

PROPOSALS for Consideration at the 2010 Annual General Meeting

GROUP OF PROPOSALS RELATED TO VOTING

These proposals are intended to correct inconsistencies within the By-laws or between the By-laws and provincial limitations.

Some of the proposals in this group relate to the vote taken at the 2009 AGM that set voting rights in the *By-law on General Meetings and the Annual Convention* to those who have held membership for at least 14 days prior to the start of the General Meeting, which conflicts with voting rights in other By-laws. Rather than specifying this limitation in each affected By-law, phrasing is proposed that uses general terms where the By-law article permits this without confusion.

Also, the option of electronic voting is added, where needed.

Group of Proposals Related to Voting on Amendments to the *Constitution and By-laws*

One Proposed Amendment to the *CONSTITUTION*: (75% support required)

Proposal 1.

It is proposed that Article 8.2 of the *Constitution* be amended to replace “more than 50%” with “at least 60%” (shown in bold in the amendment) so that amendments to by-laws require at least the level of membership agreement (60%) required for general decision-making (By-law on Rules of Order) including passing policy proposals (By-law 3); amended Article 8.2 would state:

8.2 Any By-law must not be amended, added, or rescinded except at a General Meeting of the Party and by a resolution passed by **at least 60%** of the members entitled to vote in accordance with this Constitution and By-laws.

Two Proposed Amendments to the *By-law on Amendment of Constitution and By-laws*

Proposal 2.

It is proposed that Article 1. of the *By-law on Amendment of Constitution and By-laws* be amended to apply also to By-laws, and to limit voting to those who meet the voting rights criteria set in the By-law on General Meetings, and to permit electronic voting; so it would state:

1. The members entitled to vote on an amendment of the Constitution or a By-law are those members who have individual voting rights for the relevant General Meeting,
 - 1.1 members may vote using any one of the available voting methods: in-person, electronic, or mailed ballot.

Original Article:

1. The members entitled to vote on an amendment of the Constitution are those members registered at the General Meeting and present when the proposal for amendment is offered to the membership for the vote.

Proposal 3.

It is proposed that if Proposal 2. is accepted, then Article 2. of the *By-law on Amendment of Constitution and By-laws* be rescinded.

[[2. The members entitled to vote on an amendment of the By-laws are those members registered at the General Meeting and present when the proposal for amendment is offered to the membership for the vote.]]

Group of Proposals Related to Voting for Elected Positions

Proposed Amendment to the *By-law on Leadership*

Proposal 4.

It is proposed that Article 2 of the *By-law on Leadership* be amended on voting issues, to state:

2. The Leader and First Deputy Leader are to be elected by the membership in accordance with Constitution and By-laws.

Original Article:

2. The Leader and First Deputy Leader shall be elected by the membership and all members shall have the right to vote in such elections

Proposed Amendment to *By-law 4.*

Proposal 5.

It is proposed that Article 5. of the *By-law 4* (Election of Leadership) be amended to indicate that voting is by preferential ballot (details in a proposed new By-law) and to specify voting rights, to be stated:

5. The voting is to be done by preferential ballot and all members who have
 - 5.1 individual voting rights for the relevant General Meeting may vote using any one of the available voting methods: in-person, electronic, or mailed ballot
 - 5.2 proxy voting rights at the relevant General Meeting must vote in-person, and meet the requirements to exercise the proxy vote.

Original Article:

5. All members of the Green Party of Nova Scotia in good standing are eligible to vote. Voting will take place at the convention (or SGM) and via mail-in ballot.

Proposed Amendment to *By-law 1*

Proposal 6.

It is proposed that Article 6. of the *By-law 1* (Election of Officers of the Party by the Membership) be amended on voting issues and that the description of preferential balloting be moved to a new By-law on that item, so that Article 6 would be stated:

6. The voting is to be done by preferential ballot and all members who have
 - 2.1 individual voting rights for the relevant General Meeting may vote using any one of the available voting methods: in-person, electronic, or mailed ballot

2.2 proxy voting rights at the relevant General Meeting must vote in-person and meet the requirements to exercise the proxy vote.

Original Article

6. All members of the Green Party of Nova Scotia in good standing are eligible to vote. Voting will take place at the convention (or SGM), via mail-in ballot or by electronic balloting (article 9.4.3). The voting method is preferential balloting. This means that for each vote to be counted the voter must express their preference in numerical order where “1” is their first choice, “2” is their second choice and so on.

Proposed Amendments to the *By-law on Membership*

Proposal 7.

It is proposed that Article 6 of the *By-law on Membership* be amended to address age requirements for the officers, leadership and other candidates for Members of the Legislative Assembly in Articles 6.2 and 6.5; to address the 14-day minimum membership requirement for voting in Article 6.4.1; and to have broader application for submission of proposals by the removal of “amendment” and “Annual” in Article 6.6, so that the amended articles would state:

6. Members may: . . .

6.2 hold office at any level of the Party **as permitted by provincial laws**

. . .

6.4. vote at

6.4.1 General Meetings **of the Party provided their membership was granted at least 14 days prior to the meeting**

. . .

6.5 nominate or be Party candidates for Members of the Legislative Assembly **as permitted by provincial laws**

6.6 submit proposals on matters of policy or the Constitution and By-laws to be considered at General Meetings.

Original Article

6. Members may: . . .

6.2 hold office at any level of the Party

. . .

6.4. vote at

6.4.1 General Meetings

. . .

6.5 nominate or be Party candidates for Members of the Legislative Assembly

6.6 submit amendment proposals on matters of policy or the Constitution and By-laws that will be considered at Annual General Meetings

Proposal 8.

It is proposed that in order that the 14-day membership be measurable, the date on which membership is initiated or renewed be clarified by amendment to Article 2, 2.1 and 2.2 of the *By-law on Membership*, to state:

2. A person's membership is initiated or renewed as of the date recorded in the Membership Secretary records and on the official receipt for the annual membership fee issued electronically or by mail from
 - 2.1. one of the Signing Officers of the Executive of the Party, or
 - 2.2. one of the Signing Officers of the Electoral District Party Association of the provincial electoral district in which the applicant resides.

Original Article

2. A person's membership is granted once a receipt is issued from the:
 - 2.1. Executive of the Party
 - 2.2. Electoral District Association of the electoral district in which the applicant resides.

GROUP OF PROPOSALS FOR NEW *By-law on Voting by Preferential Ballot*

Proposal 9.

It is proposed that a new *By-law on Voting by Preferential Ballot* be established to avoid repetition of this information in other By-laws, and to contain the intent of that information moved from By-laws 1 and 4 with amendments as noted and additions, to be stated:

1. Regardless of how many candidates are on the ballot, the option "None of the Above" must appear on the ballot.

2. The voter must express their preference in numerical order where each candidate and the choice of "None of the Above" must be assigned a distinct number indicating the order of preference: "1" for first choice, "2" for second choice, and so on:
 - 2.1 duplication of a number or failure to assign a number to each choice, including "None of the Above," will spoil the ballot.

3. Each candidate may have a scrutineer present during the counting of the ballots.

4. (based on members' decision on paired proposals that follow)

5. The results of voting are to be announced by
 - 5.1 first stating the total number of ballots cast, the total number of spoiled ballots, the preference levels used to declare a winner, and the basis upon which the Winner is being declared *
 - 5.2 stating the votes in each preference level for each candidate, in ascending order with the winner announced last.*
 - 5.3 if None of the Above defeats the candidates, the Executive must treat the position as vacant and take the measures provided in the *Constitution and By-laws*.*

6. After the results are released to the membership, ballots will be retained for a 24 hour period before they are destroyed, during which time any candidate may request that they not be destroyed but held for a decision on a contested result.

*(note: This Article is an amendment on Article 11, By-law 1 and Article 17, By-law 4 and their sub-articles, which did not address preferential voting situations. It will depend on the membership's choice in the next pair of proposals whether it is based on majority or highest total support)

PROPOSAL PAIR

Proposal 10A

It is proposed that Article 4 of the new By-law on Voting by Preferential Ballot be stated as it had been in By-law 1 Article 7, with amendment in italics for added words and for replacing "or subsequent rounds" to clarify the method.

4. A candidate will be declared elected when they receive a majority:
at least 50% of the total of first choice votes or, if there is no clear majority on the first choice votes, at least 50% as the total sum of the *percentage of first choice votes and percentage of preferential second votes, or if still no majority the counting rounds continue adding in subsequent choices.*

Proposal 10B

It is proposed that Article 4 of the new By-law on Voting by Preferential Ballot be stated as a total support counting method that has only one round of counting in which all the preferential votes for each candidate are used to calculate total support.

4. The candidate with the highest total support will be declared elected:
support is calculated with the first preference votes weighted highest and each lower preference vote weighted one whole number lower, the highest weighting being equal to the number of candidates.

EXAMPLE to show both Proposal A and Proposal B methods

Using 200 ballots, 2 candidates and “None of the Above”

Ballot Voting Results

Candidate	1 st Preference	2 nd Preference	3 rd Preference
X	100	20	80
Y	60	140	0
None of the Above	40	40	120

Proposal 10A

Proposal 10A method would convert votes to percentage of total votes at that preference level and the converted chart would read:

Candidate	1 st Preference	%	2 nd Preference	%	3 rd Preference	%
X		50		10		40
Y		30		70		0
None of the Above		20		20		60

Proposal 10A would declare Candidate X the winner since X achieved 50% in the first round (first past the post so no other preference levels are considered).

Proposal 10B

Proposal 10B would assign a weight: 2 for 1st preference, 1 to 2nd preference, and 0 for lowest preference (i.e.candidate support less than “None of the Above”) and the chart for support would read:

Candidate	1 st Preference	2 nd Preference	3 rd Preference	Total Support
X	100 x 2= 100	20 x 1= 20	80 x 0= 0	220
Y	60 x 2= 120	140 x 1= 140	0	260
None of the Above	40 x 2= 80	40 x 1= 40	120 x 0= 0	120

Proposal 10B would declare Candidate Y the winner since Y has the highest total support.

This example looks at the two different counting methods when there is a polarizing candidate: (Candidate X has 1st preference from 50% of voter and a high percentage of voters against X) and there is a not-highly-popular but generally-acceptable candidate: (Candidate Y had fewer first preferences but was acceptable to the rest as a second choice.)

GROUP OF SIX ADDITIONAL PROPOSED AMENDMENTS to the *By-law on Amendment of Constitution and By-laws*

These proposals are intended to address the need for guidelines noted within the By-law in 2009 and related responsibilities of the Executive and its working group.

Proposal 11.

It is proposed that a new article be added to the *By-law on Amendment of Constitution and By-laws* to clarify the responsibility of the Executive

#. The Executive of the Party is responsible for the proposal of amendments to the *Constitution and By-laws* and for review of such proposals submitted by members for presentation to the membership at a General Meeting.

#.1 In the preparation of a proposal for amendment of the *Constitution and By-laws*, the Executive is to ensure that the foundational nature of the document, the legal language, the required clarity of intent, and the required consistency throughout the document are carefully considered.

Proposal 12.

It is proposed that the accountability of the working group be specified under Article 3. of the *By-law on Amendment of Constitution and By-laws* by the addition:

3.1 The working group is directly responsible to the Co-Presidents, who may be members of the working group

Proposal 13.

It is proposed that the guidelines referred to in Article 3 of the *By-law on Amendment of Constitution and By-laws* be established for “statements of concern” as a new Article that would state:

4. At least 60 days before a General Meeting, the Executive or its working group must invite the membership to submit specific statements of concern pertaining to the Constitution and By-laws, which the Executive or its working group is to address as appropriate through proposals for presentation to the membership at a General Meeting.

4.1 The notice must include

4.1.1 the electronic or mailing address for statements of concern

4.1.2 the closing date by which submissions must be received

4.1.2 the requirements for a statement of concern

4.2 The statement of concern must include

4.2.1 the member’s name and contact information

4.2.2 the relevant article number in the Constitution or the specific By-Law, and the original wording that is of concern

4.2.3 the nature of the concern.

Proposal 14.

It is proposed that the guidelines referred to in Article 3 of the *By-law on Amendment of Constitution and By-laws* be established for members’ submissions of “proposals for amendment to the Constitution and By-laws” as new Articles that would state:

5. The call for members' formal submissions of proposals for amendments to the *Constitution and By-laws* must be issued by the Executive or its working group not less than 60 days before the starting date of the General Meeting at which proposals are to be considered.

5.1 The notice must include:

5.1.1 the electronic or mailing address for statements of concern

5.1.2 the closing date by which submissions must be received

5.1.2 the required minimum number of endorsements by members

5.1.3 the requirements for submissions

6. The submissions of proposals for amendments to the *Constitution and By-laws* must include:

6.1 the date and the principal member's name to appear at the top of the submission

6.2 the name, address, phone number, signature with date for each member endorsing the proposal, to appear at the end of the proposal

6.3 the name of the member endorsing the proposal who will speak to the proposal if required at the General Meeting

6.4 the body of the proposal, which must contain:

6.4.1 if amendment of an article is being proposed, then

6.4.1.1 the number of the article of the Constitution, or the By-Law title and article number of concern;

6.4.1.1 the reason for amendment;

6.4.1.1 the wording of original article;

6.4.1.1 the exact wording of proposed article

6.4.2 if the addition of a new article is being proposed, then

6.4.2.1 the reason why this addition is thought necessary;

6.4.2.2 where in the Constitution and By-laws the proposed addition is to be made and the suggested number of the proposed article; and

6.4.2.3 the exact wording of the proposed article

6.4.3 if rescinding an article is being proposed, then

6.4.3.1 the reason for this proposed removal;

6.4.3.2 the number of the article of the Constitution, or By-Law title and article number of concern; and

6.4.3.3 the exact wording of material for which removal is proposed.

Proposal 15.

It is proposed that if proposals 13 and 14 are passed, that the phrase in brackets [[]] be deleted from Article 3 of the *By-law on Amendment of Constitution and By-laws*

3. The Executive of the Party may appoint a working group from the membership to develop proposals for amendments of the Constitution and By-laws, and to receive submissions of proposals by members, [[and must provide the guidelines for this work

until such time as guidelines are approved by the membership for inclusion in this By-law.]]

Proposal 16.

It is proposed that a new Article be added to the *By-law on Amendment of Constitution and By-laws* to allow efficient drafting of amended documents and that each of these clauses be permitted to be considered individually by the membership if needed:

7. After each General Meeting where the Constitution or a By-law is amended, the Executive of the Party, or a committee appointed by the Executive, must oversee the drafting of the amended *Constitution and By-laws (date of amendment)* and may, in so doing, and subject to steps that ensure amendments are made as passed by the membership:

7.1 Renumber the articles of the Constitution and By-laws to accommodate the changes that have been made;

7.2 Correct typographical and spacing errors;

7.3 Correct spelling errors;

7.4 Remove *proviso* statements and similar clauses referring to conditions that have been met through amendments passed at a General Meeting.

7.5 Correct cross-references to article numbers which are no longer accurate

ONE PROPOSED AMENDMENT on the *By-law on Accountability for Performance*

Proposal 17.

It is proposed that Article 1 of the *By-law on Accountability for Performance* be amended, clarifying responsibilities and mechanisms for accountability, to state:

1. The Party is to do such things political or otherwise that are incidental or conducive to the attainment of the Party's purpose and objectives.

1.1 The members carry the responsibility for the direction of the Party, the functional and financial organization of the Party, and the effectiveness of the Party in meeting its purpose and objectives.

1.2 For the various structural units and individuals in positions of trust, the mechanisms for approval and accountability are to be established within the By-laws relevant to those structures and positions, and enforced by the membership as a whole at General Meeting or through those avenues that the membership has set in the By-laws.

Original Article:

1. The Party is to do all such things political or otherwise as are incidental or conducive to the attainment of the Party's purpose and objectives after the members have adopted a bylaw or bylaws to establish mechanisms for approval and accountability for such things. (Proviso: This clause shall not come into effect until the members adopt such a bylaw or bylaws.)

GROUP OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS related to *General Meetings*

Proposed Amendment to the Constitution (requires 75% support)

Proposal 18.

It is proposed that the period within which the Annual General Meeting can be held be extended from three months to four month in Article 6.3 of the *Constitution*, to allow more flexibility outside of the poor weather months of January and February while staying within a reasonable time period of the end of the Financial Year, and that the word “shall” be replaced by its legal meaning of “must” to avoid confusion, so that with the changes shown in bold, it would be stated:

6.3 The Annual Convention **must** include the Annual General Meeting and **must** be held within **four months** of the end of the Financial Year, unless an exception is supported in the By-laws.

Group of proposed amendments to the *By-law on General Meetings and the Annual Convention*

Proposal 19.

It is proposed that a new Article to allow exceptions to timing of Annual General Meeting be added to the *By-law on General Meetings and the Annual Convention*, which would state:

- 1.5 The Annual Convention and Annual General Meeting may be delayed beyond the normal period from the end of the Financial Year provided
- 1.5.1 there are exception circumstances relating to a provincial or federal election, a major storm event, or other situation which the Executive and Shadow Cabinet unanimously agree requires such a delay, and
 - 1.5.2 the Annual General Meeting is held as soon as possible.

Explanation:

Shadow Cabinet is included as an accountability factor to ensure that it is not just the Executive, whose positions and accountability for finances are agenda items, but other politically-aware members who also judge that the delay is warranted and will not cause undue problems for the Party. In this way, members have done due diligence with respect to setting in place an accountability mechanism within the by-law.

Proposal 20.

It is proposed that a new article to address proxy voting be added to the *By-law on General Meetings and the Annual Convention*, which would state:

- 4.2.1 a member may vote by proxy at a General Meeting, or in an election at any Party level, for those matters that use a paper ballot provided that
- 4.2.1.1 the member has completed the official proxy voting form delegating a qualified member with voting rights to carry the proxy, and
 - 4.2.1.2 the member has registered the form with the returning officer for the relevant Meeting within the required timeframe, and

- 4.2.1.3 the member carrying the proxy carries no more than one proxy vote, and
- 4.2.1.4 the member carrying the proxy has been verified by the returning officer at the time of the vote.

GROUP OF PROPOSALS RELATED TO POLICY

Group Of Proposed Amendments on *By-law on Policy Committee*

Proposal 21.

It is proposed that phrasing in Article 1. of the *By-law on Policy Committee* be amended to be consistent with the fact that the membership is the Party's policy-making body and that the voting is covered in By-law 3.

1. The Policy Committee is responsible for the development and preparation of Party policy proposals for presentation to the membership at a General Meeting.

Original Article

1. The Policy Committee shall be the Party's policy-making body. It is responsible for the development and preparation of Party policy for review and ratification by the membership. Policy proposals and modifications to existing policy that have been developed by the committee must be presented to the membership at the Annual General Meeting or a Special General Meeting for their decision which can be: acceptance; refusal; or sending the proposal back to the committee for further development.

Proposal 22.

It is proposed that Article 2.1 under the composition of the Policy Committee in the *By-law on Policy Committee* be amend to state:

- 2.1 The two Policy Convenors, the Leader and the Deputy Leaders

Original Article

- 2.1 The two Policy Convenors and three Leaders as elected by the Annual Convention or General Meeting;

Proposal 23.

It is proposed that the membership of the Policy Committee be expanded by the addition of new Article 2.2 to the *By-law on Policy Committee*, to be stated:

- 2.2 The members of the Cabinet or Shadow Cabinet, who particularly provide expertise in their portfolio areas and who may serve as Policy Networkers for the Regional Division in which they reside.

Proposal 24.

It is proposed that original Article 2.2 of the *By-law on Policy Committee* be amended and numbered 2.3 to state:

- 2.3 A maximum of two Policy Networkers per Regional Division can be elected by

a Regional Division in order to bring their representation on the Policy Committee to the minimum of one man and one woman, and

Original Article:

2.2 A maximum of two Policy Networkers per Regional Division as appointed by each Regional Division; and

Proposal 25.

It is proposed that original Article 2.3 of the *By-law on Policy Committee* be amended and be numbered 2.4, to state

2.4 Other members with expertise whom the Policy Committee may appoint

Original Article:

2.3 Such other persons as the Policy Committee may appoint.

Proposal 26.

It is proposed that Article 4. of the *By-law on Policy Committee* be amended by adding the word “proposals” as indicated in bold:

4. The Policy Committee may appoint such working groups from the membership, or elsewhere, as it considers necessary for the efficient development of policy **proposals**. Such working groups shall not generate policy **proposals** in isolation but shall listen to, and consult with, the Nova Scotia electorate and its community organizations.

Proposal 27.

It is proposed that Article 4.2 of the *By-law on Policy Committee* be amended to replace the phrase “rules of the Party and this Constitution” with the phrase in bold, to state:

4.2 Any working group or person to whom the Policy Committee has delegated powers or duties will be bound by the ***Constitution and By-laws***, as well as any terms or conditions set by the Policy Committee.

Proposal 28.

It is proposed that Article 5 of the *By-law on Policy Committee* be amended to remove the phrase “the Annual Convention” and replace “these rules” with the phrase in bold, to state:

5. The Policy Committee will act in a manner consistent with **the *Constitution and By-laws*** and with the will of the Party, as expressed through the General Meetings and any agreement with the Executive or Caucus.

Original Article

5. The Policy Committee will act in a manner consistent with these rules and with the will of the Party, as expressed through the Annual Convention and General Meetings and any agreement with the Executive or Caucus.

Group of Proposed Amendments on *By-law 3*

In revising *By-law 3* and converting it to the format of the other *By-laws*, groups of articles are combined and the rephrasing occasionally made phrases in other original articles redundant. Please study these proposals as a group.

Proposal 29.

It is proposed that rather than a number designation, *By-law 3* be known by its title, *By-law on Policy Development and Ratification*.

Proposal 30.

It is proposed that Articles 3 and 4 of *By-law 3* be combined and amended into new Article 1. to be stated:

1. All members of the Policy Committee submit policy proposals to the committee, and develop and refine proposed policy, and Policy Co-Convenors oversee and facilitate the policy development process

Proposal 31.

It is proposed that Article 5. and 6. of *By-law 3* be combined and amended into new Article 2. to state:

2. the Policy Committee will use consensus in policy proposal development and the Committee's approval of a proposal as ready to be presented to the membership will be determined by a simple majority vote with at least 75% of the Policy committee members voting.

Proposal 32.

It is proposed that Article 1 and 2 of *By-law 3* be combined and amended to state:

3. Individual members can make policy proposal submissions for consideration by the Policy Committee or for presentation directly to the membership at the next General Meeting. Policy proposals from a member must be in the following format and order:

- 3.1 subject/policy area title
- 3.2 relevant principles, beliefs and the current state of affairs on the subject
- 3.3 a numbered list of specific subject-based policy suggestions
- 3.4 a concluding section including cost estimates if applicable
- 3.5 date of submission
- 3.6 citations
- 3.7 endorsing members if submission is to go directly to membership

Proposal 33.

It is proposed that a new Article be added to *By-law 3* on the requirements for a notice to the membership about policy proposals, to be stated:

4. The Policy Committee is required to issue a policy notice at least 60 days before the General Meeting at which policy proposals are to be considered. The notice must include:

- 4.1 a call for policy proposal submissions from the membership
- 4.2 the details on the requirements for a policy proposal submission
- 4.3 the required minimum number of endorsements by members
- 4.3 the date by which submissions must be received by the Policy Committee
- 4.4 the address for electronic submissions and/or mailed submissions

Proposal 34.

It is proposed that Article 7 and its sub-articles in *By-law 3* be revised and amended to state:

5. The Policy Committee must give notice to all members of all policy proposals not less than thirty days prior to the General Meeting of the Party at which they are to be presented. Policy proposals include

- 5.1 proposals approved by the Policy Committee
- 5.2 proposals submitted by the membership that met all requirements

Proposal 35.

It is proposed that Article 8 and its sub-article in *By-law 3* be amended to state:

6. Policy proposals are presented to the membership at a General Meeting for voting by the Bonser process in which proposals with 60% support by membership are passed, proposals with less than 40% support are rejected, and any policy that neither passed nor failed may be sent to a revision committee.

6.1 All policy proposals that have been prepared for the General Meeting will be presented for ratification before the membership considers revisions

6.2 As time permits, a policy that neither passed nor failed the first vote will go to a revision committee formed at the General Meeting to prepare a revision to be brought back for a second membership vote at that General Meeting.

6.2.1 Any member may participate in this committee

6.2.2 A member of the Policy Committee or a member with policy proposal experience should Chair this committee

6.3 After committee revision of a proposal, a second membership vote will be held as time permits, and proposals that do not obtain 60% support on this second vote are rejected.

6.4 Any policy proposal that neither passed nor failed and was not presented for a second membership vote at that General Meeting is returned to the Policy Committee for further work, along with a copy of any revision done by a committee at that General Meeting.

Proposal 36.

In order that policy be kept relevant and readily applicable to Platform development before an election, it is proposed that a new Article be added to *By-law 3*, to state:

7. Each adopted policy is valid for three years only, unless renewed or removed at a General Meeting.

GROUP OF ADDITIONAL PROPOSED AMENDMENTS to the *By-Law on Executive of the Party*

Proposal 37.

It is proposed that Article 3 of the *By-law on Executive of the Party* be numbered 2 and that 2.1 be amended to separate the Co-Presidents and Policy Convenors into separate articles so that 2.1 would be stated

2.1 the Co-Presidents (one male, one female) who shall be elected at an Annual General Meeting in accordance with the Constitution and By-laws

Proposal 38.

For continuity on the Executive, and acknowledging of the effort needed to come to know and apply the Constitution and By-laws, it is proposed to have staggered elections of 2-year terms for the Co-presidents with the female position open for election on the even numbered years and the male Co-president position open for election on the odd numbered years, to be stated in the *By-law on Executive of the Party* as:

2.1.1. the Co-Presidents serve a staggered two-year term with the female Co-President to be elected in even-numbered years and the male Co-President to be elected in odd-numbered years.

Proposal 39.A –paired with 39.B

If the staggered 2-year term for Co-Presidents is accepted, then it is proposed that the past president position be eliminated from the *By-law on Executive of the Party* through rescinding Article 3.2

[[3.2 one of the immediate Past-Presidents, as determined by agreement between the immediate Past Co-Presidents.]]

Proposal 39.B

If the staggered 2-year term for Co-Presidents is accepted, then there is only one immediately Past-President, therefore it is proposed that Article 3.2 in the *By-law on Executive of the Party* be re numbered 2.2 and be amended to state:

2.2 the immediate Past-President

Proposal 40.

It is proposed that a new Article be added to the *By-law on Executive of the Party*, and numbering adjusted as needed, to state:

2.# two Policy Co-Convenors (one male, one female) who shall be elected

annually at the Annual General Meeting in accordance with the Constitution and By-laws.

Proposal 41.

It is proposed that Article 3.7 of the *By-law on Executive of the Party* be renumbered as needed and amended to allow more than one Official Agent by the addition of the phrase in bold:
2.# the Official Agent **or agents**, for whom the requirements and duties are set by current provincial legislation and regulations, and whose selection by the Executive will be guided by these requirements.

AND

a new Article added under the Article 2.# to address the voting rights in the case of more than one Official Agent, to be stated:

2.#.1 if the Party has more than one Official Agent, the Executive is to select one Official Agent to have voting rights at Executive meetings, and the selected Official Agent may designate in writing or verbally through the Co-President another Official agent of the Party who is to exercise their voting right in their absence.

Proposal 42.

It is proposed that Article 12.1 be added to the *By-law on Executive of the Party*, to be stated:

12.1 A member in any Officer position on the Party Executive may hold also a Regional Division representative position.

Group of Proposals to establish two Articles from Article 5 of the *By-law on Executive of the Party*

Proposal 43.

It is proposed that Article 5.1 and 5.2 be moved from Article 5. of the *By-law on Executive of the Party* to a new Article on “Removal of a Member of the Executive of the Party,” under which Article 5.1 would be rescinded as redundant

[[5.1 An Officer may be removed from that position by a 75% vote of the Executive in which the Officer in question has no vote.]]

AND the new Article would incorporate 5.2, amended to be consistent with *the By-law on Leadership*, to be stated:

Removal of a Member of the Executive of the Party:

#.1 Any Member except the Leader may be removed from the Executive of the Party by a 75% vote of the full Executive except the Member in question.

Proposal 44.

It is proposed that new Articles be added to give guidance for the “Removal of a Member of the Executive of the Party,” to be stated:

#.1.1 The Executive is to have used the processes in the By-laws to

attempt to address the situation, except those cases involving serious disobedience to the Constitution and By-laws or gross misconduct where the Executive can act directly for removal.

- #.1.2 If the Member removed is a Regional Division Representative then the Regional Division is to be informed within 24 hours of the action taken by the Executive.

Proposal 45.

It is proposed that Articles 5. of the *By-law on Executive of the Party* be amended to be the Article on Filling a Vacancy in the Executive, except for the elected Leadership, by rescinding 5.5 because it is a generalized statement that conflicts with other Articles in the By-laws

[[5.5 The Executive may determine whether any position elected at the Annual General Meeting that is vacant shall be filled by:
5.5.1 Electronic ballot of all Members, or
5.5.2 A General Meeting, or
5.5.3 The next highest polling candidate of appropriate gender at the previous election.]]

AND incorporating Articles 5.3 and 5.4, to be stated:

- 5. Filling a Vacancy in the Executive, except for the elected Leadership
 - 5.1 Any vacancy of a Regional Representative on the Executive must be filled by calling for nominations from the relevant Regional Division.
 - 5.2 A vacant Officer position, regardless of the reason for the vacancy, must be filled as soon as possible by a means determined by the Executive.

Proposal 46.

It is proposed that new Articles be add under 5.2 of Proposal 45, which may be voted on individually or as a group:

- 5.2.1 Any Officer position elected by the membership at the Annual General Meeting that is vacant must be filled by:
 - 5.2.1.1 Electronic ballot of all Members, or
 - 5.2.1.2 A General Meeting, or
 - 5.2.1.3 Appointment of a qualified member as an Interim Officer by the Executive from members offering for the position in response to its availability having been announced to all members; an interim appointment terminates at the next General Meeting.
- 5.2.2 Any Officer position elected by the Executive that is vacant must be filled by:
 - 5.2.2.1. Election of an eligible member from the Executive,
or
 - 5.2.2.2 Appointment of a member with the necessary

qualification from members offering for the position in response to its availability having been announced to all members.

- 5.3 The Official Agent position must not be vacant at anytime, therefore the Executive is to have always a Signing Officer of the Party designated to move into the interim position as Official Agent should the Official Agent position unexpectedly be vacated.

Note RE: Article 6

At 2009 AGM, membership requested that Article 6 of the By-law on the Executive of the Party be reviewed to allow the Executive to incur debt and to specify under what circumstances. After consulting financial advisors at the Bank of Nova Scotia and the Royal Bank, based on present level of membership, fund raising history, and financial status, no amendment proposal has been made and Article 6. remains in effect so the Executive will not permitted to incur debt under any circumstance at this time.

GROUP OF ADDITIONAL PROPOSED AMENDMENTS on the *By-law on Leadership*

Proposal 47.

It is proposed that Article 5. of the *By-law on Leadership* be amended as indicated in bold and that Article 5.1 be added, to state:

5. In the event that the Leader steps down or is otherwise unable to serve, the First Deputy Leader shall assume the office **as Interim** Leader.

5.1 If the First Deputy Leader is unable to serve, the Second Deputy Leader will assume the office as Interim Leader

Proposal 48.

It is proposed that new Articles be added to the *By-law on Leadership* to address vacancy in the position of First Deputy Leader which would state:

#The First Deputy Leader position that becomes vacant must be filled by:

#.1 Electronic ballot of all Members as soon as possible, or

#.2 General Meeting

#.3 Appointment by the Executive of the Second Deputy Leader as an Interim First Deputy Leader, such an appointment to terminate at the next General Meeting.

Proposal 49.

It is proposed that a new Article be added as 8.1 of the *By-law on Leadership*, that a phrase from Article 8. be moved to form a new Article 8.2, and that the number of present Article 8.1 be amended to 8.3 to state:

8. The Leadership shall be the spokespersons for the Party in any formal statements made to the news media on behalf of the Party as a whole.

8.1. The Leadership in consultation with the Shadow Cabinet is to base

position statements on the Principles of the Party, the policies ratified by the membership, the Platform, and the collective wisdom of Nova Scotians.

8.2 Such statements must be consistent with the Party's *Constitution and By-laws*.

8.3 From time to time as judged necessary, the Leadership may appoint a spokesperson, or spokespersons, to deal with local and regional issues and to speak on behalf of the Party with respect to the specified issues. Regardless of who speaks, responsibility for any such communications rests with the Leadership.

Original Articles

8. The Leadership shall be the spokespersons for the Party in any formal statements made to the news media on behalf of the Party as a whole. Such statements will reflect the provisions of this Constitution.

8.1 From time to time as judged necessary the Leadership may appoint a spokesperson, or spokespersons, to deal with local and regional issues and to speak on behalf of the Party with respect to the specified issues. Regardless of who speaks, responsibility for any such communications rests with the Leadership.

Proposal 50.

It is proposed that new articles be added to the *By-law on Leadership* to incorporate the Genuine Progress Index approach into the cost analyses done by the Green Party of Nova Scotia, so that the new articles would state:

#The Leadership, in consultation with the Shadow Cabinet, will apply the Genuine Progress Index approach

#.1 to evaluate the cost of the Party's position statements, the Platform, and policies as appropriate

#.2 to critique government expenditures and priorities, and the position statements and platforms of other Parties.

GROUP OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS to *By-laws 1*

Proposal 51.

It is proposed that By-Law 1. no longer have a number designation and be named *By-law on Election of Officers of the Party by the Membership* and that the articles be put into the same format as the majority of the By-laws.

Proposal 52.

It is proposed that Article 1 of *By-Law 1*. be amended to state:

1. Elections of Officers of the Party by the membership will be conducted in accordance with the Constitution and By-laws, and will normally be part of the Annual General Meeting.

Original Article

1. Elections for executive members of the Green Party of Nova Scotia will normally be conducted at the Annual General Meeting (article 9.2.1) or under the terms of article 9.4.3. This by-law provides expanded instruction on the conduct of selecting executive members.

Proposal 53.

It is proposed that since some Officers are elected by the Executive, the term “executive elections” be replaced by “election of Officers by the membership;” and since the position of Party Organizer is not necessarily filled, then Article 2 of *By-Law 1*. be amended to replace “the party organizer” with “an organizer,” as indicated in bold:

2. The Executive will appoint an election team to organize and conduct the **election of Officers by the membership**. This team will consist of at least **an** organizer and a returning officer. This team will be responsible to the current executive and membership for:

Proposal 54.

It is proposed that Article 2.1 of *By-law 1*. be amended to set a timeframe and to refer to the election notice, and the information that the notice be to contained in the new Articles, to be stated:

2.1 the election notice to the membership to be received not less than 60 days prior to the Annual General Meeting at which the election is to be held

2.1.1 the election notice will include the

2.1.1.1 voting methods and dates; mail-in ballots must be received at least one business day before in-person voting

2.1.1.2 the voting rights requirements

2.1.1.3 the Officer positions that are open; and

2.1.1.4 the requirements to declare intent to run for one of the Officer positions

2.1.1.5 the electronic and/or mailing address to which “Declaration of Intent to Run” documentation is to be sent

2.1.1.6 the closing date for documentation to be received which should allow for appropriate notification to the membership of the candidates for each position normally 30 days before a General Meeting at which the election is to take place.

Proposal 55.

It is proposed that the number for Article 2.4 of *By-law 1*. be amended to 2.5

2.5 actively seeking candidates for the positions.

Proposal 56.

It is proposed that if the proposal on Article 2.1 and its sub-articles is accepted, that Article 3 of *By-law 1*. be rescinded as redundant.

[[3. All documents required in this By-law shall be sent to the election team at an address to be determined by the Executive and promulgated publicly in reasonable time to allow for prospective candidates to be selected, come forward and submit the required documents.]]

Proposal 57.

It is proposed that Article 4. of *By-law 1.* be rescinded as it is already stated in the By-law on Membership with amendment proposed for the legal age issue for some positions.

[[4. The executive positions will be open to all members of the Green Party of Nova Scotia.]]

Proposal 58.

It is proposed that Article 5. of *By-law 1.* be amended to replace “an executive” with “one of the Officer positions,” to remove redundancies and inconsistencies; and that Article 5.3 be amended to acknowledge electronic submissions of the photograph, and that the article numbers be adjusted as necessary, to be stated:

#. To formally declare their intent to run for one of the Officer positions, candidates shall submit “Declaration of Intent to Run” documentation to be received by the date published in the election announcement. Declaration of intent to run documents shall include:

...
#.3 a current photograph in a format specified in the election notice for electronically submitted or mailed documents

Original Articles

5. To formally declare their intent to run for an executive position candidates shall submit a “Declaration of intent to run document” by a date as set by the executive (or those authorized to act on their behalf) depending on the voting method. This date should allow for appropriate notification to the membership. Declaration of intent to run documents shall include:

...
5.3 a current photograph (at least 3 x 5 inches).

Proposal 59. (not needed if By-law on Voting by Preferential Ballot already accepted)

It is proposed that Articles 7. 8. 9. 10. 11. and 12 be moved to a new *By-law on Voting by Preferential Ballot* to avoid repetition of the information in each by-law that refers to this voting method.

GROUP OF Additional PROPOSED AMENDMENTS to *By-laws 4.*

Proposal 60.

It is proposed that *By-Law 4* no longer have a number designation and be known by the title *By-law on Leadership Election*; that the format of the By-law be made consistent with the format of the majority of By-laws, and that Article 1 and Article 4 be rescinded as redundant to articles in the By-law on Leadership.

[[1. Leadership of the Green Party of Nova Scotia will be contested if the current leader is stepping down or if more than 50% of members in good standing petition to hold such an election (article 12.7)]]

[[4. The election will take place at the next Annual General Meeting (AGM) or Special General meeting (SGM). The AGM is held in conjunction with the annual convention.]]

Proposal 61.

It is proposed that Article 2. of *By-law 4* be amended to replace “the party organizer” with “an organizer,” and that the election team’s responsibilities be identified in new Articles under Article 2. to be stated:

2. The executive will appoint a leadership election team to organize and conduct the leadership election. This team will consist of at an organizer and a returning officer. In addition to the process of running the election, this team will be responsible for

2.1 the election notice to the membership to be received not less than 60 days prior to the Annual General Meeting at which the election is to be held

2.1.2 the election notice will include the

2.1.2.1 voting methods and dates; mail-in ballots must be received at least one business day before in-person voting

2.1.2.2 the voting rights requirements

2.1.2.3 the requirements to declare intent to run

2.1.2.4 the electronic and/or mailing address to which “Declaration of Intent to Run” documentation is to be sent

2.1.2.5 the closing date for documentation to be received, which must allow for verification of documentation followed by notification to the membership of the candidates for each position normally 30 days before a General Meeting at which the election is to take place.

Proposal 62.

It is proposed that if the proposal on Article 2.1 and its sub-articles is accepted, then Article 3 of *By-law 4*. be rescinded as redundant.

[[3. All documents required in this by-law shall be sent to the leadership election team at an address to be determined by the executive and promulgated publicly in reasonable time to allow for prospective candidates to be selected, come forward and submit the required documents.]]

Proposal 63.

It is proposed that Article 6 of *By-law 4* be amended to clarify voting age is the provincial legal voting age and not the membership voting age by the first day of the General Meeting and numbered as appropriate, to be stated

#. Candidacy for a leadership position is open to all members who are residents of Nova Scotia, who are Canadian citizens, and who are of provincial legal voting age by the first day of the General Meeting at which the election is to be held.

Original Article

6. The leadership contest (for Leader and Deputy Leader) will be open to all members of the Green Party of Nova Scotia who are residents of Nova Scotia, who are Canadian citizens and who are of voting age at the time of the first day of the convention or SGM.

Proposal 64.

Article 7 and its sub-articles, and Article 11 and its sub-Articles of *By-law 4* be combined:

#. To formally declare their intent to run for Leader or First Deputy Leader, candidates must submit "Declaration of Intent to Run" documentation to be received by the date published in the election notice.

#.1 Declaration of Intent to Run documents must include:

#.1.1 a 250-word letter of application stating reasons for seeking the leadership of the Green Party of Nova Scotia

#.1.2 proof of Nova Scotia residence and Canadian citizenship (photocopies accepted)

#.1.3 a current resume or *Curriculum Vita*; and

#.1.4 a current photograph in a format specified in the election notice for electronically submitted or mailed documents.

Proposal 65.

Article 10. of *By-law 4* be numbered as appropriate and amended to state:

10. In the Declaration of Intent to Run documentation, each candidate for Leader must name the candidate for First Deputy Leader who is to run on the same ticket under the name of the candidate for Leader. Failure to receive Declaration of Intent to Run documentation from the candidate for First Deputy Leader by the promulgated closing date will be regarded as formal withdrawal of the candidate for Leader from the leadership race.

Original Article

10. Candidates for the Leadership of the Green Party of Nova Scotia must be prepared to name a Deputy Leader candidate by one week prior to the first day of the AGM or by the day of notice for the SGM. Failure to do so will be regarded as formal withdrawal from the leadership race.

Proposal 66.

It is proposed that Article 12 through 14 in *By-law 4* be combined into a new Article to be stated:

At the General Meeting at which the election is to be held. each candidate for the position of Leader must:

- #.1 be nominated by a party member in a speech of no more than 10 minutes
- #.2 accept the nomination in a speech that will not exceed 30 minutes and will immediately follow the nominator's speech, and
- #.3 participate in a 30-minute question and answer session with the membership

Proposal 67.

It is proposed that Articles 15 through 18 of *By-law 4*. be moved to the new *By-law on Voting by Preferential Ballot*.

GROUP OF ADDITIONAL PROPOSED AMENDMENTS on the *By-law on Membership*

Proposal 68.

It is proposed that new Articles be added to the *By-law on Membership*, to state:

Any member accepting membership fees on behalf of Green Party Nova Scotia from a person to renew membership or to apply for membership must:

- #.1 collect the contact information that is required on the GPNS membership application, and a statement that this person is not a member of another provincial political party.
- #.2 issue a personal receipt to verify acceptance of the fee
- #.3 notify the EDA Treasurer or Executive Treasurer within 24 hours of the membership application and fee received, and make arrangements to have application and payment delivered to the Treasurer, who will verify payment, notify the Party Membership Secretary, and arrange for an official receipt.

Proposal 69.

It is proposed that Article 7.4 of the *By-law on Membership* be amended with the addition of the words in bold, to state:

- 7. A person shall cease to be a member when:
 - 7.4 their membership is revoked due to **serious** disobedience of the Constitution or By-laws, **or gross misconduct**.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS on By-laws 2. and 6.

Proposal 70.

It is proposed the By-law 2 and By-law 6 be known by their titles presently stated within each by-law rather than the number and that the Articles of each by-law be set into a format consistent with the format of the rest of the By-laws.

GROUP OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS on the *By-law on Shadow Cabinet*

Proposal 71.

It is proposed that a new series of Articles to outline the duties of Shadow Cabinet members be added to the *By-law on Shadow Cabinet*, to state:

5. Shadow Cabinet members are individually and in collaboration
 - 5.1 to keep abreast of the issues relevant to the given portfolio,
 - 5.2 to review the stands of Nova Scotia's non-governmental organizations, industry associations, and the input from Nova Scotians on issues relevant to the given portfolio,
 - 5.3 to study the Genuine Progress Index material relevant to the given portfolio,
 - 5.4 to critique the government material on the issues
 - 5.5 to advise the Leadership on positions for the issues and help to draft communications
 - 5.6 to prepare material for the Policy Committee,
 - 5.7 to advise fellow Shadow Cabinet members on interdependent issues
 - 5.8 to prepare material for the Platform
 - 5.9 to draft the responses to questions in questionnaires from NGO, industries, interest groups, and individuals, particularly during the election.

Proposal 72.

It is proposed that a new series of Articles related to application of the Genuine Progress Index be added to the *By-law on Shadow Cabinet*, to state:

6. The Shadow Cabinet members are to apply the Genuine Progress Index approach
 - 6.1 to guide policy and Platform development
 - 6.2 to evaluate the cost of the Party's position statements, the Platform, and policies as appropriate
 - 6.3 to critique government expenditures and priorities, and the position statements and platforms of other Parties.

GROUP OF PROPOSALS RELATED TO MI'KMAQ FIRST NATION

These proposals are in response to membership comments during and after the 2009 Annual General Meeting.

The Party has a responsibility to establish a respectful sustainable relationship with the Aboriginal Peoples of the province, and to learn methods of dialogue and processes of mutual understanding with the Mi'kmaq First Nation. The Party must prepare to be part of the government of NS, which not only has negotiation, consultation, public education and awareness, and other issues in direct relation with Aboriginal issues at the provincial level but also national and international responsibilities. The political status of the Mi'kmaq First Nation, the governance structures as well as the relevant legal framework, require that the Party also

become informed on the Mi'kmaq-Nova Scotia-Canada Tripartite Forum and the relevant Supreme Court Rulings.

The founding constitutional intent to have the Mi'kmaq First Nation represented on the Executive of the Party is upheld in the Constitution and By-law (revised Oct. 25, 2009) and is not in question in these proposals. In recognition of the discussion held at the 2009 AGM, an alternative approach to such representation is proposed for membership consideration which would meet the intent of Regional Divisions to give voice and a supportive unit to communities that have a sense of identity and common local interests, and set the process for Mi'kmaq First Nation representation into the existing Organizational Units.

The following proposals allow Aboriginal members of the Party to participate in all the structural units of the Party (including EDAs and RDs based on electoral district boundaries) while addressing the fact that our structures, based on the requirements of Elections NS, divide even individual Mi'kmaq First Nation communities into separate EDAs in many cases, and dilute the voice of the Mi'kmaq First Nation.

Proposed Amendment to the *CONSTITUTION*: (75% support required)

Proposal 73.

It is proposed that Article 5.3 of the Constitution be amended to acknowledge that regional divisions are based on geographic regions of political identity, which may be other than contiguous electoral districts, by the addition of the phrase underlined and the rewording and moving of the phrase in bold to state:

5.3. Regional Division

5.3.1. An organizational unit in which **membership and voting rights are granted** to all Party members residing within a group of contiguous electoral districts, as defined in the *Elections Act* of the province of Nova Scotia, or within geographic regions having another basis for political identity. The boundaries, structure, and function of a Regional Division are governed by this Constitution and By-laws.

Original Article:

5.3. Regional Division

5.3.1. An organizational unit in which all Party members residing within a group of contiguous electoral districts, as defined in the *Elections Act* of the province of Nova Scotia have membership and voting rights. The boundaries, structure, and function of a Regional Division are governed by this Constitution and By-laws.

Two Proposed Amendments to the *By-Law on Regional Divisions*

Proposal 74.

It is proposed that Article 2 of the *By-law on Regional Divisions* be amended from 10 to 11 Regional Divisions and that the new Regional Division be the Mi'kmaq Division as described in new Article 2.11:

2. There are **11** Regional Divisions, as follows: . . .

2.11 Mi'kmaq Division constituted of the Party members in the Mi'kmaq First Nation communities: Acadia, Annapolis Valley, Bear River, Chapel Island First, Eskasoni, Glooscap, Membertou, Millbrook, Paq'tnekek, Pictou Landing, Shubenacadie, Wagmatcook, and Waycobah.

Proposal 75.

It is proposed that Article 5.4 of the *By-law on Regional Divisions* be amended by the addition of the phrase in bold, to state:

5.4 a representative from each Electoral District Association and Constituency Division that is formed within the boundaries of the Regional Division **if electoral districts define that Regional Division**

Proposed Amendment to the *By-Law on Executive of the Party*

Proposal 76.

It is proposed that **if Proposals 73, 74, and 75 are accepted** then Article 3.5 of the *By-Law on Executive of the Party* be **rescinded**.

[[3.5 one Aboriginal representative selected by those members who are Aboriginal, using a selection process of their choice]]