

Conservative Party of Canada

Rules and Procedures for Candidate

Nominations



Amended and Restated by National Council on December 5, 2025

Amended by National Council on December 22, 2025

RULES AND PROCEDURES FOR CANDIDATE NOMINATIONS

WHEREAS being a Nomination Contestant is a privilege, not a right;

AND WHEREAS any member of the Party in good standing who meets the eligibility requirements set out in these Rules may request an Application to become a Nomination Contestant.

NOW THEREFORE:

1 DEFINITIONS

In these Rules

- (a) “Applicant” means any person who has submitted an Application to become a Nomination Contestant;
- (b) “Application” means the documents as set out in Section 8 of these Rules and shall include both complete and incomplete packages;
- (c) “Candidate” means the Conservative Party of Canada candidate for Parliament in an Electoral District;
- (d) “Close of Nominations” means the deadline for submission of Applications which shall be at 5:00pm ET twenty-one (21) days after the Closing Notice;
- (e) “Closing Notice” means a notice to members of an Electoral District of the Close of Nominations;
- (f) “CNC” means the Electoral District Candidate Nomination Committee as set out in Section 9 of the EDA Constitution;
- (g) “CNC Chair” means the chairperson of the CNC as described in Section 6 of these Rules;
- (h) “CNC Interview” means the interview conducted by the CNC with the Applicant;
- (i) “EDA” means the Conservative Party of Canada Electoral District Association;
- (j) “EDA Board” means the board of directors of a Conservative Party of Canada Electoral District Association as set out in Section 7 of the EDA Constitution;
- (k) “Electoral District” means a federal electoral district as defined by the Parliament of Canada;
- (l) “Executive Director” means the Executive Director of the Conservative Party of Canada as set out in Section 10.4 of the Party Constitution, or their designate;
- (m) “Leader” means the leader of the Party;
- (n) “MP” means a Member of Parliament who is a member of the Conservative Party of Canada caucus;
- (o) “National Council” means the National Council of the Conservative Party of Canada;

- (p) “National Councillor” means an individual member of the National Council of the Conservative Party of Canada;
- (q) “NCSC” means the National Candidate Selection Committee as set out in Section 14.1 of the Party Constitution;
- (r) “Nomination Contestant” means any person who meets the criteria set out in Section 7 of these Rules;
- (s) “Nomination Meeting” means the meeting or meetings where the Candidate is selected as set out in Section 9 of these Rules;
- (t) “Nomination Meeting Notice” means the notice described in Section 11 of these Rules;
- (u) “Open Riding” means an Electoral District that is:
 - (i) not held by an MP; or
 - (ii) held by an MP who:
 - (A) has notified the Executive Director that they do not intend to run in the next general election; or
 - (B) has not satisfied the requirements of Section 3(e).
- (v) “Party” means the Conservative Party of Canada;
- (w) “Party Headquarters” means the primary office of the Conservative Party of Canada;
- (x) “Previous Federal Election” means the 46th general election and any subsequent general election;
- (y) “RO” means the appointed returning officer described in Section 10(e) of these Rules; and
- (z) “Writ Drop” means that date on which the date of the next general election is set in accordance with the *Canada Elections Act*, SC 2000, c 9.

2 GENERAL

- (a) These Rules for candidate nominations have been adopted by the National Council for use by the EDAs of the Party pursuant to Article 8.7.2 of the Constitution.
- (b) National Council hereby recognizes the NCSC to act pursuant to Article 14.1 of the Constitution and to provide general supervision over the nomination process.
- (c) Pursuant to Article 14.1 of the Constitution of the Party, the NCSC has the absolute discretion to disallow an Applicant, Nomination Contestant, or Candidate.
- (d) If anything in these Rules conflicts with the EDA Constitution, these Rules prevail.

3 HELD RIDINGS

- (a) If a Previous Election results in a majority Parliament, a Nomination Contest shall take place in each Electoral District.
- (b) Notwithstanding Section 3(a), where an MP is elected by means of a by-election after any general election, the MP shall be automatically acclaimed as the Candidate for the following general election and the EDA shall not be required to form a CNC.
- (c) In a majority Parliament and in ridings that are not Open Ridings, the timing of a Nomination Contest shall be at the discretion of the Executive Director, but no later than twelve (12) months before any statutory election date.
- (d) Notwithstanding Section 3(a), in the event that a general election is called prior to April 28, 2027 or prior to the end of the eighteenth (18th) month following the Previous Election, then Electoral Districts that are not Open Ridings shall not be required to form a CNC and carry out a nomination process.
- (e) In a minority Parliament:
 - (i) Except for the 45th Parliament, in each Electoral District that is not an Open Riding, the Executive Director shall ask the membership of such Electoral District if a nomination under these Rules is required. A nomination shall be required if more than fifty percent (50%) of the membership responds affirmatively. The rules and methodology shall be proposed by the Executive Director and approved by National Council.
 - (ii) Subject to Section 3(e)(i), an MP who meets the following criteria for 2026 and each following calendar year shall remain the candidate for the following election:
 - (A) Their EDA has raised \$15,000;
 - (B) The MP or their designates have contacted no fewer than one percent (1%) electors in their Electoral District;
 - (C) Their EDA is in good standing with Elections Canada and is compliant with the requirements of their EDA Constitution with respect to annual general meetings; and
 - (D) They or their spouse have donated the annual allowable maximum to their EDA or to the Party.
 - (iii) Subject to Section 3(e)(i) and Section 3(e)(ii), Electoral Districts held by MPs will be opened:
 - (A) For the 46th general election, no later than April 28, 2027; and
 - (B) For elections following the 46th general election and any subsequent general election, the end of the eighteenth (18th) month following the Previous Election.
 - (iv) Upon a recommendation by the Executive Director and a motion by National Council,

National Council may, by a majority vote, waive any or all the requirements set out in Section 3(e)(ii).

- (f) Nothing in this Section 3 shall limit NCSC and National Council in their respective roles and authorities as provided for in the Constitution and in these Rules, including the ability to disallow a candidate.
- (g) National Council shall approve additional rules and procedures to determine the status of an MP where an Electoral District's boundaries change as a result of the *Electoral Boundaries Readjustment Act*, RSC 1985, c E-3.

4 OPEN RIDINGS

- (a) The Closing Notice shall be sent by the Party by any one (1) or a combination of the following methods:
 - (i) regular mail sent to the member's address of record;
 - (ii) e-mail sent to the member's e-mail address of record; or
 - (iii) phone call or text message to the member's phone number of record.
- (b) The Executive Director shall issue Closing Notices for:
 - (i) no fewer than fifty percent (50%) of Open Ridings no later than April 28, 2027; and
 - (ii) subject to Section 4(c), for all remaining Open Ridings:
 - (A) For the 46th general election, no later than October 31, 2027; and
 - (B) For elections following the 46th general election and any subsequent general election, no later than the end of the 24th month following the Previous Federal Election.
- (c) In Electoral Districts where the Candidate garnered less than twenty percent (20%) of the popular vote in the 45th general election or the Previous Election, the requirements of Section 4(b)(ii) shall not apply.
- (d) The Executive Director shall report to National Council, on a monthly basis, the number of Closing Notices issued.

5 APPLICATIONS

- (a) Applications may be submitted prior to the Close of Nominations and will be reviewed for completeness by the Executive Director within fourteen (14) days after receipt. The Executive Director shall notify the Applicant of the result of such review upon the completion of that review. A complete Application is not an assurance that the Applicant will be permitted to contest the nomination.

- (b) In the event that an Application is inadvertently incomplete or otherwise deficient, the Executive Director shall notify the Applicant of such omission or deficiency within the fourteen (14) day period referred to in Section 5(a) and the Applicant shall have the opportunity to complete the Application; if the Application remains incomplete or deficient upon the Close of Nominations, the Executive Director shall notify the Applicant, and the Applicant shall not be permitted to contest the nomination.
- (c) Upon the review of a complete Application under Section 5(a) or Section 5(b), the Executive Director shall notify the EDA.
- (d) The CNC shall interview an Applicant whose Application is deemed complete by the Executive Director within fourteen (14) days after the notification from the Executive Director under Section 5(c). The CNC shall advise the Executive Director within one (1) day of the CNC interview as to whether the CNC recommends to the NCSC the approval of the Applicant to contest the nomination.
- (e) If the CNC has not been constituted upon the Close of Nominations, the NCSC shall review the Application and conduct the Applicant interview. In this case, no CNC Interview will take place.
- (f) The CNC shall advise the Executive Director and the Chair of the NCSC within one (1) day of the CNC interview as to whether the CNC recommends the approval of the Applicant to contest the nomination.
- (g) NCSC shall decide whether to invite the Applicant to contest the Nomination within seven (7) days of the receipt of the recommendation from the CNC in Section 5(f); this decision, with reasons, shall be communicated to the Applicant by the Executive Director.
- (h) In the event of a Writ Drop, the Executive Director, the CNC and the NCSC shall proceed as quickly as possible to discharge their duties under this Section 5 in order to be able to hold a Nomination Meeting according to Section 10.
- (i) At any time, the NCSC may require that the CNC provide further information or documentation, and the NCSC may contact the Applicant directly to obtain any additional information or documentation it may require.
- (j) If a complete Application is received by the Executive Director prior to the Close of Nominations and the Applicant requests that their Application be reviewed in confidence for reasons that the NCSC deems reasonable, the NCSC shall review the Application, conduct the Applicant interview process and render a decision.
- (k) Applications received after the Close of Nominations and Applications that are incomplete, whether due to outstanding information or documentation requests, or otherwise, as of the Close of Nominations, will not be accepted and the Applicant will not be permitted to become a Nomination Contestant. The Party is not obligated to accommodate delays or grant deadline extensions.

(I) The NCSC has authority to disallow an Applicant, a Nomination Contestant or a Candidate at any time on any grounds the NCSC sees fit. An Applicant, a Nomination Contestant or a Candidate may appeal a decision of the NCSC to National Council pursuant to these Rules.

6 CANDIDATE NOMINATION COMMITTEE

(a) Pursuant to Section 9 the EDA Constitution, the EDA Board shall appoint a CNC subsequent to each general election no later than the Closing Date.

(b) The CNC shall be comprised of:

- (i) the President of the EDA Board, if willing and able to participate in the CNC;
- (ii) the financial agent of the EDA, if willing and able to participate in the CNC;
- (iii) two additional (2) EDA Board members;
- (iv) two (2) members at-large (non-board members) of the Electoral District; and
- (v) if the Executive Directors sees fit, the Executive Director; and
- (vi) where an EDA is unable to fill any of the aforementioned, the Committee will not require those spots to be filled and will continue without those members.

(c) The EDA Board shall appoint two (2) members as alternates for the CNC and specify which appointee shall be the first alternate and which shall be the second alternate. These alternates will not participate in any CNC functions until such time as they are called upon to replace an original member of the CNC.

(d) In the event that one or more of the members of the CNC Members become unable or unwilling to act, the EDA Board may appoint an alternate.

(e) The CNC shall select one of its members as the CNC Chair; the EDA President is not eligible to serve as CNC Chair. The CNC Chair shall provide the names and contact particulars of all CNC members to the Executive Director.

(f) A majority of members of the CNC shall constitute a quorum for the conduct of CNC business.

(g) Each member and alternate of the CNC must sign Appendix "C" of the EDA Constitution – Written Affirmation of Neutrality for Candidate Nomination Committee confirming that they will not become a Nomination Contestant and will remain neutral in the candidate nomination process for that Electoral District. The completed affirmation must be sent to Party Headquarters or provided to the Executive Director. The CNC will not be recognized by the Party until all forms have been received. Any member of the CNC who does not remain neutral may resign or be removed from the CNC by a majority vote of the EDA Board.

(h) The NCSC, by a simple majority vote, may remove a member of the CNC following a review of a

formal complaint from the Executive Director, the CNC, the EDA Board or any interested party.

- (i) In the event of a tie vote of CNC, the motion shall be considered defeated.

7 ELIGIBILITY

- (a) A Nomination Contestant shall be ordinarily resident in Canada.

- (b) A Nomination Contestant means an Applicant who:

- (i) submitted a complete Application under these Rules;
- (ii) was interviewed pursuant to Section 5; and
- (iii) is permitted to contest the nomination by the NCSC.

- (c) Without limiting any discretion otherwise provided for under these Rules, an Applicant will cease to be eligible to be a Nomination Contestant if any of the following requirements are not maintained:

- (i) the Applicant must be eligible to be a candidate under the *Canada Elections Act, supra*;
- (ii) the Applicant shall have been approved to contest the nomination by NCSC;
- (iii) unless waived by the Executive Director and with the consent of a majority of the National Councillor(s) for the affected jurisdiction:
 - (A) the Applicant must not have been an unsuccessful Nomination Contestant during the same Parliament;
 - (B) the Applicant must have been a member of the Party for a minimum of six (6) months prior to filing their Application; and
 - (C) the Applicant must not have been disallowed as a Nomination Contestant by the NCSC during a previous contest in any prior nomination cycle or by-election nomination.

- (d) Any decision under Section 7(c)(iii) shall be final and binding and is not subject to appeal, challenge or review on any grounds.

8 APPLICATION

- (a) Any member of the Party in good standing:

- (i) shall, upon request to the Party, be granted access to the Application, where the Application shall be viewable in its entirety without any requirement to populate any field of the Application; and
- (ii) may submit the Application to Party Headquarters at any time prior to the Close of Nominations.

- (b) The Application shall consist of the following documents:

- (i) A completed Personal and Residential Information Form;
- (ii) A Financial Agent Consent signed by the Applicant's prospective financial agent consenting to act as the Applicant's financial agent pursuant to Section 476.5 of the *Canada Elections Act*, *supra*;
- (iii) A \$1,000 Interac e-transfer to Conservative Fund Canada from the Applicant's nomination campaign bank account. The Applicant must provide their first and last name, Electoral District of interest, and their prospective financial agent's name in the memo/message line of the Interac e-transfer (i.e., Message: Anne Thomas, Ottawa Centre, FA Peter Raymond);
- (iv) A void cheque from the Applicant's nomination campaign bank account used for the purpose of returning an Applicant/Nomination Contestant/Candidate's good conduct bond;
- (v) A completed and signed Nomination Contestant Questionnaire;
- (vi) A current (within the past six (6) months) Certificate of Conduct/Criminal Records Check obtained through a system acceptable to the Party;
- (vii) A current (within the past six (6) months) credit check acceptable to the Party;
- (viii) Signed authorization for the Party to conduct a credit and criminal records check;
- (ix) A signed Confidentiality Agreement, in which the Applicant agrees not to publicly disclose any information pertaining to the application process;
- (x) A consent letter to Elections Canada stating that, if nominated, the Party has permission to receive information on the status of their electoral campaign return;
- (xi) A signed declaration stating the agreement of the Applicant that:
 - (A) the NCSC has authority to not permit or disallow their candidacy on any grounds it sees fit, which rejection may be appealed to National Council pursuant to these Rules. National Council's decision shall be final and binding and is not subject to appeal, challenge or review on any grounds;
 - (B) they accept, and agree to advance, the policies, principles, goals and objectives of the Party;
 - (C) membership information provided by the EDA or Party will be used only for the purpose of campaigning for the nomination, and not for any other purpose;
 - (D) use of the Party logo is not permitted during a nomination campaign;
 - (E) if they are successful in winning the nomination, they will participate in training session(s) conducted by the Party on how to run an effective federal election campaign and will agree to enter into any reasonable financial arrangements with the Conservative Party of Canada concerning the payment for the provision of campaign

services by the Party to the candidate; and

(F) they agree to follow Elections Canada rules and adhere to any applicable legislation, and understands that a breach constitutes immediate grounds for dismissal;

(xii) Completed forms authorizing the Canada Revenue Agency, the Canada Border Services Agency, Citizenship and Immigration Canada, and the Department of National Defence to release any available information through the *Privacy Act*, RSC 1985, c P-21 to the Party concerning any offences, infractions, or pending matters involving the Applicant under any act, regulation, or Code enforced by those departments;

(xiii) A declaration agreeing only to use campaign materials authorized by the Conservative Party of Canada if nominated as the Candidate;

(xiv) A declaration whereby the Applicant confirms that they have read, understand and will adhere to the Conservative Party of Canada Membership Bylaw and the membership processing procedures outlined in Section 15 of these Rules;

(xv) A Candidate Assignment Form which designates the Conservative Fund Canada to receive the Reimbursement of the Candidate's Election and Expenses following the general election;

(xvi) A Candidate Donation Pledge whereby the Candidate pledges to make the maximum allowable donation to the Party or EDA in each calendar year while serving as a MP;

(xvii) A Declaration whereby the Applicant confirms that all assets of the campaign shall become the property of the EDA upon the conclusion of the campaign;

(xviii) A Letter of Intent whereby the Applicant confirms the Federal Electoral District in which they are seeking nomination and why; and

(xix) A Nomination Petition containing:

- (A) the Applicant's name, address, telephone number(s) and email address,
- (B) the Applicant's written consent to be a Nomination Contestant; and
- (C) a nomination petition signed by at least twenty-five (25) current EDA Members who reside in the Electoral District in which the Applicant wishes to run, are in good standing in the Party, and were members at least three (3) months prior to the date the Applicant submits their complete Application.

(c) This deposit required under Section 8(b)(iii) is a good conduct bond that will be returned to the financial agent of the Applicant/Nomination Contestant/Candidate, provided the Applicant/Nomination Contestant/Candidate has adhered to these Rules upon the completion of the nomination process.

(d) An Applicant/Nomination Contestant/Candidate's nomination campaign bank account must remain open to receive the deposit of the returned good conduct bond by the Party. The Party's return of a good conduct bond posted by an Applicant/Nomination Contestant/Candidate is contingent on that individual's adherence to these Rules. Should the nomination campaign bank account of an Applicant/Nomination Contestant/Candidate be closed prior to the return of the good conduct

bond, the good conduct bond will be forfeited. The proceeds of forfeited good conduct bonds will be transferred to the EDA. The good conduct bond will not constitute a contribution or transfer or donation from the Applicant to the Party.

- (e) An Applicant may, prior to the Close of Nominations, amend their Application. The amendments may be submitted to the Party.

9 MEMBERSHIP LISTS

- (a) All Applicants approved to contest the Nomination shall receive a copy of the current membership list for that Electoral District at the same time on the third (3rd) day following the Close of Nominations. The Party shall not provide any membership list prior to the Close of Nominations. Any subsequently approved Nomination Contestant shall be given the same membership list; subsequent lists will be given to all Nomination Contestants at the same time.
- (b) After the deadline for submission of memberships has passed, the Executive Director shall, forthwith, provide the complete list of members eligible to vote at the Nomination Meeting to each Nomination Contestant at the same time.
- (c) Upon receipt, Nomination Contestants may review the complete list of members eligible to vote at the Nomination Meeting(s) to identify any omission of a member that the Nomination Contestant believes should be on the list or the inclusion of a member who the Nomination Contestant believes should not be on the list. The Nomination Contestant shall advise the Executive Director of any outstanding issues within forty-eight (48) hours of receipt of the complete list of members eligible to vote at the Nomination Meeting(s).
- (d) If an amendment is made to the complete list of members eligible to vote at the Nomination Meeting(s), the Party will circulate an updated list in advance of the Nomination Meeting. Any member of the Party residing in the Electoral District but not on the list will be able to vote in the nomination process upon confirmation of their membership eligibility and residency by the Executive Director.

10 CANDIDATE NOMINATION MEETING

- (a) If following the Close of Nominations there is only one (1) accepted Nomination Contestant that person shall be acclaimed.
- (b) If, following the Close of Nominations, there has been no acclamation:
 - (i) the Executive Director will consult with the National Councillor(s) for the respective jurisdiction and the CNC (if a CNC has been constituted) to select a date, time, method and location (if required) of the Nomination Meeting(s); and
 - (ii) the Nomination Meeting(s) must occur no sooner than twenty-two (22) days and no later than forty-seven (47) days from the Close of Nominations.
- (c) Only those who were members of the Party as of the date of the Close of Nominations are eligible to vote. If, within two (2) days following the issuance of the Close of Nominations, a member, whose

membership has expired within the previous ninety (90) days pays the prescribed membership renewal fee in the amount and manner required by the Party such member shall be eligible to vote.

- (d) Each Nomination Contestant must be given the opportunity to address the membership at least once prior to the vote. Each Nomination Contestant shall be afforded equal time, which may be allocated as the Nomination Contestant may choose.
- (e) The name and contact information of any proposed RO may be provided to the Executive Director via the CNC Chair. The Executive Director shall appoint an impartial RO. The RO shall supervise the voting and vote count, declare the nomination of the Party candidate. The RO shall keep in their possession related election materials used for the Nomination Meeting including membership lists and the cast ballots which will be destroyed following the conclusion of the appeal periods as identified in Section 13(a), unless otherwise directed by the Executive Director.
- (f) No business, other than the selection of a Candidate, shall be conducted at the Nomination Meeting until after the vote has been held.
- (g) On the ballot, the Nomination Contestants shall be listed in alphabetical order by surname, followed by first name if more than one (1) Nomination Contestant has the same surname, and by first and second name if more than one (1) Nomination Contestant have same surnames and first names.
- (h) Votes will be conducted by a single preferential transferable ballot wherein the voters numerically rank the Nomination Contestants in sequence of their choice, and where, if, after the first vote, no Nomination Contestant receives more than fifty percent (50%) of the valid votes cast, then the Nomination Contestant(s) receiving the fewest number of votes or failing to achieve a minimum of ten percent (10%) of vote shall be dropped, and the ballots shall be recalculated based on next choices for the dropped candidates. This process shall be repeated until one (1) Nomination Contestant receives more than fifty percent (50%) of valid votes cast. A Nomination Contestant receiving more than fifty percent (50%) percent of valid votes cast shall be the Candidate.
- (i) In Electoral Districts where factors such as geography, weather, health concerns or transportation hinder members from attending at a single location, the Executive Director, in consultation with the Chair of NCSC, the President of National Council, the National Councillor(s) for the respective jurisdiction and CNC Chair of the applicable Electoral District (if the CNC has been constituted), may direct, or, upon request from the EDA Board, may authorize, that the selection of the Candidate may take place at Nomination Meetings held at two (2) or more times and locations or conducted virtually. The Executive Director, in consultation with the Chair of NCSC, the President of National Council, the National Councillor(s) for the respective jurisdiction and CNC Chair of the applicable Electoral District will determine the method of balloting to be used in these circumstances.
- (j) In the event the Executive Director, in consultation with the Chair of NCSC, the President of National Council, the National Councillor(s) for the respective jurisdiction and CNC Chair of the applicable Electoral District (if the CNC has been constituted), has determined to allow multiple Nomination Meetings to occur at multiple times and/or locations, then all the deadlines, timelines and notice periods shall be calculated with reference to the date of the first nomination meeting.
- (k) Under extenuating circumstances other methods of balloting may be approved by the Executive

Director in consultation with the Chair of NCSC, the President of National Council, the National Councillor(s) for the respective jurisdiction and CNC Chair of the applicable Electoral District (if the CNC has been constituted).

- (l) Ballots shall be marked in secret.
- (m) Proxy voting is not permitted.
- (n) In the event of a tie vote, the result shall be determined by drawing of lots.
- (o) Media may be allowed to attend the Nomination Meeting(s) at the discretion of the Executive Director, in consultation with the Chair of NCSC, the President of National Council, the National Councillor(s) for the respective jurisdiction and CNC Chair of the applicable Electoral District (if the CNC has been constituted).

11 NOMINATION MEETING NOTICE

- (a) The Executive Director shall provide no less than seven (7) days' notice of a Nomination Meeting.
- (b) The Nomination Meeting Notice shall be sent from Party Headquarters and shall include the date, time and location of the Nomination Meeting(s) and shall be sent by any one (1) or combination of the following methods:
 - (i) regular mail sent to the member's address of record;
 - (ii) e-mail sent to the member's e-mail address of record; or
 - (iii) phone call or text message to the member's phone number of record.
- (c) In the event that the Writ Drop occurs before a Nomination Meeting Notice has been sent, and there are two (2) or more Applicants who have satisfied the requirement under Section 7(b)(i), then the Executive Director shall conduct a virtual Nomination Meeting according to rules that reflect the spirit and intent of the provisions of Section 10.

12 REPORTING

- (a) The Party shall provide, on the first business day of every month, to National Council, a list of Applications received by the Party with a description of the status of all Applications received and Closing Notices issued.

13 ABRIDGEMENT OF THESE RULES

- (a) The Leader shall have the right to appoint Candidates in eight (8) Electoral Districts between any two (2) general elections prior to the Writ Drop. Where the Leader intends to exercise an appointment right in respect of an Electoral District, the Executive Director shall notify the EDA Board as soon as possible.
- (b) After the Writ Drop, and subject to Section 11(c), in the event that there are no Nomination

Contestants in an Electoral District, the Executive Director shall appoint the Candidate in such Electoral District.

- (c) Subject to Section 13(a), National Council may waive, alter, abridge or suspend any of these Rules as it sees fit.
- (d) Any decision under this Section 13, shall be final and binding and is not subject to appeal, challenge or review on any grounds.

14 APPEAL PROCESS AND DISPUTE RESOLUTION

- (a) Where the NCSC disallows or does not permit the candidacy of any person, that person may appeal to National Council by filing an appeal in writing with the Executive Director of the Party within forty-eight (48) hours of the decision being communicated to the person. The Executive Director shall bring any appeal to the attention of the President and Secretary of National Council forthwith.
- (b) National Council shall determine appropriate procedures to be followed in an appeal. All the information, including the appeal in writing referred to in Section 14(a), reviewed by NCSC shall be made available to National Council prior to its determination of an appeal.
- (c) If a Nomination Contestant wishes to appeal the results of the Nomination Meeting, they must do so in writing within five (5) days of the Nomination Meeting to the Chair of the NCSC through the Executive Director. If a Nomination process takes place over a number of days, a Nomination Contestant must file their appeal within five (5) days of the final meeting. If the Nomination Contestant is not satisfied with the decision of the NCSC, they may appeal to the National Council within forty-eight (48) hours of the decision being communicated.
- (d) Without limiting any other provisions in these Rules, all Applicants, Nomination Contestants and Candidates expressly undertake that they will not seek any relief from or review by any Court of any decision of the Party or any of its representatives, including any decision of the Executive Director, a RO or their designate, or an EDA Board, a CNC, a CNC Chair, the NCSC, the Secretariat Committee, the Arbitration Committee, the National Council, or any Chair, President or member thereof. Should an Applicant, Nomination Contestant or Candidate, in breach of this undertaking, commence a Court proceeding, they shall be responsible for any and all costs thereof and shall bear the legal fees and expenses incurred by all persons named as defendants or respondents on a full indemnity basis including, but not limited to, any and all legal fees and expenses incurred by the Party or the Conservative Fund Canada.
- (e) All Applicants, Nomination Contestants and Candidates are advised to obtain independent legal advice before participating in any process under these Rules.
- (f) All Applicants, Nomination Contestants and Candidates represent that: (i) they have obtained independent legal advice; or (ii) that they waive their right to obtain independent legal advice.
- (g) The decision of National Council on an appeal under these Rules shall be final and binding and is not subject to appeal, challenge or review on any grounds.

15 MEMBERSHIP PROCESSING PROCEDURES

- (a) Memberships paid for by way of credit card must be submitted electronically using the online tools made available by the Party.
- (b) Applicant, Nomination Contestant and Candidate membership submissions may only be paid by an individual or family member using a personal form of payment, in accordance with the Conservative Party's Membership By-Law and Elections Canada rules.
- (c) Any payment by personal cheque must be accompanied by a prescribed membership form and the applicant's cheque made payable to Conservative Fund Canada.