall be determined to have been convened on January 13, 2020.

4.2 Spending Limit

- 4.2.1 Candidates shall not incur expenses exceeding Five Million (\$5,000,000) Dollars.

4.3 Contributions and Expenses Defined

- 4.3.1 Unless otherwise defined in these Rules, “contribution”, “monetary contribution”, “non-monetary contribution”, “commercial value”, and “volunteer labour” have the same meaning as in the Canada Elections Act.
- 4.3.2 All loans to or guarantees by a Candidate for purposes of his or her campaign are to be reported as contributions and are subject to levy under Section 4.4.6.b.
- 4.3.3 All contributions made by a Candidate to his or her campaign are to be reported as contributions and are subject to the levy under Section 4.4.6.b.
- 4.3.4 In these Rules, “expenses” includes all costs incurred, or non-monetary contribution used, as an incidence of the Candidate’s campaign.



- 4.3.5 Expenses which shall be excluded from both the spending limit and the administrative fee set out in Section 4.4.6.b are:
- a) The registration fee;
 - b) The compliance deposit;
 - c) HST/GST/PST
- 4.3.6 No Candidate shall accept a contribution from or permit expenses to be paid for or on his or her behalf by a government entity including the Parliament of Canada, an Electoral District Association, riding association, or affiliated entity of any present or previous federal or provincial political party.
- 4.3.7 No Candidate shall accept a contribution from a corporation, union, non-resident individual or entity as prohibited by the Canada Elections Act.

4.4 Directed Donations

- 4.4.1 Subject to the following, candidates shall have all contributions sent to the Conservative Fund Canada as a contribution on his or her behalf.
- 4.4.2 All donations made to the Conservative Fund Canada for the benefit of a Candidate made by personal cheque or money order from an individual must be made payable to “Conservative Fund Canada”, with an instruction to direct the donation to a particular leadership candidate in the “Re” or “Memo” line. Credit cards forms will be provided by the Conservative Fund Canada.
- 4.4.3 Any and all donations/contributions are subject to the requirements of the Canada Elections Act.
- 4.4.4 The Candidate shall prepare transmittals in a form prescribed by the Chief Financial Officer of the Party.
- 4.4.5 The Conservative Fund Canada shall be responsible for the issuance of tax receipts directly to the contributors. Accordingly, as all contributions are directed through the Fund, the Conservative Fund Canada will be able to ensure that individual donors are not over their contribution limits.
- 4.4.6 The Conservative Fund Canada will issue a cheque or electronic funds transfer on Thursday for those monies submitted by 4:00 PM ET the preceding Friday, payable to the Candidate’s campaign for the total of monies submitted less:
- a) Any amounts payable or due and owing by the Candidate in accordance with the Rules; and
 - b) An administrative fee of ten (10%) percent of each donation.



- 4.4.7 The administrative fee shall not be considered an expense counted against the spending cap.

4.5 Regulatory Reporting

- 4.5.1 Candidates shall provide the CRO with all financial reports required by Elections Canada at the time of submission. The accuracy and completeness of the reports shall be attested to by the financial officer of the Candidate. The CRO will forward these reports to LEOC and to the National Council of the Party.

4.6 Authority to Audit

- 4.6.1 The CRO shall be entitled to perform random audits on the accounts of Candidates throughout the Election Process. The Candidate's Financial Officer shall provide all books and accounts to the CRO or any person that the CRO designates forthwith upon request and failure to comply shall constitute a breach of these Rules.

4.7 Non-Compliance

- 4.7.1 Without limiting the generality of any of the foregoing provisions, any action by a Candidate aimed at circumventing or avoiding the application of any section of the Financial Regulations shall be a violation of these provisions and be subject to sanction by the CRO as set out in Section 7.1.
- 4.7.2 For greater certainty, failure to comply with any contribution or expense filing deadlines will be considered a violation of these Rules and shall be subject to sanction by the CRO as set out in Section 7.1.

5 VOTING METHOD

5.1 Voting Details

- 5.1.1 LEOC shall establish the rules outlining the time, locations and methods of voting.



6 BALLOTING

6.1 General

- 6.1.1 The Election Process as set out in the Constitution of the Conservative Party of Canada shall be conducted on a One-Member, One-Vote Point System where:
- a) Each Electoral District is worth 100 points.
 - b) Candidates are assigned a point total based on his or her percentage of the vote in each Electoral District.
 - c) To win, a Candidate must obtain a majority of points from across the country.
 - d) Balloting shall be conducted by Preferential Ballot (single transferable vote).

6.2 Calculation of Electoral District Points for Initial Counting Round

- 6.2.1 The total points received by each Candidate for each Electoral District shall be determined based upon the percentage vote that each Candidate receives from the valid ballots cast for that Electoral District (spoiled ballots are not valid ballots for the purposes of calculating the percentage received).
- 6.2.2 The total points received by each Candidate for the 338 Electoral Districts shall be calculated & verified by the CRO and verified by the independent auditor and reported to the Co-Chairs of LEOC after the close of voting. If one Candidate receives 16,901 points or more then that Candidate will be declared the Leader of the Conservative Party of Canada.

6.3 Calculation of Electoral District Points for the Second and Subsequent Counting Rounds

- 6.3.1 If no Candidate receives 16,901 points or more after the Initial Counting Round, then the Second Counting Round will commence.
- 6.3.2 The Candidate who received the fewest points nationally in the Initial Counting Round will be dropped and the second preferences of those ballots will be reallocated to the remaining Candidates.
- 6.3.3 The Counting Round process will continue in the same manner until one Candidate receives 16,901 points or more, with the Candidate receiving the lowest number of points being dropped off the ballot each Counting Round.



6.4 Validity

- 6.4.1 The vote, calculated and verified by the CRO and verified by the independent auditor (of valid ballots and points received) is final and binding.

7 DISPUTE MECHANISM

7.1 Non Compliance

- 7.1.1 Upon request of any Candidate or member or on its own initiative the CRO may inquire into whether a Candidate has contravened these Rules, any directive or any law of Canada.
- 7.1.2 The CRO shall notify the Candidate of its inquiry and will provide the Candidate an opportunity to present a written response that shall be provided within 24 hours. No further notification is required if the inquiry relates to a matter where a request was already made under Section 4.6.1.
- 7.1.3 If the CRO, following consultation with the Co-Chairs of LEOC, determines that a Candidate has contravened these Rules, any directive or any applicable law, the CRO may do one or more of the following:
- a) Direct the Candidate to take specified actions to achieve compliance and to remedy any consequences of the contravention, with which direction the Candidate must immediately comply;
 - b) Levy a fine and charge any such fine against all or part of the Candidate's deposit;
 - c) Issue a warning;
 - d) Make public the CRO's determination and ruling;
 - e) Advise the appropriate authorities;
 - f) Recommend to LEOC that LEOC disqualify the candidate, remove his or her name from the ballot; and
 - g) Take such other steps that it deems appropriate.
- 7.1.4 The decisions of the CRO are open to appeal by a Candidate to the DRAC with the exception of Sections 6.2.2 and 6.4.1. Any appeals will follow the timelines and process set out in Sections 2.6.8, 2.6.9 and 2.6.10.



- 7.1.5 Decisions of the CRO (other than through an appeal to the DRAC as set out in these Rules), the LEOC and the DRAC are final and binding on the Candidate and on all Party members. Such decisions are not subject to internal appeal or judicial review.
- 7.1.6 No failure by the CRO, LEOC, LCNC, DRAC or any neutral election official to meet any of the deadlines specified in these Rules shall be seen as invalidating the Rules, the Election Process or any subsequent deadline.