

**BLOC QUÉBÉCOIS INSTITUTIONAL REPORT**

**COMMISSION ON FOREIGN INTERFERENCE**



June 28, 2024

## **Part 1—Introducing the Bloc Québécois**

### **Section 1A—Becoming and Remaining a Member**

#### Membership Criteria

Any person aged fourteen (14) and over who adheres to the Bloc Québécois Declaration of Principles and whose membership/renewal/financing (MRF) form, accompanied by the annual fee, has been received by the National Secretariat for thirty (30) days is deemed to be a member of the Party.

#### Membership Fees

Party membership fees are proposed by the National Office and approved by the General Council. The current membership fee is five dollars (\$5) per year. Fees can be paid online via the Party website or sent to the National Secretariat.

#### Members' Rights and Obligations

All members exercise the rights and privileges provided for in the Constitution & By-laws in the electoral district in which they reside. However, after having notified the National Secretariat of the Party in writing of his or her intention to campaign in another district, the member will be entitled to exercise his or her rights and privileges as a non-residing member of the district thirty (30) days after receipt by the National Secretariat of the notice provided for this purpose. Still, the individual may only vote for the nomination of a candidate in the district in which he or she resides. To exercise his or her right to vote at a Nomination Meeting, a member must identify himself or herself in accordance with the procedures approved by the National Office.

All members of the Bloc Québécois have the right to run for elective positions and to choose their representatives and officers, either directly or by delegation. Voting by proxy is prohibited. A member elected to a Party body or committee must, in order to sit on that body or committee, retain the attributes that made him or her eligible at the time they were elected. After three (3) consecutive unexcused absences, a member elected to a Party body or committee is automatically deemed to have resigned from that body or committee. A member who is up for renewal and who wishes to run for an elective position, or who wishes to support a candidate for an elective position, must have sent his or her MRF form, along with the annual fee, to the National Secretariat or via the Bloc Québécois website no later than the end of the nomination period.

Any member of the Bloc Québécois may, in compliance with the Constitution & By-laws, work towards carrying out the Party's policies and objectives, freely express his or her opinion in Party bodies and committees, and participate in Party activities. All Bloc Québécois members have the right to dissent.

Any member may attend a Party body or committee meeting unless it is held in camera. Meetings of the National Office, the Caucus, the commissions and the committees are, by default, convened in camera. Unless otherwise decided by a vote, any member may continue to attend a General Council, General Council of Presidents, National Convention or Special National Convention, even if an in-camera session is declared.

The Party Leader is elected by secret ballot through the universal suffrage of its membership.

### Membership Category

The General Council may decide to create categories of members whose membership cost is higher or whose membership duration is longer. These categories do not grant any additional rights or privileges over other members. To date, the General Council has not decided to create any other membership categories.

The only difference is that Bloc Québécois members aged thirty (30) and under are also members of Forum jeunesse, the Party's youth wing.

### Maintenance and Revocation of Membership

To maintain membership status, annual fees must be paid. During the 365 days following the expiry date, members whose cards are up for renewal may pay their annual fees at any time, in order to exercise the rights and privileges reserved for members. Members who fail to pay their annual fees within the above-mentioned period lose their membership status.

The National Office may expel a member from the Party on serious grounds, in particular if the member repeatedly acts in contradiction with the values of the Party and causes substantial harm to the organization. Any decision to expel a member is taken by majority vote, unless unanimous..

A member may voluntarily withdraw his or her membership after notifying the Party's National Secretariat in writing.

## **Section 1B—Governance**

### National Office

The National Office administers the Party in accordance with the decisions adopted by the National Convention and the General Council. It also takes a stand on any urgent matters relating to Party affairs or political situations.

The following are voting members of the National Office:

- a) The Party Leader;
- b) The Party President;
- c) The Party Vice-President;
- d) The Party Treasurer;
- e) The National Office Secretary;
- f) The Chairperson of the Political Committee;
- g) The Chairperson of the Citizenship Commission;
- h) The Chairperson of the Remote Districts Commission;
- i) The Chairperson of the Seniors' Commission;
- j) The President of Forum jeunesse;
- k) A representative of the Regional Presidents;
- l) Two (2) representatives of District Presidents;

- m) One representative of members in good standing;
- n) The representative of former MPs;
- o) Two (2) MPs from the Party, as elected by the Caucus, including the Caucus Chair.

The Party Leader is elected by secret ballot through universal suffrage of the membership, with an absolute majority of votes. The President of Forum jeunesse is elected by the Youth Convention. The Caucus elects the Party's two (2) MPs, including the Caucus Chair, who will serve on the National Office. Former MPs meet at least once a year to choose their representatives.

All other members of the National Office are elected by a simple majority at a Party Convention. In the event of a vacancy occurring in one of the positions normally filled at the convention, the National Office may fill the vacancy until the next General Council meeting or, if applicable, the next Party Convention.

The National Office is supported by a National Secretariat (staffed by salaried employees).

### National Convention

The National Convention is the supreme governing body of the Bloc Québécois. It is held every two years. It is this governing body that defines the political guidelines of the Bloc Québécois and is authorized to adopt and amend the Party By-laws. The National Convention receives reports from the National Office, the MP Caucus, Forum jeunesse and the various commissions.

The following are voting delegates to the National Convention:

- a) A minimum of three (3) members per district association, including the President and one member under thirty (30) years of age, as designated by the District Convention; each district association may designate one additional delegate for each one hundred (100) members in good standing at the date of the District Convention, up to a maximum of ten (10) delegates;
- b) Regional Presidents and Vice-Presidents;
- c) Members of Forum jeunesse National Youth Executive Committee;
- d) Forum jeunesse Regional Presidents;
- e) One representative per accredited student chapter;
- f) Commission members;
- g) MPs, as well as official candidates if the convention is held on the eve of an election;
- h) Members of the National Office.

### General Council

The General Council is the decision-making body of the Bloc Québécois between National Conventions. The General Council meets at least twice (2x) a year, unless a National Convention or a General Council of Presidents replaces one of these occasions.

The General Council's mandate is to:

- a) Guide the Party's political action;
- b) Ensure the decisions made at the National Convention are carried out and political guidelines are applied;
- c) Make decisions on any urgent matter not addressed by the National Convention;
- d) Adopt the Party's annual budget;
- e) Receive the Party's audited financial statements;
- f) Adopt the Annual Action Plan;

- g) Adopt any by-laws complementing the Party's existing By-laws;
- h) Filling National Office and commission vacancies;
- i) Receive reports from Forum jeunesse, the commissions and the MP Caucus;
- j) Adopt, on the recommendation of the National Office, the rules of procedure for the Leadership Contest and to elect the organizing committee.

The mandate of the General Council preceding a general election is to:

- a) Adopt an electoral platform, on the recommendation of the National Office;
- b) Adopt the rules of electoral procedures, on the recommendation of the National Office;
- c) Adopt an election budget, on the recommendation of the National Office.

The following are delegates to the General Council:

- a) The presidents of district associations; they may be replaced by a member of their Executive Committee, duly mandated by the latter;
- b) One duly mandated delegate from each district association;
- c) One duly mandated delegate under the age of 30 from each district association;
- d) Regional Presidents or their substitutes;
- e) Commission members;
- f) Members of Forum jeunesse National Youth Executive Committee;
- g) Forum jeunesse Regional Presidents;
- h) MPs;
- i) Members of the National Office.

#### General Council of Presidents

The General Council of Presidents may receive the Party's financial statements, and adopt the annual budget as well as the electoral district quota system at the national level. The General Council of Presidents may also deal with important matters normally addressed by the General Council.

The following are delegates to the General Council of Presidents:

- a) Presidents of district associations or their substitutes;
- b) Regional Presidents or their substitutes;
- c) Members of Forum jeunesse National Youth Executive Committee;
- d) MPs;
- e) Members of the National Office.

#### Political Commission

The mandate of the Political Commission is to ensure consistency in the Party's political content; to advise the Party and suggest positions on current issues not covered by the Party Program; to contribute to the preparation of the Main Proposal to amend the Program and the electoral platform; to develop and prepare presentation documents for thematic consultations in anticipation of debates and decision making within the Party bodies and committees; to make recommendations to the National Office on issues to be discussed at General Councils; to produce briefs for public consultations in line with the Party's guidelines; and to create educational materials to help districts organize training sessions for members on the Party's Constitution & By-laws, as well as its Political Program.

The Political Commission is made up of a Chairperson, a Vice-Chairperson, a Secretary, two (2) Advisors, a representative of Forum jeunesse, and an MP.

The Forum jeunesse representative is appointed by the National Youth Executive Committee. The MP is elected by the Caucus. The other members of the Commission are elected by secret ballot, requiring a simple majority at the National Convention. In the event of a vacancy occurring in one of these positions, the Commission may co-opt a replacement. However, the position will be up for election at the next Convention or General Council.

#### Citizenship Commission

The mandate of the Citizenship Commission is to advise the Party on its guidelines and on all issues relating to citizenship, propose an annual action plan on citizenship issues, and encourage the involvement and recruitment of an ever-increasing number of supporters from immigrant and gender-diverse backgrounds within Party bodies and committees.

The Citizenship Commission is made up of a Chairperson, a Vice-Chairperson, a Secretary, two (2) Advisors, a representative of Forum jeunesse, and an MP.

The Forum jeunesse representative is appointed by the National Youth Executive Committee. The MP is elected by the Caucus. The other members of the Commission are elected by secret ballot, requiring a simple majority at the National Convention. In the event of a vacancy occurring in one of these positions, the Commission may co-opt a replacement. However, the position will be up for election at the next Convention or General Council.

#### Remote Electoral Districts Commission

The mandate of the Remote Electoral Districts Commission is to advise the Party on ways to maximize such districts' participation in the Party, and to make their realities better known.

This Commission is made up of the Presidents of electoral districts that meet at least three (3) of the four (4) following criteria:

- a) The district covers an area of more than 250 km<sup>2</sup>;
- b) Its main population cluster is located more than 100 km away from Montreal or Quebec City;
- c) It does not include a population cluster with more than 50,000 residents;
- d) A large part of its economy is based on the primary sector (forestry, mining, fisheries, and agriculture).

The Executive Committee of the Remote Electoral Districts Commission is made up of a Chairperson, a Vice-Chairperson, a Secretary, a representative of Forum jeunesse, and an MP.

The Forum jeunesse representative is appointed by the National Youth Executive Committee. The MP is elected by the Caucus. They must come from a district covered by the Commission's mandate. The other members of the Executive Committee are elected by the Commission's members.

#### Seniors' Commission

The mandate of the Seniors' Commission is to inform and advise the Party on all matters relating to seniors, to report on its activities to the General Council and the National Convention, and to disseminate the Party's values and ideas among seniors.

The Seniors' Commission is made up of a Chairperson, a Vice-Chairperson, a Secretary, two (2) Advisors, and an MP.

The MP is elected by the Caucus. The other members of the Commission are elected by secret ballot, requiring a simple majority at the National Convention. In the event of a vacancy occurring in one of these positions, the Commission may co-opt a replacement. However, the position will be up for election at the next Convention or General Council.

#### Former MPs' Committee

The mandate of the Former MPs' Committee is to encourage the participation of former MPs in the democratic life of the Party.

The Former MPs' Committee is made up of a representative of former MPs on the National Office and up to six (6) other members appointed by the former MPs.

Former MPs meet at least once a year to choose their representatives.

#### Forum jeunesse

Bloc Québécois members aged thirty (30) or younger are members of Forum jeunesse. Its mandate is to propose an annual action plan on youth-related issues, report on its activities to the General Council and the National Convention, disseminate the Party's values and ideas among young people, recruit young activists for the Party, encourage full youth involvement in Party bodies and committees, enable young Party activists to debate issues that drive our society, and inform and advise the Party on all youth-related issues.

The mandate of the Youth Convention is to receive the report of the National Youth Executive Committee, to elect the members of the latter, and to adopt the following: Forum jeunesse's action plan for the coming year; committee mandates that Forum jeunesse will submit to the General Council of the Bloc Québécois; proposals that Forum jeunesse will submit to the National Convention of the Bloc Québécois; emergency proposals on current issues; and any addition to the current constitution and by-laws governing the internal operation of Forum jeunesse. All members in good standing of the Bloc Québécois Forum jeunesse are voting delegates to the Youth Convention.

The Extended National Youth Executive Committee is composed of the members of the National Youth Executive Committee and the Regional Youth Presidents. Its mandate is to report on regional activities, to establish and follow up on strategies for implementing the National Action Plan, to co-opt vacant positions on the National Youth Executive Committee, to be put up for election at the next General Council, Youth Convention or National Convention, and to make any other decisions of importance to Forum jeunesse based on suggestions from the National Youth Executive Committee or Regional Presidents.

The National Youth Executive Committee is made up of a President, a Vice-President of Organizational Affairs, a Communications Manager, a Manager of student chapters and Youth groups, a Content Manager, a representative of the Citizenship Commission, and a General Secretary.

The mandate of the National Youth Executive Committee is to oversee the application of the Forum jeunesse mandates; to manage the Forum jeunesse day-to-day affairs and to adopt all resolutions to this

end (subject to the restrictions provided for in the current By-laws); to oversee the application of the National Action Plan; to submit proposals to the various bodies and committees of Forum jeunesse regarding the National Action Plan, the Bloc Québécois Main Proposal and By-laws, electoral action plans, and national communications plans; and to submit any decisions of importance to the Extended Youth National Executive Committee and/or other higher Party bodies and committees. In by-elections to the National Youth Executive Committee in non-Youth bodies, only delegates under 30 years of age are eligible to vote.

The Youth Regional Assembly (YRA) is mandated to report on the activities of the Youth Regional Council, to elect the Youth Regional President (if necessary, the YRA may decide to elect a Youth Regional Executive Committee), to adopt a regional action plan and political guidelines, in line with the National Action Plan, and to adopt proposals to be submitted to the Regional Council, the National Youth Executive Committee or the Youth Convention. All Forum jeunesse members in good standing are voting delegates to the YRA.

A student chapter is a group of at least four (4) Bloc Québécois members studying at the same educational institution. A student chapter is accredited by filing an application for accreditation with the National Secretariat, signed by four (4) members of Forum jeunesse attending the same educational institution.

### Regional Council

The Regional Council's mandate is to promote coordination of the actions undertaken by electoral district associations, on a regional basis where appropriate, and to deal with the various items on the agenda, including the election of a President.

The following are delegates to the Regional Council:

- a) Electoral district Presidents;
- b) Four (4) members sitting on the Executive Committee of each district, including at least one member of Forum jeunesse;
- c) One representative per accredited student chapter;
- d) Regional Youth President;
- e) Regional President and Regional Vice-President;
- f) MPs and official candidates from the region.

If necessary, the Regional Council may decide to elect a Regional Executive Committee. The Regional Youth President would automatically be part of it.

### District Association

A member of a district association is any member who resides in that electoral district or who has indicated that he or she wishes to exercise his or her rights and privileges there. Each district association is made up of two (2) bodies: the General Meeting and the Executive Committee.

The mandate of the Ordinary General Meeting is to adopt the annual financial statements of the district association, receive the report of its Executive Committee, elect the members of the latter, and adopt the district association's guidelines and action plan in accordance with the National Action Plan's guidelines.

The District Association's Executive Committee is mandated to:



- a) Ensure the vitality of the Bloc Québécois in the electoral district by taking all appropriate means to maximize its influence and promote its policies and goals;
- b) Achieve the objectives of national, regional and local action plans;
- c) Ensure that as many members as possible join the Bloc Québécois;
- d) Ensure that the Bloc Québécois has the financial means to achieve its objectives;
- e) Produce annual financial statements for the district association and forward them to the Bloc Québécois Chief Agent;
- f) Relay the ideas and concerns of district association activists to regional and national bodies and committees.

The District Association's Executive Committee is made up of the following persons, including:

- a) A President;
- b) A Vice-President;
- c) A Secretary;
- d) A Treasurer;
- e) A Communications Manager;
- f) At least one Advisor;
- g) The MP and/or candidate elected at the Nomination Meeting;
- h) Two (2) Youth representatives, who are members of Forum jeunesse;
- i) Any President of a student chapter recognized by the Bloc Québécois and based in the electoral district.

Any position not filled at a General Meeting or which becomes vacant after the election of the District Association's Executive Committee is filled by the latter. The Executive Committee then informs the National Office in writing of the appointment.

The District Association's Executive Committee must have a minimum of four (4) members. Otherwise, the district association will not be able to count on full recognition, including the right for the Executive Committee to co-opt members and have a full delegation at the General Council, Regional Council, and Convention. Only the President elected at the General Meeting will be eligible to be a delegate.

### Policies and Political Guidelines

The main political guidelines are defined in a document called the "Programme." This document is updated through a process that is concluded at the National Convention, the decision-making body in this matter.

With a view to the National Convention, the Political Commission and other collaborators help to prepare the main Programme amendment proposal. It is then adopted, along with the rules of admissibility and procedure for the National Convention, by the National Office. These rules and procedures are subsequently adopted by the General Council. The National Office sets up a Steering Committee, whose mandate includes forming a committee to review the admissibility of proposals for the National Convention, and to ensure compliance with the rules of admissibility and procedure applicable to proposals.

Under the By-laws, proposals to amend the By-laws must originate from a District Association Convention, a Regional Convention, the National Office, the Citizenship Commission, the Political Commission, the Remote Electoral Districts Commission or Forum jeunesse, all in accordance with the rules of admissibility and procedure adopted by the General Council preceding the National Convention.

Before each Bloc Québécois National Convention, the General Council may decide to organize a “fringe convention” to allow for the participation of non-members and members of civil society. The ideas expressed at this event that receive the most support would then be submitted to the Bloc Québécois National Convention. This consultation could take place at an in-person convention or through a web-based platform.

District Association Executive Committees then convene Electoral District Conventions, within the deadlines set by the Bloc Québécois General Council, in preparation for the National Convention. These conventions may propose political guidelines for the Party, mandates for the parliamentary wing, and amendments to the By-laws. Members present at Electoral District Conventions elect, by a show of hands, the delegates who will represent their district association at the National Convention, in accordance with the rules adopted at the General Council meeting preceding the Convention.

The National Convention finally deals with proposed amendments to the Main Proposal, mandates, and amendments to the By-laws. At the close of the National Convention, the Main Proposal as amended becomes the new Party Program, and the Party By-laws as amended become the new Party By-laws.

Only the National Convention can amend the By-laws or the Programme. However, the General Council takes all decisions on urgent matters not addressed by the National Convention, and ensures that the decisions of the National Convention are carried out and its political guidelines applied.

### **Section 1C—Electoral District Associations**

Electoral district associations are defined in section 1B of this document and in Chapter 2 of the Bloc Québécois Constitution & By-laws.

The National Secretariat acts as liaison between electoral district associations and the National Office.

## **Part 2—Candidate Selection**

### **Section 2A—Selection Process**

Bloc Québécois candidates are elected by Party members. The Bloc Québécois at times tries to recruit certain candidates in order, for example, to ensure some level of gender parity.

For verification purposes, a candidate interested in running under the Bloc Québécois banner must complete a candidate vetting form. The potential candidate must disclose past and present professional, legal and ideological details, in order to assess his or her suitability. Using the information gathered, the Bloc Québécois then carries out in-depth checks, such as criminal record background checks, posts on the person's social platforms, and potential conflicts of interest.

### **Section 2B—Nomination Contests**

#### Responsibility for Organizing Nomination Contests

The rules governing Nomination Meetings are established by the National Office, which also supervises their organization and conduct. Additionally, the National Office, in consultation with the President of the District Association's Executive Committee, appoints the Election Chair. Any disagreement is immediately resolved by the Chairperson of the Nomination Meeting, whose decision is final.

#### Nomination and Election of a Candidate

Upon resolution by the District Association's Executive Committee, the National Office, after consultation with the former, determines the date of the Nomination Meeting. Once the conditions for holding a Nomination Meeting have been confirmed, the National Office convenes the meeting at least twenty (20) days prior to the Nomination Meeting's scheduled date. The conditions for holding a Nomination Meeting are set by the National Office. If the District Association's Executive Committee refuses or fails to request a Nomination Meeting, or does not meet the conditions required, the National Office has the authority to convene the Nomination Meeting unilaterally.

By way of exception, and after consultation with the District Association's Executive Committee, the National Office may designate a candidate when no Nomination Meeting has been held before the election writs are issued. In the event of a sudden election call, the National Office has full authority to suspend, in whole or in part, the application of the by-laws governing the Nomination Meeting during the election period. In districts where Nomination Meetings have not been held at least ten (10) days before the nomination deadline set by the *Canada Elections Act*, the National Office, in accordance with section 2.6.5 of the Bloc Québécois By-laws, may appoint a candidate.

#### Candidate Eligibility Requirements

Candidates must be Party members in good standing, complete the National Office's candidate vetting form, and submit a nomination form. To obtain a nomination form, the candidate must sign a document prepared by the National Office, in which he or she undertakes to:

- Comply with the sections of the *Canada Elections Act* relating to a nomination contest, including the appointment of a financial agent who is required to open, for the sole purposes of the nomination contest, a separate bank account with a financial institution before accepting a contribution or incurring a nomination campaign expense.
- Forward the name and contact details of this financial agent to the National Secretariat and the District Association's Executive Committee.
- Submit to the National Secretariat, on a weekly basis, all information concerning contributions received in connection with the nomination campaign.
- Provide the National Secretariat and the District Association's Executive Committee, in the case of nomination contest expenses and contributions of less than one thousand dollars (\$1,000):
  - A detailed report of all expenses incurred and contributions received by the financial agent for the period of the nomination contest.
  - A copy of the EC-20034 form, as mandated by the *Canada Elections Act*, must be submitted whether there is a surplus of nomination campaign funds or not, within ten (10) days of the ultimate deadline set by the *Act*.
- In the case of nomination contest expenses and contributions exceeding one thousand dollars (\$1,000), provide the National Secretariat and the District Association's Executive Committee with a copy of the financial report required by the *Canada Elections Act*, namely the EC 20171 form, within ten (10) days before the ultimate deadline set by the *Act*.
- Authorize and accept the obligations arising from the budget framework adopted at the last General Council.
- Accept the Bloc Québécois' electoral platform and By-laws.
- Not place themselves in a situation of conflict of interest in any way whatsoever, and maintain a high degree of integrity towards the Party, its Leader, and the public in general, on pain of disqualification.

To be valid, the nomination form must be received by the National Secretariat no later than 5 p.m. on the 9<sup>th</sup> business day before the date of the Nomination Meeting, and must include at least twenty-five (25) signatures of members in good standing residing in the electoral district.

The National Office may oppose any candidacy at a Bloc Québécois Nomination Meeting. This opposition motion must be communicated to the relevant electoral district.

#### Voting Eligibility Requirements

Any Bloc Québécois member may vote for the nomination of a candidate in the electoral district in which he or she resides.

To exercise their right to vote at a Nomination Meeting, a member must present valid government-issued photo identification or two original pieces of authorized identification (both bearing the member's name, with one also showing the member's address) to confirm they reside in the electoral district.

A nomination candidate who has complied with the formalities laid down in the Constitution & By-laws is elected when he or she obtains an absolute majority of the votes cast by secret ballot by the members in good standing present at the Nomination Meeting, and residing in the electoral district.

### Duration of Nomination Contest

Since the notice period for convening the Nomination Meeting is set at twenty (20) days prior to the Nomination Meeting, and the deadline for submitting a nomination form is set at nine (9) days before the Nomination Meeting, the official duration of a nomination contest is between nine (9) and twenty (20) days. From the moment federal elections are called, the National Office may shorten all deadlines set by the By-laws.

However, there is nothing to prevent a candidate from campaigning before a Nomination Meeting is convened.

### Access to Members Lists

On receipt of a valid nomination form, the National Office provides the candidate with a list of members entitled to vote.

No later than five (5) days before the Nomination Meeting, the representatives of the nomination candidates must notify the Chairperson of the Nomination Meeting of any disputes concerning the members list in effect at the time of the meeting. The Chairperson must resolve all disputes as soon as possible, but no later than two (2) days before the Nomination Meeting. The Chairperson must inform the representatives of each nomination candidate of the decisions on each of the disputes submitted. These decisions are final.

Each candidate formally agrees that the members list will be used solely for the purpose of promoting his or her candidacy. The original list, along with all copies, must be delivered to the Chairperson of the Nomination Meeting prior to the meeting's commencement.

### Contest Integrity

From the outset, the Chairperson of the Nomination Meeting appoints the persons who will act as election officers. Election officers retain their voting rights, except for the Chairperson.

The election is by secret ballot. The Chairperson of the Nomination Meeting will have provided ballot boxes, polling booths, appropriate ballots, and everything else required to ensure a fair election.

Ballots must be initialled by the Chairperson of the Nomination Meeting or the Chairperson's representatives, as well as by the deputy returning officer. They must be checked for sequential numbering before being returned to each voting member, who must again show their membership card or otherwise demonstrate that their name has already been recorded. In the event of a dispute, the Chairperson's decision is final and not subject to appeal.

Each candidate has the right to be represented by a person of his or her choice at the vote count.

### Financial Regulations

A candidate may incur expenses in support of their candidacy, but these expenses must not exceed the lesser of five hundred dollars (\$500) plus an amount equal to the number of eligible members (i.e., members in good standing and those to be renewed) multiplied by one dollar (\$1). Travel and long-distance telephone charges are not considered expenses under this Regulation.

The financial agent and/or the candidate must provide the National Secretariat with the names and addresses of all contributors to the candidate's nomination campaign and the amount given.

Prior to the opening of the Nomination Meeting, each candidate whose nomination campaign expenses and contributions are less than one thousand dollars (\$1,000) must submit to the Chairperson of the Nomination Meeting a detailed report of his or her expenses and contributions.

If the nomination candidate's expenses and contributions exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000), the EC-20171 form must be completed as prescribed by the *Canada Elections Act*.

The Chairperson of the Nomination Meeting must report on these expenses at the meeting. The period during which the expenses outlined in this section will be accounted for begins when a candidate accepts a contribution or incurs a campaign expense for the nomination.

However, the candidate may only accept a contribution or incur an expense as provided for in this section once his nomination form has been received and validated by the National Secretariat.

If the Nomination Meeting is held by a registered electoral district association, the latter must comply with the requirements of the *Canada Elections Act* and send the Chief Electoral Officer the required information within the deadlines set by the *Act*. The electoral district association must also send a copy of this report to the National Secretariat.

#### Other Rules and Procedures

The Chairperson of the Nomination Meeting explains the rules and procedures and, without further delay, invites the candidates to address the assembly. Each candidate is then invited to address the assembly in the order determined by the drawing of lots in the presence of the candidates or their representatives. The time allowed for speeches or questions is the same for each candidate. Candidates have the right to be introduced by the person of their choice. Time allotment is determined by the District Association's Executive Committee after consulting with the candidates.

If the Nomination Meeting is held in multiple stages, the Chair, in consultation with the District Association's Executive Committee, determines the dates and locations of the additional voting periods, which the National Secretariat must include in the notice of election.

If necessary, one or more additional rounds of voting are held until an absolute majority of the votes cast is obtained, and in each round the candidate with the fewest votes in that round and any candidate who has not obtained ten percent (10%) of the valid votes cast is eliminated. If no candidate obtains 10% of the votes cast, the two candidates with the most votes remain in the running for another round.

The announcement of the elected person is made by the Chairperson of the Nomination Meeting on behalf of the National Office. The Chair may announce the final result of the vote if all candidates agree.

The Nomination Meeting Secretary draws up the minutes of the said meeting, which must be countersigned by the Chairperson. Copies are sent to the National Office and the Secretariat of the District Association's Executive Committee.

## **Section 2C—Complaints, Reviews, and Appeals**

Any challenge to the nomination must be made within five (5) days of the Nomination Meeting or, if an election has been called, no later than twenty-four (24) hours after the meeting.

A challenge does not suspend the results unless expressly decided by the National Office.

The Election Chair shall retain at the National Office all ballots, used or unused, as well as a copy of the official voters list, and any other documents used during a Nomination Meeting, for a period of thirty (30) days.

The National Office has the right to cancel a Nomination Meeting and to call a new one under the conditions it sets if serious irregularities have been reported in writing and proven.

### **Part 3—Party Leadership**

Following an election, and provided the Leader has been in office for at least twelve (12) months, he or she submits to a vote of confidence at all regular National Conventions. If necessary, and with his or her prior consent, the Leader may also submit to a vote of confidence at General Council. Voting takes place by secret ballot.

If the Party Leader resigns, the National Office calls a leadership election at a time deemed appropriate. The Party President then assumes the responsibilities of the Leader with respect to the Party, except if he or she becomes a candidate for the leadership, in which case the Party Vice-President assumes those duties. The MP Caucus proposes an Interim Leader, who then is endorsed by the National Office. The Interim Leader serves on the National Office without voting rights. On the recommendation of the National Office, the General Council adopts the rules of procedure for the leadership race and appoints the organizing committee. The rules of procedure for the Leadership Contest may be adapted for regional primaries. The Party Leader is elected by secret ballot through universal suffrage of the members, by an absolute majority of votes.

### **Part 4—Financing**

Since the 2015 general election, public funding for federal political parties has been eliminated. Previously, parties received quarterly allowances based on the number of votes received in the previous general election. Parties must now rely solely on the revenue they generate soliciting their supporters for memberships and contributions.

While members are first and foremost the cornerstone of activism within a political organization and support its operations, their membership fees also accounts for a significant portion of the sums raised by the Party. Nevertheless, the lion's share of the Party's revenue comes from contributions made by supporters.

Each year, annual funding targets for the 78 electoral districts are adopted by the General Council. Until the allocated target is reached, each district retains a percentage of the funding, while the remaining portion is earmarked for the Party. For amounts raised beyond the district's target, the percentages are reversed. This system benefits both the Party and the districts.

The Party manages the majority of the financial resources it collects, holding them in its coffers. In the Party's accounting system, district assets are updated monthly through statements of account generated by the National Secretariat.

Some districts (i.e., registered electoral district associations) have, in addition to the statement of account managed by the Party, a bank account that they administer independently. These districts can therefore receive funding directly and deposit it in their account. However, any funds raised must be declared to the Party and are counted towards their fundraising objective.



## **Part 5—Additional Information**

*No further information to report.*

### **Appendix A**

Bloc Québécois Constitution & By-laws (2023)

### **Appendix B**

By-laws & Procedures for holding and conducting a Nomination Meeting (2024)

### **Appendix C**

Candidates' Questionnaire (2024)

### **Appendix D**

Contest Nomination Form (2024)