



Leadership Race Rules

November 29,
2021

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Definitions

- 1.1.1 **Appeals Committee** means Appeals Committee as defined in Section 1.5.
- 1.1.2 **Applicant** means a person who enters the Leadership Election Process.
- 1.1.3 **Bylaw** means Bylaw 001 of the Maverick Party.
- 1.1.4 **Candidate** means an Applicant who has met all the required conditions and is approved by the LCNC.
- 1.1.5 **Compliance Deposit** has the meaning as set forth in Section 3.4.
- 1.1.6 **CRO** means the Chief Returning Officer.
- 1.1.7 **Cut-off Time** means 11:59 pm MT on April 30, 2022.
- 1.1.8 **Delegated Decision-maker** means the officials appointed by the LEC, as it determines necessary, to conduct the election process.
- 1.1.9 **Dropped Candidate** means the Candidate who received the fewest votes in the Initial Counting Round and subsequent counting rounds, and therefore will be dropped.
- 1.1.10 **Election Process** means this leadership selection process.
- 1.1.11 **Filing Documents** means the documents as noted in Section 3.1.2.
- 1.1.12 **Final Maverick Party Voters List** is the list described in Section 2.4.
- 1.1.13 **LCNC** means Leadership Candidate Nomination Committee.
- 1.1.14 **LEC** means Leadership Election Committee.
- 1.1.15 **Maverick Party Head Office** means 405-1500 14 St. SW, Calgary, AB, T3C 1C9
- 1.1.16 **Member** has the same meaning as defined in Bylaw 001, Section 1.
- 1.1.17 **MT** means the Mountain Time zone.
- 1.1.18 **Party** means the Maverick Party.
- 1.1.19 **Questionnaire** means Leadership Contestant Questionnaire.
- 1.1.20 **Rules** means these Leadership Election Rules.
- 1.1.21 **Verified Candidate** means a Candidate that has been approved by LEC and has meet the requirements set forth in Section 3.

1.2 Leadership Election Process

- 1.2.1 The Leadership Election Committee (“**LEC**”) was appointed on October 25, 2021 and pursuant to paragraph 5.8 of the Bylaw 001 (“**Bylaw**”) is responsible for conducting the Leadership Election Process for the Maverick Party (“**Party**”).
- 1.2.2 These Leadership Election Rules (“**Rules**”) are issued pursuant to paragraph 5.8.2.2 of the Bylaw, which mandates LEC shall determine the rules and procedures for the conduct of the leadership selection process (the “**Election Process**”).
- 1.2.3 Voting will be by single transferable secret ballot on which the member will indicate his or her preferred Candidates by ranking the choices.

1.3 Appointment of Officials

- 1.3.1 LEC may appoint officials as it determines necessary to conduct the election process and may delegate in writing to him or her or them (collectively or individually, the “**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.
- 1.3.2 Delegated Decision-makers of LEC act with the full authority of LEC and decisions rendered by Delegated Decision-makers shall have the same force and effect as having been issued by LEC.
- 1.3.3 All authorities set out herein may be delegated by the individual or committee responsible except for those specifically reserved for subcommittees of LEC set out in Sections 1.5, 1.6 and 1.7.

1.4 Chief Returning Officer

- 1.4.1 LEC shall appoint a Chief Returning Officer (“**CRO**”).
- 1.4.2 The CRO shall:
 - 1.4.2.a) Be responsible for all matters pertaining to the conduct of the vote other than those specifically reserved for LEC, the Leadership Candidate Nomination Committee (“**LCNC**”) herein;
 - 1.4.2.b) Recommend to LEC for its approval Leadership Voting Procedures which shall set out
 - 1.4.2.b.(i) identification requirements;
 - 1.4.2.b.(ii) the criteria for ordering Candidate names on the ballot; and
 - 1.4.2.b.(iii) any other clarification that the CRO deems advisable.
 - 1.4.2.c) Prescribe the form of the ballot;
 - 1.4.2.d) Carry out such other duties as may be determined by LEC from time to time.
- 1.4.3 All notices to the CRO must be sent to:

Chief Returning Officer
405-1500 14 St. SW
Calgary, AB
T3C 1C9
Returningofficer@maverickparty.ca

1.5 Appeals Committee

1.5.1 LEC shall appoint a Dispute Resolution Appeals Committee (“**Appeals Committee**”). The Appeals Committee will have the power to set its own rules and procedures.

1.5.2 Any notice required to be provided to the Appeals Committee may be provided to:

AppealsCommittee@maverickparty.ca

1.6 Leadership Candidate Nomination Committee

1.6.1 LEC shall appoint a LCNC which may include any LEC member not serving on the Appeals Committee and shall include a Chair of LEC.

1.6.2 Any notice required to be provided to the LCNC may be provided to:

Leadership@maverickparty.ca

1.7 Leadership Debate Committee

1.7.1 LEC shall appoint a Leadership Debate Committee (“**LDC**”).

1.8 Independent Auditor

1.8.1 LEC shall appoint an independent auditor to monitor and verify the Leadership Election result.

1.9 Neutrality of Election Officials

1.9.1 Members of LEC and the CRO and other Delegated Decision-makers shall sign a neutrality commitment in the form prescribed by LEC and shall abide by it. The chair(s) of LEC shall remove and replace anyone who contravenes the neutrality commitment.

2 MEMBERSHIP

2.1 Eligibility to vote

2.1.1 To vote in the Maverick Party Leadership election a person must be a member in good standing of the Party as of 11:59 pm Mountain Time (“**MT**”) on April 30, 2022.

2.1.2 The Cut-off Time is as follows - Memberships purchased on-line at www.maverickparty.ca until 11:59 pm MT on April 30, 2022 will be eligible to vote. In order to vote, all other membership submission methods must be received by 5:00 pm MT on April 30, 2022 at:

Maverick Party
405-1500 14 St. SW
Calgary, AB, T3C 1C9

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 Maverick Party Voters List and will not be eligible to vote in the Election Process.

2.1.4 The CRO shall assemble a list of all members of the Party in good standing as at 11:59 pm MT on April 30, 2022.

2.2 Residency

2.2.1 Each member's vote shall count for the Electoral District in which the member's ordinary place of residence is located pursuant to Bylaw 001 paragraph 1.1.

2.2.2 "Place of ordinary residence" shall be determined according to *Section 8* of the *Canada Elections Act*.

2.2.3 The Maverick Party 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 Maverick Party Voters List shall be determinative of the issue of residence.

2.3 Membership Submissions by Candidates

2.3.1 Bulk Memberships ("**Bulk Memberships**") are defined as any Candidate membership submission exceeding two (2). Bulk submissions submitted by a Candidate are the Candidate's responsibility to file electronically using the template provided by the Maverick Party using NationBuilder. The Party will not accept Bulk Memberships submitted by Candidates in any other form.

2.3.2 Candidate Bulk Membership submissions may only be paid by cheque from the campaign bank account, e-transfer or wire transfer.

2.3.3 Bulk Membership payments must be evidenced 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 and delivered to the LEC by the Cut-off Time.

2.4 Maverick Party Voters List

2.4.1 The CRO shall have the complete discretion to take whatever steps necessary to ensure the accuracy of the Maverick Party 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 each Candidate, a Final Maverick Party Voters List (“**Final Maverick Party Voters List**”) by May 5, 2022.

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 MT on April 30, 2022.

2.5.3 The CRO shall have the absolute discretion to leave the member’s Electoral District as entered on the Maverick Party 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 Maverick 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 Preliminary Maverick Party Voters List (“**Preliminary Maverick Party Voters List**”).

2.6.4 After the Cut-Off Time the CRO shall provide a Preliminary Maverick Party Voters List to Candidates.

2.6.5 The CRO shall provide a Final Maverick Party Voters List to Candidates no later than 5:00 PM MT on May 5, 2022.

2.6.6 In the event that a Candidate,

2.6.6.a) Is not in compliance with the filing requirements of the rules;

2.6.6.b) has a Compliance Deposit below the level set by LEC or;

2.6.6.c) has not complied with a non-compliance direction from LEC, that Candidate shall not be entitled to receive updates to the membership list or to receive the Preliminary or Final Maverick Party 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 (“**Appeals Committee**”) within 24 hours of the determination of the CRO along with any supporting documentation. If no appeal is received by the Appeals Committee within 24 hours, the CRO’s decision is final.
- 2.6.11 Appeals Committee may request further information from the Candidate that has made the challenge, the member in question, from other Candidates or any other person. However, Appeals Committee 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 Appeals Committee 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 LEC shall be entitled to levy a fine against the Compliance Deposit of the challenging Candidate.
- 2.6.14 Appeals Committee 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 Maverick Party Voters List

- 2.7.1 The CRO shall provide the membership list of the Maverick Party to a Candidate after confirmed receipt from the Candidate of the following,
- 2.7.1.a) The first and second installments of the registration fee of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) each;
 - 2.7.1.b) The first and second installments of a total of three hundred new members; and
 - 2.7.1.c) The Candidate acknowledgment that the Membership List and the Maverick Party Voters List is confidential and the exclusive property of the Maverick Party.
- 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 In order to be eligible to be a Candidate, the Candidate must:
- 3.1.1.a) be a member of the Maverick Party;

- 3.1.1.b) be a resident of British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan or Manitoba ('Western Canada') or the Territories; and
 - 3.1.1.c) who supports the Mission and Guiding Principles of the Maverick Party and is entitled to vote in Maverick Party matters.
- 3.1.2 Persons who seek to enter the Leadership Election Process ("**Applicant**") may apply to enter the race between January 3, 2022 and March 25, 2022 by submitting the following (collectively referred to as the "**Filing Documents**"):
 - 3.1.2.a) The Leadership Contestant Questionnaire ("**Questionnaire**") fully and frankly completed in a form prescribed by the LEC; which may be obtained on request from the LCNC at leadership@marverickparty.ca.
 - 3.1.2.b) One hundred (100) signatures of initial endorsement by Maverick Party members.
 - 3.1.2.c) The first instalment of the registration fee, five thousand dollars (\$5,000), as per Section 3.3.
 - 3.1.2.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 LEC.
- 3.1.5 Within fourteen (14) days following the receipt of an Applicant's submission of the Filing Documents and provided all prerequisites for certification have been met, the Chair of LEC shall send, in writing, a Notice of Certification to the Applicant confirming that the Applicant has met all prerequisites for seeking the leadership of the Party and is recognized as a Candidate.
- 3.1.6 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 LEC. The LEC 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.
- 3.1.7 If the Applicant is disallowed by LEC, the Chair(s) of LEC shall return the Filing Documents and all submitted fees to the 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 an Applicant who was previously disallowed and who otherwise follows the Rules set out herein.
- 3.1.9 All decisions of the LEC are final and are not subject to internal appeal or judicial review.

3.1.10 To become a Verified Candidate and appear on the ballot, each Candidate must submit to the Chair of the LEC at Maverick Party Head Office, in complete and good order no later than 5:00 PM MT on March 25, 2022, the following:

- 3.1.10.a) Sales of memberships as set out in Section 3.2.
- 3.1.10.b) The full registration fee as set out in Section 3.3.
- 3.1.10.c) The full Compliance Deposit as set out in Section 3.4.

3.2 Membership Sales

3.2.1 To be accepted as a Verified Leadership Candidate, each contestant must provide evidence of new membership sales by the Candidate of not less than six hundred (600) new members of the Party in the form of three lists.

3.2.2 The first list must contain the names of one hundred fifty (150) new members who reside in not less than thirty (30) Electoral Districts and who represent not less than four (4) different provinces/territories.

3.2.3 The second list containing the names of one hundred fifty (150) new members is required in order for the Candidate to gain access to the membership list as per section 2.7.1 and participate in leadership forums as per section 3.6.

3.2.4 The third list containing the names of three hundred (300) new members is due no later than 5:00 pm MT on March 25, 2022.

3.3 Registration Fee

3.3.1 To help defray the costs of administering the Election Process a registration fee of \$10,000 will be levied.

3.3.2 The first instalment of five thousand (\$5,000) dollars must be tendered either:

3.3.2.a) in the form of a certified cheque payable to the Maverick Party 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:

- 3.3.2.a.(i) these funds must be from the Candidate;
- 3.3.2.a.(ii) the cheque will be deposited if the Candidate Applicant is approved as a Candidate and returned if disallowed; and
- 3.3.2.a.(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

3.3.2.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 five thousand (\$5,000) dollars is due prior to 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 LEC, they will be able to accept donations as outlined in Section 4.4.
- 3.3.6 The remaining five thousand dollars (\$5,000) is due no later than 5:00 pm MT on March 25, 2022.

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 ("**Compliance Deposit**") of \$20,000 will be levied.
- 3.4.2 Payment towards the Compliance Deposit must be paid by one of two methods:
 - 3.4.2.a) A certified cheque, drawn on the Leadership Nomination account, payable to the Maverick Party; or
 - 3.4.2.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 equaled 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 LEC 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 LEC 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 LEC.
- 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 MT March 25, 2022 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 LEC.

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 LEC 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 six hundred (600) new members 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 3, 2022.

4.2 Spending Limit

- 4.2.1 Candidates shall not incur expenses exceeding Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000).

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:
 - 4.3.5.a) The registration fee;
 - 4.3.5.b) The Compliance Deposit; and
 - 4.3.5.c) HST/GST/PST
- 4.3.6 The Candidate shall not accept a contribution from or permit expenses to be paid for on his or her behalf by an Electoral District Association, riding association, or affiliated entity of any present or previous political party.
- 4.3.7 The Candidate shall not 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 Maverick Party Fund as a contribution on his or her behalf.
- 4.4.2 All donations made to the Maverick Party Fund for the benefit of a Candidate made by personal cheque or money order from an individual must be made payable to Maverick Party Fund, 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 Maverick Party Fund.
- 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 Maverick Party Fund shall be responsible for the issuance of tax receipts directly to the contributors. Accordingly, as all contributions are directed through the Fund, the Maverick Party Fund will be able to ensure that individual donors are not over their contribution limits.
- 4.4.6 The Maverick Party Fund will issue a cheque or electronic funds transfer on Thursday for those monies submitted by 4:00 PM MT the preceding Friday, payable to the Candidate’s campaign for the total of monies submitted less:
 - 4.4.6.a) Any amounts payable or due and owing by the Candidate in accordance with the Rules; and
 - 4.4.6.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 LEC and to the Western Canadian 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.

5 VOTING METHOD

5.1 Voting Details

5.1.1 LEC 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 Maverick Party shall be conducted on a One-Member, One-Vote Point System where:

6.1.1.a) To win, a Candidate must obtain fifty percent of the total number of votes recorded plus one vote; and

- 6.1.1.b) Balloting shall be conducted by preferential ballot (single transferable vote).

6.2 Calculation of Votes for Initial Counting Round

- 6.2.1 The total number of votes received by each Candidate shall be determined based upon the number of the valid ballots cast (spoiled ballots are not valid ballots for the purposes of calculating the percentage received) in favor of each Candidate.
- 6.2.2 The total votes received by each Candidate shall be calculated by the CRO and verified by the independent auditor and reported to the Chair(s) of LEC after the close of voting. If one Candidate receives fifty percent of the total number of votes recorded plus one vote then that Candidate will be declared the Leader of the Maverick Party.

6.3 Calculation of Voting for the Second and Subsequent Counting Rounds

- 6.3.1 If no Candidate has fifty percent of the total number of votes recorded plus one vote after the Initial Counting Round, then the Second Counting Round will commence.
- 6.3.2 The Candidate who received the fewest votes in the Initial Counting Round will be dropped (“**Dropped Candidate**”) and the second preferences of those ballots of the Dropped Candidate will be reallocated to the remaining Candidates.
- 6.3.3 The Counting Round process will continue in the same manner until one Candidate receives fifty percent of the total number of votes recorded plus one vote or more with the Candidate receiving the lowest number of votes being dropped off the ballot at each Counting Round.

6.4 Validity

- 6.4.1 The vote, tabulated by the CRO and verified by the independent auditor (of valid ballots and points received), is final and binding.
 - 6.4.1.a) To win, a Candidate must obtain fifty percent of the total votes counted plus one.
 - 6.4.1.b) Balloting shall be conducted by preferential ballot (single transferable vote).
 - 6.4.1.c) The vote, tabulated by the CRO and verified by the independent auditor, 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 Chair(s) of LEC, determines that a Candidate has contravened these Rules, any directive or any applicable law, the CRO may do one or more of the following:
 - 7.1.3.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;
 - 7.1.3.b) Levy a fine and charge any such fine against all or part of the Candidate's Compliance Deposit;
 - 7.1.3.c) Issue a warning;
 - 7.1.3.d) Make public the CRO's determination and ruling;
 - 7.1.3.e) Advise the appropriate authorities;
 - 7.1.3.f) Recommend to LEC that LEC disqualify the Candidate, remove his or her name from the ballot; and
 - 7.1.3.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 Appeals Committee 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 Appeals Committee as set out in these Rules), the LEC and the Appeals Committee 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 Failure by the CRO, LEC, LCNC, Appeals Committee or any neutral election official to meet any of the deadlines specified in these Rules shall not be seen as invalidating the Rules, the Election Process or any subsequent deadline.