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LEADERSHIP
CHEFFERIE

Rules Governing
Leadership Contest

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DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of the 2026 Leadership Vote Rules (the “**Rules**”), the following terms have the following meanings:

“**Applicant**” means a prospective Leadership Contestant who has submitted Application Documents and is seeking approval to run in the Leadership Contest;

“**Application Documents**” means all documents which must be completed and submitted for a person to be considered an Applicant to be a Leadership Contestant;

“**Campaign Email Address**” means the email address provided by an Applicant or Leadership Contestant for the purposes of communicating with the Party’s Chief Electoral Officer about matters related to their candidacy under the Rules;

“**Campaign Period**” means the period of time commencing no earlier than Monday September 1st, 2025 and no later than Monday September 8th, 2025 and terminating at the announcement of a winning Contestant for the position of Leader of the New Democratic Party no later than March 29th, 2026;

“**Canada Elections Act**” or the “**Act**” means the *Canada Elections Act*, S.C. 2000, c. 9, as amended;

“**Contribution**” shall have the same meaning as in the Canada Elections Act;

“**Party’s Chief Electoral Officer**” or “**CEO**” means the person appointed by the Executive Committee of the New Democratic Party of Canada to make all arrangements for the conduct of balloting for the Leadership Contest;

“**Constitution**” means the Constitution of the New Democratic Party of Canada, effective April 2021;

“**Deputy Chief Electoral Officer**” or “**DCEO**” means a deputy appointed by the Chief Electoral Officer and ratified by the Executive;

“**Designated Representative**” means an individual identified by the Applicant and/or Leadership Contestant to represent them and act on their behalf. The Designated Representative may not be the same as the Leadership Campaign Agent under the *Canada Elections Act*. A Leadership Campaign Agent is an individual appointed under subsection 478.5(1), including the financial agent of a leadership contestant;

“**Executive**” means the Executive Committee of the New Democratic Party of Canada constituted under the Constitution;

“**Financial Agent**” (or “**Leadership Campaign Agent**”) means an individual appointed by a Leadership Contestant, in writing in a form prescribed by Elections Canada’s Chief Electoral Officer under s. 478.5(1) of the Canada Elections Act. The Financial Agent is responsible for administering the Leadership Contestant’s financial transactions and reporting as required under the Canada Elections Act;

“**Leadership Event**” is an event organized by the Party for the purposes of the Leadership Contest;

“**Leadership Campaign**” refers to the group of people closely engaged in a Leadership Contestant’s campaign and includes but is not limited to the Leadership Contestant, their Designated Representative, their Financial Agent, their Membership Organizers, strategists, and campaign organizers and includes people engaged as volunteers;

“Leadership Campaign Expense” means any expense reasonably incurred only by a Leadership Contestant or Financial Agent and in respect of the conduct or management of the Leadership Contestant’s campaign, including amounts paid, liabilities incurred, the commercial value of goods and services donated or provided, other than volunteer labour;

“Leadership Contest” means a competition for the selection of the leader of the party;

“Leadership Contestant” means a person approved by the New Democratic Party of Canada as a Leadership Contestant under the Rules, who is registered as a “leadership contestant” pursuant to section 478.3(3) of the *Canada Elections Act* and who has not been disqualified under the Leadership Rules. Applicants who are provisionally approved by the Leadership Vote Committee are referred to in these Rules as Leadership Contestants and their registration is conditional on paying all fees by the required timelines;

“Leadership Election Date” means the date on which the CEO declares that the Leadership Vote shall be concluded and a new Party Leader shall be declared;

“Leadership Rules” (or the **“Rules”**) refers to the Rules set out herein;

“Leadership Vote” has the meaning assigned in Article VI, 3.a of the Constitution;

“Leadership Vote Committee” means the committee established to determine an Applicant’s eligibility to be a Leadership Contestant in the Leadership Vote;

“Membership List” means the list of registered New Democrats eligible to vote in the Leadership Vote;

“Membership Organizer” a person registered with the CEO and authorized to register new Party members during the Campaign Period;

“Party” means the New Democratic Party (“NDP”) of Canada;

“Table Officers” means the Officers identified in Article VI of the Constitution;

“Third Party” includes any corporation, society, unincorporated association, partnership, or individual who may engage in advertising or political speech on their own account, but for greater clarity does not include:

- a. volunteers who assist with a Leadership Campaign without remuneration, and who do not incur expenses in their personal capacity or on behalf of any entity other than a Leadership Campaign;
- b. individuals who are employed by a Leadership Campaign acting in the scope of their employment, and who do not incur expenses in their personal capacity or on behalf of any entity other than a Leadership Campaign; or
- c. contractors who are retained at arm’s length by a Leadership Campaign to provide campaign-related services, including advertising and polling, in accordance with these Rules, and who are paid by the Leadership Campaign at fair market value.

“Voting Period” means the period during which the Party’s members can cast a vote in the Leadership Vote;

Note: Capitalized terms used but not otherwise defined under the Rules shall have the meaning given to them in the Party’s Constitution and/or the Canada Elections Act.

PART 1

CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER

A. General

1. All Applicants and Leadership Contestants must comply with the *Canada Elections Act*, the Constitution, as well as these Leadership Rules, which regulate all activities related to seeking the leadership of the Party.
2. These Rules shall be interpreted by the Party's Chief Electoral Officer ("CEO") in a fair, reasonable and equitable manner, having regard to all circumstances and in the best interests of the Party and members of the Party.
3. These Rules will operate without discrimination on the basis of race, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, age or disability.
4. The Rules may be amended by the CEO during the Leadership Contest to facilitate a fair and efficient election process and accommodate unexpected issues as they arise.
5. Any amendments to the Rules shall be ratified by the Executive and communicated to Applicants and Leadership Contestants via their Campaign Email Address and to the Federal Council. No rule changes may be made retroactive.

B. Enforcement and Administration

1. The CEO shall be appointed by the Executive and the appointment shall be ratified by the Federal Council.
2. The CEO may appoint a Deputy Chief Electoral Officer ("DCEO") to act on their behalf as required. Such appointment shall be subject to ratification by the Executive. The CEO may delegate powers to the DCEO and the DCEO shall have the power to do anything the CEO may do under these Rules, subject to the CEO's override.
3. The CEO shall be bilingual in English and French.
4. The CEO shall interpret and enforce these Rules and regulations of the Leadership Contest as set out in the Constitution.
5. The CEO shall be familiar with relevant provisions under the *Canada Elections Act*. The CEO shall serve as the Party's chief agent and inform Elections Canada about the dates of the Leadership Contest as identified under s. 478.1(1) of the Act.
6. With respect to any matter involving alleged foreign interference which is the subject of classified information, the powers of the CEO and the Leadership Vote Committee are delegated to the National Director or a designate, provided the designate has the required security clearance. The National Director or their designate may exercise all powers of the CEO and the Leadership Vote Committee as they relate to the alleged foreign interference. To the extent permitted, the National Director or their designate shall consult with the CEO and/or the Leadership Vote Committee and provide an opportunity for the affected Applicant to respond to any allegations as reasonable in the circumstances.
7. Each Leadership Contestant shall identify a Designated Representative to the CEO.

8. Each Leadership Contestant shall provide an email address for the purpose of receiving notices from the CEO (“Campaign Email Address”). Emails sent by the CEO to the Campaign Email Address will be deemed received by the Leadership Contestant, their Financial Agent, and their Designated Representative.
9. The CEO shall meet at an early date with the Designated Representative of each Leadership Contestant to provide an orientation to the Rules and regulations governing the Leadership Race and logistical and other details as applicable.
10. At the first Convention following the conclusion of the Leadership Contest, the CEO shall report on the leadership campaign, the application of the Rules and regulations and any recommendations for future contests.
11. Staffing support for the CEO shall be provided by the Federal Office.

C. Leadership Contest Dates

1. The NDP Leadership Contest shall commence no earlier than Monday September 1, 2025 and no later than Monday September 8, 2025. The NDP Leadership Contest shall end no earlier than Sunday March 22, 2026 and no later than March 29, 2026.

D. Leadership Vote Committee

1. The Leadership Vote Committee shall be comprised of three members:
 - a. the National Director;
 - b. a Table Officer; and
 - c. an external member.
2. The Table Officers shall determine which Table Officer will be on the Leadership Vote Committee.
3. The Table Officers shall recommend a candidate for the external member of the Leadership Vote Committee, and their appointment shall be ratified by the Executive.
4. The Leadership Vote Committee’s mandate is to review the Application Documents from all Applicants and determine which Applicants will become Leadership Contestants. The Leadership Vote Committee shall receive all Application Documents.
5. The Leadership Vote Committee shall approve or reject Applications for Leadership Contestants. To determine whether to accept or reject an Application, the Leadership Vote Committee shall consider:
 - a. The Applicant’s compliance with eligibility criteria set out in these Rules, including meeting the principles and core values of the Party;
 - b. The principles of the Party and the mandate of the Leader of the Party;
 - c. The best interests of the Party as a whole;
 - d. The need for Leadership Contestants to consistently show integrity, honesty, professionalism, leadership, and respect for human rights, diversity, and equity; and
 - e. Any other consideration that is appropriate in the circumstances.

6. The Leadership Vote Committee shall strive to make decisions via consensus. If consensus cannot be reached, decisions shall be made by a simple majority.
7. The Leadership Vote Committee shall advise all Applicants of whether their Application is approved or rejected in writing.
8. Only upon the Leadership Vote Committee's approval shall an Applicant be considered a Leadership Contestant.
9. Once approved by the Leadership Vote Committee, the Leadership Contestant shall apply to the Chief Electoral Officer of Elections Canada for registration as a leadership contestant under the *Canada Elections Act* [see s. 478.2(1)].
10. All members of the leadership committee are prohibited from working on any leadership campaign or operating in ways that may be considered biased against any potential leadership candidate in order to ensure an impartial and fair process and are required to sign an NDA in order to protect the private information of potential leadership candidates.

E. Applications

1. These Rules governing Applications for Leadership Contestants are based on the following key principles:
 - a. That the Party's leadership represents the diversity of our country;
 - b. That the selection of the Party's leader is the right of Party members;
 - c. That the Party's Leadership Contests must be democratic, open, and fair;
 - d. That the Party select a leader who is suitable to represent the Party in Parliament;
 - e. That all Leadership Contestant's behaviour and public commentary aligns with the reputation and public image of the Party; and
 - f. That the NDP's Leadership Contestants do not adversely affect the interests of the NDP.
2. The Party seeks to approve a slate of Leadership Contestants that uphold and exemplify the core values of the Party. These include:
 - a. Integrity of action and words
 - b. Honesty
 - c. Professionalism and leadership
 - d. Respect for and commitment to human rights, diversity, and equity
3. To stand as a Leadership Contestant, an individual must meet the following criteria:
 - a. They must be a member of the Party on or before the thirtieth (30th) calendar day prior to the submission of the application documents.
 - b. They must be legally eligible to stand as a candidate for election in accordance with the Canada Elections Act.

- c. Application Documents must be completed and received by the Leadership Vote Committee by 5:00pm Eastern Time on Thursday, January 1st, 2026
 - d. Within two (2) business days of receiving a request from a prospective Applicant or their designate, the CEO shall provide all required Application Documents.
4. A prospective Leadership Contestant shall be considered an Applicant only once they have completed and submitted the following Application Documents found in the Prospective Leadership Contestant Package:
- a. A signed Declaration of Candidate Responsibilities, which commits the individual to abide by the Party's Constitution, these Rules, and any other duly enacted rule or process of the Party;
 - b. A signed and fully completed Personal Disclosure Questionnaire with a resume, photo, and biography;
 - c. A signed copy of the Party's Membership List Confidentiality Agreement;
 - d. A signed statement on the NDP Anti-Harassment Policy;
 - e. A signed copy of a Direction and Authorization by Candidate and Official Agent form; and
 - f. The non-refundable vetting fee of \$1,500.
5. Within two (2) business days of receiving the Application Documents listed in paragraph 4, the CEO shall provide the Applicant with a list of Federal Council members and Presidents of the Party's federal Electoral District Associations, along with their contact information.
6. The Applicant shall provide the completed Nomination Signature Form to the Leadership Vote Committee by the deadline identified by the CEO. The Nomination Signature Form must be duly signed by five hundred (500) members in good standing of the New Democratic Party. The Party may set up an electronic system to facilitate this process. The Nomination Signature Form must meet the following parameters:
- a. a minimum of fifty (50) signatures must be from members in each of the following five (5) regions: Atlantic, Quebec, Ontario, British Columbia/North, and the Prairies;
 - b. at least fifty percent (50%) of the total required signatures must be from members who do not identify as a cis man;
 - c. a minimum of one hundred (100) signatures must be from members of equity-seeking groups, including but not limited to racialized members, Indigenous members, members of the LGBTQIA2S+ community, and persons living with disabilities.
 - d. At least ten percent (10%) of the total required signatures must come from young New Democrats at the time of signature collection.
7. The Leadership Vote Committee may require other documents to be completed and treated as Application Documents for the Leadership Contest.
8. Applicants shall make themselves available for interviews before the Leadership Vote Committee and shall provide documentation supporting, clarifying, or expanding upon information provided in the Personal Disclosure Questionnaire upon request by the Leadership Vote Committee.
9. The Leadership Vote Committee will make every effort to process Applications as quickly as possible. In the event an Applicant has not received an update regarding their Application 20 business days after submission, they may request an update in writing to the Leadership Vote Committee.

10. The entry fee for the leadership race has been set at \$100,000. Applicants approved by the Leadership Vote Committee are considered provisional Leadership Contestants, pending the submission of registration fees per the following schedule:
 - a. Submission of Nomination Signatures: \$25,000
 - b. Two Weeks Prior to the First Debate [Friday, October 31st, 2025]: \$25,000
 - c. 90 Days Prior to Leadership Election Date [Tuesday, December 30th, 2025]: \$25,000
 - d. Membership Cut Off Date [Wednesday, January 28th, 2026]: \$25,000

The Leadership Vote Committee will confirm registration of the Leadership Contestant following receipt of the final registration fee.

F. Requests for Review of Rejected Applications

1. In the event that an Application is rejected by the Leadership Vote Committee, the Applicant may request that the decision be Reviewed.
2. The Review will be completed by the three Table Officers who are not on the Leadership Vote Committee (the “Review Committee”).
3. The following process shall apply to the Review:
 - a. An Applicant may seek a Review within two (2) business days of receiving the notice of the rejection.
 - b. Upon receipt of a request for Review, the Leadership Vote Committee shall provide its reasons for rejection in writing to the Applicant and the Review Committee within two (2) business days.
 - c. Within two (2) business days of receipt of such reasons, the Applicant shall deliver written submission in support of their request for Review to the Review Committee. The Applicant must include in their request for Review the following:
 - i. All documents the Applicant relies upon; and
 - ii. All arguments the Applicant relies upon in support of their eligibility to be a Leadership Contestant.
 - d. The Review Committee will consider the Applicant’s Application Documents, the reasons provided for rejection, and the materials submitted by the Applicant in support of their Review.
 - e. The Review Committee shall determine the Review by majority vote within three (3) business days. In the case that the Review Committee reaches a tie, the CEO shall consider the same materials for the Review and reach a decision to break the tie.
4. The Review decision is final and no further review shall be considered.
5. All members of the Review Committee are prohibited from working on any leadership campaign or operating in ways that may be considered biased against any potential leadership candidate in order to ensure an impartial and fair process and are required to sign an NDA in order to protect the private information of potential leadership candidates.

F (i). Process for sanctions short of disqualification

1. The CEO is authorized to levy sanctions (save and except disqualification) against Leadership Contestants. Such sanctions shall be determined in consultation with the Table Officers. Following consultation, the CEO shall have the final power to determine any sanction short of disqualification.
2. The CEO will notify the Leadership Contestant of any sanctions short of disqualification, and provide brief reasons in writing.
3. If the Leadership Contestant disagrees with the sanction, they may request, in writing, a review by the Table Officers within two (2) business days of the notice of the sanction.
4. The Table Officers shall consider the request for review and decide the review as soon as possible. The Table Officers shall determine the review by majority vote and their decision will be final and no further review shall be considered.

F (ii). Process for disqualification

1. If the CEO determines that disqualification is appropriate, the CEO may recommend disqualification of a Leadership Contestant, which shall be vetted by the Table Officers and determined by the Executive.
2. The CEO shall provide written reasons and relevant documentation to support a recommendation of disqualification to the affected Leadership Contestant, their Designated Representative, and the Table Officers.
3. The Table Officers shall review the reasons and documentation and consider whether – assuming the CEO’s findings are true – disqualification could be an appropriate sanction.
 - a. If a simple majority of the Table Officers consider that disqualification could be an appropriate sanction, the recommendation shall be forwarded to the Executive for a determination.
 - b. If the Table Officers do not consider that disqualification could be an appropriate sanction, then the matter shall be returned to the CEO and the CEO may engage in the process for sanctions short of disqualification.
4. In the event the recommendation for disqualification is forwarded to the Executive for determination, the affected Leadership Contestant shall have the opportunity to file written submissions to the Executive, along with any documentation upon which they rely. Such submissions shall be delivered within five (5) business days of the date on which the CEO forwards the recommendation to the Executive.
5. The Executive shall determine the CEO’s recommendation, including the following considerations:
 - a. These Rules, including the principles and core values of the Party as set out herein, the Party’s Constitution, and the *Act*;
 - i. The principles of the Party and the mandate of the Leader of the Party;
 - ii. The best interests of the Party as a whole;
 - iii. The need for Leadership Contestants to consistently show integrity, honesty, professionalism, leadership, and respect for human rights, diversity, and equity;
 - b. The CEO’s recommendation along with any documentation provided by the CEO;

- c. The Leadership Contestant's written submissions and documentation submitted to the Executive;
and
 - d. Any other consideration appropriate in the circumstances.
6. The Executive's deliberations shall be in camera, and the Executive may decide to determine the question by way of a secret ballot vote. The Executive shall endeavour to determine the question as soon as possible following receipt of submissions and documents from the Leadership Contestant.
 7. The Executive shall decide the issue of disqualification by way of a simple majority.
 8. The Executive's determination is final and no further review shall be considered.
 9. If a Leadership Contestant is disqualified, their Financial Agent shall dispose of all Leadership Campaign Funds in accordance with the *Canada Elections Act* and by transferring them to the Party within 30 days. The CEO shall give any other directions appropriate in the circumstances for the Leadership Campaign to wrap up its activities.

G. Complaints & Violations of the Rules

1. All Leadership Contestants are responsible for ensuring that their Leadership Campaigns comply with the Rules, the Act, and the Constitution.
2. The CEO is empowered to investigate and adjudicate concerns or complaints related to a Leadership Contest.
3. During any investigation, Leadership Contestants have the right to provide a response to concerns or complaints. They may choose to do so through their Designated Representative.
4. Violation by a Leadership Contestant or their Leadership Campaign of these Rules or any Party rules, regulations, policies and any applicable legislation including the *Canada Elections Act*, may result in sanctions against the Leadership Contestant.

PART 2

LEADERSHIP CAMPAIGN EXPENSES & FINANCES

A. Financial Agent and Auditor

1. A Leadership Contestant must appoint one Financial Agent and one Auditor at a time and must appoint both in accordance with the *Canada Elections Act*, including but not limited to ensuring eligibility and consent to serve in these roles. (see ss. 478.5 and 478.6)
2. The Financial Agent is responsible for administering the Leadership Contestant's financial transactions and reporting as required under the *Canada Elections Act*. The Financial Agent shall be responsible for ensuring that the Rules are followed and obligations under the *Canada Elections Act* are met.
3. The Financial Agent must be a member in good standing of the Party.
4. The Financial Agent will be the Leadership Contestant's primary contact for communication with the CEO on financial matters.

B. Leadership Campaign Funds and Expenses

1. Only the Leadership Contestant or their Financial Agent may incur Leadership Campaign Expenses (see s. 478.73(5) of the *Canada Elections Act*).
2. Leadership Campaign Expenses shall be deemed to include the value of any goods and services, which have been used in whole or in part during the Campaign Period.
3. The spending limit on Leadership Campaign Expenses by a Leadership Contestant will be \$1,500,000. The following expenses are not subject to this spending limit:
 - a. Any sums paid as replacement salary for the Leadership Contestant;
 - b. Any expenditure made toward the childcare or dependent care costs of the Leadership Contestant and campaign team;
 - c. Additional accommodation (e.g. attendant) costs to support a Leadership Contestant living with a disability;
 - d. Any expenses related to fundraising;
 - e. Administration fees paid to the Party; or
 - f. Registration fees paid to the Party.

C. Contribution to Leadership Contestants

1. Contributions (monetary and non-monetary) and loans to Leadership Contestants are regulated by the *Canada Elections Act*, including Contributions received and loans incurred before the first day of the Leadership Contest.
2. All monetary donations to Leadership Campaigns must be processed through the Federal Party Office and are subject to a twenty-five percent (25%) administrative fee.

3. The Financial Agent is responsible for administering the Leadership Contestant's financial transactions and reporting them as required under the *Canada Elections Act* (see s. 478.71 and following).
4. Leadership Contestants shall be required to submit monthly reports throughout the Campaign Period to the CEO setting out their donations received, including:
 - a. the donation amount,
 - b. the name of the donor, and
 - c. the donor's region.

Monthly reports shall be submitted no later than the 10th day of the month following the month in which the donations were received.

5. The Financial Agent for each Leadership Contestant must open a separate bank account in the name of and exclusively for the Leadership Contestant's campaign. All monetary transactions related to the leadership campaign must be conducted through this account. (see s. 478.72(1) of the *Canada Elections Act*)
6. No Contributions to a Leadership Contestant's campaign may be deposited directly into the Leadership Contestant's or any other personal accounts.
7. It is prohibited to solicit Contributions in any provincial or territorial jurisdiction of Canada if a writ is dropped in the applicable jurisdiction for a provincial or territorial election until election day.

D. Financial Reporting & Surplus Funds

1. For the purposes of reporting Expenses, the Campaign Period shall be deemed to be the period of time commencing no later than Monday September 8, 2025 and terminating at the announcement of a winning Contestant for the position of Leader of the New Democratic Party no later than March 29, 2026
2. The Leadership Contestant's Financial Agent is responsible for ensuring that the reporting requirements set out under these Rules and the *Canada Elections Act* are followed (see s. 478.8 and following).
3. The Financial Agent must file a leadership campaign return, the Auditor's report, and other required documentation to the Chief Electoral Officer of Elections Canada as prescribed under the *Canada Elections Act* (see s. 478.8 (2) of the Act)
4. Each Leadership Contestant and Financial Agent will provide to the Party's CEO interim quarterly statements, a maximum of thirty (30) days after the end of each of the first four quarters of the Campaign Period, showing the total amount spent on the Leadership Contestant's campaign and the source of such money or goods and services, including the names of all contributors of such money or goods and services with a value exceeding \$20, to date.
5. All documents submitted to Elections Canada must be submitted to the CEO on the same date.
6. The Leadership Contestant's Financial Agent shall dispose of surplus Leadership Campaign Funds in accordance with the *Canada Elections Act* (see s. 478.94 and following) and by transferring them to the Party within 30 days.

E. Use of Electoral District Association and Committee Funds and Resources Prohibited

1. The use of the Party's electoral district association or committee funds by or in support of a Leadership Contestant's campaign, including for the promotion of a Leadership Contestant or to assist in paying personal expenses of a Leadership Contestant, is prohibited.
2. The use of the Party's electoral district association or committee resources, including email accounts; membership, volunteer and donor lists; tools, including Populus, bulk email programs, or other databases; by or in support of a Leadership Contestant's campaign is prohibited. The following exceptions apply:
 - a. Promoting the opportunity for electoral district association members to meet a Leadership Contestant;
 - b. Organizing and/or promoting an event to which all Contestants are invited; or
 - c. To announce an electoral district association's or committee's endorsement of a Leadership Contestant following a vote of eligible members at a duly constituted general membership meeting held for that purpose. For certainty, while an endorsement email may contain contact information for the endorsed Leadership Contestant, it cannot contain a fundraising request for a Leadership Contestant.

F. Third Parties

1. Leadership Contestants and their Leadership Campaigns are prohibited from cooperating with any Third Parties, including by sharing information or having the Third Party act under the direction of, or in accordance with advice from, the Leadership Contestant or their Leadership Campaign.
2. Leadership Contestants and their Leadership Campaigns shall not, accept, or assist any contributions whatsoever, including of advertising, by Third Parties, to the Leadership Contestant.
3. Leadership Contestants and their Leadership Campaigns shall not circumvent or attempt to circumvent, the expense limits set out in these Rules by cooperating with a Third Party.
4. Leadership Contestants and their Leadership Campaigns shall not invite or encourage Third Parties to spend funds to promote their campaign or oppose the campaign of another Leadership Contestant or other Leadership Contestants.
5. Leadership Contestants and their Leadership Campaigns shall not engage or assist a Third Party to sell memberships, solicit donations, or to campaign on behalf of a Leadership Contestant in such a manner that contravenes the Rules including the Leadership Contest Code of Conduct
6. In the event that a Third Party expresses support for or against a Leadership Contestant, in circumstances where the support, endorsement or position may reasonably lead to an inference of collusion between the Leadership Contestant and the Third Party, or that may reasonably raise doubts about the good faith of the Leadership Contestant's commitment to the values and/or principles of the NDP or the objectives and/or spirit of the Leadership Contest, the Leadership Contestant must take all necessary steps to dispel such inferences and/or doubts.
7. Nothing in these Rules precludes or discourages the independent, good faith participation or endorsement of affiliated labour organizations.

PART 3

CONTESTANT & CAMPAIGN CONDUCT

The Party is committed to providing a safe, respectful and welcoming environment for all, regardless of race, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, age or disability.

A. Conduct of Leadership Contestants and Leadership Campaign Teams

1. Leadership Contestants are responsible for the conduct of their Leadership Campaign.
2. All Leadership Contestants and their Leadership Campaign teams are expected to act with integrity and fairness and to uphold the values of democracy. All Leadership Contestants and their Leadership Campaign teams are required to adhere to these Rules, including the Leadership Contest Code of Conduct
3. A Leadership Contestant's campaign shall register with the CEO the name and contact information of up to three (3) Membership Organizers, who must be members in good standing of the Party and who must have signed any appropriate paperwork as identified by the CEO.
4. The Party will only accept new paper membership applications from registered Membership Organizers, and in accordance with the Constitution.
5. A Leadership Contestant's campaign shall comply with the Rules, the policies and regulations prescribed by the CEO, the Constitution, Elections Canada and the *Canada Elections Act*.
6. Any allegation regarding a breach of the *Canada Elections Act* may be referred to the CEO of Elections Canada for investigation.
7. Each Leadership Contestant or their Designated Representative must attend any unclassified briefings regarding foreign interference that are offered to them by the Government of Canada, Elections Canada, or any other relevant authority.

B. Leadership Contestant Social Media and Public Statements

1. Each Leadership Contestant is responsible for their own website and other social media accounts. This includes sites which must:
 - a. Be registered with the CEO, including by providing URLs; and
 - b. Contain a written declaration stating that the Leadership Contestant's views and positions do not necessarily represent those of the Party or the NDP Caucus, in a visible location.
2. No Leadership Contestant may speak on behalf of the Party. Leadership Contestants must make it clear that their public statements, views, and positions are their own, and not those of the Party or the NDP Caucus.

C. Leadership Contestants' Rights

Leadership Contestants shall be entitled to the following services from the Federal Party in a fair and equitable manner:

1. Provision of an electronic Membership List, within two (2) business days of the Leadership Contestant's approval by the Leadership Vote Committee.
2. Provision of updated Membership Lists as they are provided by provincial and territorial sections, where applicable.
3. Provision of an electronic Membership List as soon as is practicable after all new memberships are entered, following the 45th day (Friday, February 13th, 2026) prior to the Leadership Election Date.
4. Provision of additional Membership Lists, including a final voting list, on a schedule set by the CEO.
5. Provision of digital resources which include access to Populus, Action Kit fundraising pages, Leadership Contestant website templates, and individual membership pages.
6. Notification by email at least three (3) business days in advance of any scheduled meetings for Leadership Contestants or their representatives called by the CEO.
7. Notification by email of the schedule, including the dates and proposed locations, of official Leadership Events no later than the 60th day prior to the Leadership Election Date.
8. Inclusion of the approved Leadership Contestant's biography, photo, and written statement in an email bulletin sent by the Federal Office to members on the Final Voting List.
9. Any other services as determined by the CEO in consultation with the National Director.

In the event that a Leadership Contestant chooses not to use the centrally provided resources, the Party is under no obligation to provide compensation or alternatives.

D. Official Leadership Events

1. In the event the CEO elects to convene leadership debates, the following shall apply:
 - a. the debates shall be held in each official language or, if one debate, shall be conducted equally in English and in French;
 - b. the debates will be organized at the discretion of the CEO;
 - c. the Party will ensure that all official debates are live streamed online in order to be accessible to all Party members and to the Canadian public;
 - d. only officially registered Leadership Contestants shall be permitted to participate in the official leadership debates;
 - e. The Party shall be responsible for the cost of organizing and hosting the Leadership debates, including costs for venues and equipment;
 - f. Rules governing the debates will be developed by the CEO and provided to each Leadership Contestant; and
 - g. Leadership Contestants shall be responsible for costs associated with their accommodation and travel related to participating in the official Leadership Events.

E. Elected Office & Participation

1. It is strictly prohibited to use services, funding, or privileges provided to publicly elected officials to support a Leadership Contestant.
2. Staff of publicly elected officials may only work on Leadership Campaigns in off hours and away from government or Party offices. They may not use any facilities or services afforded by government bodies whether they be federal, provincial, territorial or municipal.

F. Party Sections, Electoral District Associations, Committees, Sections, and Clubs

1. Provincial/territorial sections of the Party, electoral district associations, party committees, youth sections, campus clubs and affiliated organizations are expected to provide equal opportunity to all Leadership Contestants to speak to and meet members of the Party.

PART 4

MEMBERSHIP

1. Every member of the Party in good standing 60 days before the closing of the voting (Wednesday, January 28th, 2026) (the “Cut-Off Date”) is entitled to cast a vote for the Leader in the Leadership Vote.
2. All memberships valid on the Cut-Off Date will receive a ballot irrespective of expiry date of membership.
3. Leadership Contestants shall encourage any new members to sign up online instead of using paper memberships wherever possible. While paper memberships are a tool to address access and equity concerns for some prospective members, they are also vulnerable to abuse, administratively burdensome, and lead to slower processing of new memberships.
4. Membership fees shall be paid for by the prospective member. No Leadership Contestant or a person working on behalf of a Leadership Contestant, Leadership Campaign, Third Party, or other person or entity is permitted to pay the membership fee of another person. This includes the submission of multiple membership application forms with a single form of payment. Household or family memberships may be paid for in a single payment if permitted under the applicable provincial affiliate’s constitution.
5. Leadership Contestants shall direct their supporters to sign up for a membership on a dedicated webpage provided by the Federal Party.
6. New members that sign up through a Leadership Contestant-specific membership page will be kept confidential to all Leadership Contestants until the membership Cut-Off Date. Immediately following the Cut-Off Date, the entire membership will be merged and provided to all Leadership Contestants.
7. Leadership Contestants will be provided with paper membership forms in batches of ten (10) forms upon request. Each form shall be numbered and cannot be copied or reproduced. A Leadership Contestant will only be permitted to possess five (5) batches at a time (for a total of 50 forms). Leadership Contestants may be provided with a new batch of ten (10) paper membership forms only after one full batch of ten (10) membership forms is submitted. The CEO may increase the number of batches of paper membership forms issued to a Leadership Contestant in the event the Leadership Contestant is undertaking campaign activities in remote and fly-in locations. This shall be determined on a case-by-case basis but the decision shall apply to all Leadership Contestants.
8. The CEO will advise Leadership Contestants of any issues with paper memberships as they arise.
9. It is prohibited for a Leadership Contestant or a person working on behalf of a Leadership Contestant to pay for any fees associated with the Leadership Contest for any other prospective Party members.
10. The paper membership forms must be in Federal/Provincial/Territorial Section Offices by no later than 5:00 local time on the Cut-Off Date.
11. If the CEO finds that paper membership forms submitted by a Leadership Contestant are fraudulent and/or completed in violation of these Rules, the CEO shall administer a sanction appropriate in the circumstances, in accordance with these Rules. In appropriate circumstances, the CEO void the entirety of that Leadership Contestant’s paper memberships and the affected individuals will not be made members of the Party and will not be eligible to vote.

PART 5

LEADERSHIP VOTING PROCEDURE

A. Balloting

1. If there is only one Leadership Contestant and no Applicant(s) pending approval after the final registration deadline, no balloting shall take place and the sole Leadership Contestant shall be declared acclaimed, effective on the Leadership Election Date. In this event, the CEO, at their discretion, may choose to expedite the Leadership Election Date. In such a case, only dates specified in the Campaign Regulations and the Nomination Regulations that follow the Leadership Election Date shall be affected. Dates specified in the regulations that occur prior to the Leadership Election Date shall not be affected.
2. If, once there are no additional Applicants pending approval and the final registration deadline has passed, there are two or more Leadership Contestants, an election with balloting shall take place.
3. The dates, times, and provisions may be adjusted at the discretion of the CEO in keeping with the spirit of the process intended.
4. An election shall be conducted using a secret ballot.
5. A ballot that is marked in such a way that it identifies the voter will be rejected.
6. An election shall use a preferential (ranked) ballot.
 - a. Using preferential voting, voters will rank Leadership Contestants in order of their preference. For example, the voter will mark their ballot by selecting their first choice as '1', their second choice as '2', and so on.
 - b. Voters are not required to rank every Leadership Contestant. Voters may rank every Leadership Contestant, a fewer number of Leadership Contestants, or as few as a single Leadership Contestant.
 - c. Voters can only choose one Leadership Contestant per rank.
7. The CEO is authorized to conduct secure balloting by mail, telephone or online, or a combination thereof, over a period no longer than 21 days, ending one day prior to the Leadership Election Date (Saturday, March 28, 2026).
8. The CEO shall determine the schedule and methods of voting and communicate such details to all Leadership Contestants no later than the 90th day (Tuesday, December, 30, 2025) prior to the Leadership Election Date.
9. Voter instruction letters will be mailed to each eligible voting member one (1) week before the voting period begins, containing detailed voting instructions.
10. There is no proxy voting.
11. Only the eligible voting member may cast their ballot with the exception that an eligible voting member who is unable to mark their ballot because of a disability or difficulty with reading and/or writing may receive assistance marking their ballot. No one assisting such a voter may influence or direct their vote.
12. Under no circumstances may a Leadership Contestant or an individual acting on behalf of a Leadership Contestant, assist any voter with marking their ballot.

13. Using another person's voting credentials is fraudulent and violates these Rules. Any Leadership Campaign found to have sanctioned, coordinated, or engaged in the misuse of voting credentials may be subject to sanctions on the recommendation of the CEO.
14. The CEO may monitor the timing and origin (including IP addresses and phone numbers) of votes cast to detect possible fraud or impropriety. The CEO may investigate any suspicious activity and may recommend sanctions pursuant to these Rules.

B. Counting

1. A Leadership Contestant must obtain a simple majority of all valid ballots cast to be declared elected Leader.
2. If a simple majority is not achieved on the first count, the Leadership Contestant with the lowest number of votes in the first count is eliminated and the ballots for that Leadership Contestant are reallocated to the Leadership Contestant marked as the second choice on each of those ballots, and a new count is produced.
3. Additional rounds of counting shall continue in this manner – dropping the Leadership Contestant with the lowest number of votes and reallocating their next choices, with a new count produced – until one Leadership Contestant obtains a simple majority of all valid ballots cast on a round.
4. A ballot shall be declared invalid and rejected if it does not clearly indicate the voting member's preference on the first round of counting, or in a subsequent round of counting.
5. The CEO shall develop a protocol and process for Leadership Contestant representatives to scrutineer the results, while maintaining the secrecy of all ballots.

C. Results

1. The results of voting shall be publicly announced by the CEO on the Leadership Election Date.

APPENDIX A

IMPORTANT DATES

The following are key dates for the Leadership Race and Voting Day:

Leadership Campaign Period:

Leadership Application Package Available: Wednesday, August 20th, 2025

Leadership Campaign Start Date: Tuesday, September 2nd, 2025

Leadership Campaign Voting Concludes: Saturday, March 28th, 2026

Leadership Campaign Announcement Date: Sunday, March 29th, 2026

Candidates must register by, and have paid the fourth deposit fee to appear on the ballot:
Saturday, January 31st, 2026

Official Leadership Debates:

Leadership Debate #1: Thursday, November 27th, 2025 (Montreal, QC)

Leadership Debate #2: Thursday, February 19, 2026 (Lower Mainland, BC)

In addition to the above mentioned events, provincial/territorial sections of the Party, electoral district associations, party committees, youth sections, campus clubs and affiliated organizations are encouraged to host opportunities for leadership contestants to engage during the Leadership Race

Sanctioned Leadership Event(s):

Leadership Candidate Forum: Wednesday, October 22nd, 2025 (Ottawa, ON)

NOTE: This event is being hosted by the Canadian Labour Congress

Membership Dates:

To be eligible to vote, new or renewed memberships must be received
(60 days from the closing of the vote) by: Wednesday, January 28th, 2026

Candidate Financial Fee Dates:

1. Non-Refundable Vetting Fee: \$1,500
2. Submission of Nomination Signatures: \$25,000
3. Two Weeks Prior to the First Debate [Thursday, November 13th, 2025]: \$25,000
4. 90 Days Prior to Leadership Election Date [Tuesday, December 30th, 2025]: \$25,000
5. Membership Cut Off Date [Wednesday, January 28, 2026]: \$25,000

6. Leadership Contestants shall be required to submit monthly reports throughout the Campaign Period to the CEO setting out their donations received, including:
 - a. the donation amount,
 - b. the name of the donor, and
 - c. the donor's region.

Monthly reports shall be submitted no later than the 10th day of the month following the month in which the donations were received.

APPENDIX B

Key Contacts for the NDP Leadership Race

Contacts	
Chief Electoral Officer	CEO.DGE@ndp.ca
Party President	President@ndp.ca
Membership Inquiries	Membership@ndp.ca
Media Inquiries	Media@ndp.ca
NDP Compliance Team	Compliance@ndp.ca

All leadership contestants and financial agents are encouraged to read and review Election Canada’s [Political Financing Handbook for Leadership Contestants and Financial Agents](#) for helpful information on the financial administration of the leadership contestant’s campaign.

Visit ndp.ca for more information.

