

United Conservative Party of Alberta

2022 Leadership Election Rules and Procedures

June 13, 2022

1. Introduction

On May 19, 2022, the Leader of the United Conservative Party of Alberta delivered written notice of his intention to resign to the Secretary giving rise to a Leadership Election to be conducted pursuant to the Leadership Review and Selection Rules as set out in the Party's Governance Manual.

On May 27, 2022, the Party's Board of Directors established a Leadership Election Committee consisting of Party members.

The Leadership Election Committee has established these 2022 United Conservative Party of Alberta Leadership Election Rules and Procedures to set out the rules, procedures, and mechanisms under which the Leadership Election is to be conducted.

1.1. In these Rules:

- 1.1.1. "Applicant" means a person who requests an Application or publicly announced his or her intention to become a Leadership Contestant for the 2022 Leadership Election Contest but is not a Leadership Contestant;
- 1.1.2. "Application" means the cumulative documents, stipulated payments, and nomination petitions set out in section 2.4 of these Rules;
- 1.1.3. "Arbitration Committee" means the standing arbitration committee as described in the Association's standing committee list;
- 1.1.4. "Association" means the United Conservative Association;
- 1.1.5. "Bylaws" means the bylaws of the Association;
- 1.1.6. "Compliance Deposit" means the good conduct bond required to be paid as a condition of being a Leadership Contestant and as prescribed in section 5.6;
- 1.1.7. "Debate Committee" means a subcommittee of the LEC appointed for the purpose of scheduling debates and proposing debate rules and procedures;
- 1.1.8. "EFCDA" means the *Election Finances and Contributions Disclosure Act*, RSA 2000, c E-2, as amended from time to time;

- 1.1.9. "Elector" means a Member who is eligible to vote in the Leadership Election;
- 1.1.10. "Entry Fee" means the fee required to be paid as a condition of being a Leadership Contestant and as prescribed in section 5.5;
- 1.1.11. "Executive Director" means the executive director of the Party;
- 1.1.12. "Governance Manual Rules" means the Leadership Review and Selection Rules contained in the Association's Governance Manual as maintained pursuant to the Bylaws;
- 1.1.13. "Inquiry" means a an investigation by the Returning Officer into whether a Leadership Contestant has contravened these Rules, any directive, or any applicable law as set out in section 14.1.
- 1.1.14. "Leader" means the leader of the Party and Association as described in the Bylaws;
- 1.1.15. "Leadership Election" means the 2022 United Conservative Party of Alberta Leadership Contest;
- 1.1.16. "Leadership Contestant" means a person who has met all the requirements set out in section 2.3 of these Rules and has been declared a Leadership Contestant by the LNC;
- 1.1.17. "Leadership Contestant Questionnaire" means the Application document referenced in section 2.4.1 of these Rules;
- 1.1.18. "LEC" or "Leadership Election Committee" means the Leadership Election Committee appointed by the Party Board pursuant to section 4.8 of the Governance Manual Rules;
- 1.1.19. "LNC" or "Leadership Nominating Committee" means a subcommittee of the LEC, appointed for the purposes of reviewing Applications, interviewing Applicants, and recommending the acceptance or rejection of an Applicant as a Leadership Contestant;
- 1.1.20. "Member" means a member of the Association and of the Party as defined in the Bylaws;
- 1.1.21. "Membership Deadline" means the deadline that a person can become a Member eligible to vote in the Leadership Contest;
- 1.1.22. "Party" and "UCP" mean the United Conservative Party of Alberta;
- 1.1.23. "Party Board" means the board of directors of the Association as set out in the Bylaws;
- 1.1.24. "Returning Officer" means the Chief Returning Officer appointed by the LEC pursuant to these Rules;

- 1.1.25. "Review Application" means a written application by an affected Leadership Contestant for review of a decision of the Returning Office by the LEC as set out in section 14.5; and
- 1.1.26. "Rules" means these 2022 Leadership Election Rules and Procedures.

2. Leadership Contestant Eligibility and Application Process

- 2.1. Applications can be requested by any Member by emailing leadership@unitedconservative.ca.
- 2.2. A person who requests an Application or who publicly declares his or her candidacy for the leadership is considered an Applicant until:
 - 2.2.1. They have met all eligibility requirements to become a Leadership Contestant as set out in these Rules;
 - 2.2.2. They have submitted to the LEC a full and complete Application, including all necessary payments prescribed in section 2.4.7;
 - 2.2.3. They have been interviewed by the LNC; and
 - 2.2.4. They have been declared a Leadership Contestant in accordance with section 2.10.
- 2.3. To be eligible to be a Leadership Contestant, a person must:
 - 2.3.1. Be a Member of the Party for at least six (6) months prior to the deadline for applications set out in section 2.7, subject to a waiver being granted by the LEC;
 - 2.3.1.1. Requests for a waiver must be made in writing to the Chair of the LEC;
 - 2.3.1.2. The LEC will make a determination on a waiver in consultation with the Party Board and Caucus in a reasonable time following the request;
 - 2.3.2. Support the principles of the Party as set out in the Party's Policy Declaration;
 - 2.3.3. Be a Canadian citizen;
 - 2.3.4. Be the full age of 18 years;
 - 2.3.5. Be eligible to seek election as a member of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta;
 - 2.3.6. Not have been or be the interim Leader of the Party on or after the commencement of the Leadership Election;
 - 2.3.7. Complete and submit an Application to the LEC;
 - 2.3.8. Meet all qualification requirements under applicable laws;

- 2.3.9. Agree by statutory declaration submitted to the LEC to abide by these Rules, any additional rules specified by the LEC and the Governance Manual Rules;
 - 2.3.10. Pay to the Party the Entry Fee and Compliance Deposit; and
 - 2.3.11. Submit to the LEC a nomination petition signed by at least one thousand (1000) Members, including at least two hundred (200) Members from each region specified in the Bylaws.
- 2.4. A complete Application includes:
- 2.4.1. A signed Leadership Contestant Questionnaire that has been completed truthfully and frankly by the Applicant;
 - 2.4.2. A confidentiality and non-disclosure agreement in which the Applicant agrees not to publicly disclose any information concerning the conduct of the Application process and not to misuse or disclose any of the personal information they may be provided by the Party including but not limited to membership information and lists;
 - 2.4.3. A current credit check and signed authorization to enable the Party to conduct its own searches;
 - 2.4.4. A current criminal record check and authorization to enable the Party to conduct its own searches;
 - 2.4.5. Information necessary to provide profile holder access to any and all social media accounts of the Applicant;
 - 2.4.6. A nomination petition set out in section 2.3.11;
 - 2.4.7. Any payments set out in sections 5.5 and 5.6;
 - 2.4.8. A statutory declaration by the Applicant that they shall abide by the Rules, the Code of Conduct, any additional rules specified by the LEC and the Governance Manual Rules; and
 - 2.4.9. An agreement to transfer any funds held at the end of the Leadership Election campaign period to the UCP.
- 2.5. Applicants are encouraged to file their Applications well in advance of the Application deadline in order to allow for verification of the completeness of their Applications and sufficient time for any corrections. An Application may be filed in multiple parts but it is the responsibility solely of the Applicant to ensure that all components of the Application are filed on time.
- 2.6. Applications can be submitted:
- 2.6.1. By email at leadership@unitedconservative.ca.
 - 2.6.2. By mail to:

United Conservative Party of Alberta
c/o Executive Director
#203, 2915 21 Street NE
Calgary, AB T2E 7T1

- 2.6.3. In-person at the Party office.
- 2.7. The deadline to submit an Application is 5:00PM MT on July 20, 2022. The Executive Director shall provide confirmation of receipt of the Application on behalf of the Party. It is the responsibility of the Applicant to ensure that all required parts of the Application are received by the Executive Director before the deadline. Incomplete Applications will not be considered.
- 2.8. The LEC shall appoint a LNC.
- 2.9. Once an Application has been received by the Party, the Executive Director shall provide the Application to the LNC. The LNC will interview the Applicant and review the Application along with any other information they see fit to ascertain the suitability of an Applicant. The LNC may, at their discretion, request further and additional information from the Applicant.
- 2.10. If a majority of the LNC recommends approval of the Applicant as a Leadership Contestant, the Chair of the LEC shall send a notice of certification to the Applicant confirming that he or she has met all prerequisite requirements and is qualified as a Leadership Contestant, subject to disqualification for failure to pay any outstanding installments of the Entry Fee by the times prescribed in section 5.5.
- 2.11. If a majority of the LNC recommends the rejection of an Applicant for cause, the LEC shall meet to consider the recommendation. The LEC shall, in its absolute discretion, determine whether to reject or allow the Applicant. The Chair of LEC shall send a notice of certification or a notice of disallowance to the Applicant. The LEC may refer the matter back to the LNC if additional information is required.
- 2.12. The LNC has the absolute discretion to consider a fresh Application from an Applicant who was previously rejected and who otherwise follows the Rules set out herein.
- 2.13. If following review by the LNC of the Applications there is exactly one accepted Leadership Contestant, that Leadership Contestant will be declared the Leader.

3. Election date, eligibility deadlines, voting process and determination of Leader

- 3.1. The Leadership Election commenced on May 19, 2022.
- 3.2. The Leader of the UCP will be elected on October 6, 2022.
- 3.3. The Membership Deadline shall be August 12, 2022.
 - 3.3.1. Memberships purchased online at www.unitedconservative.ca until 11:59PM MT on August 12, 2022 will be eligible to vote.
 - 3.3.2. All other memberships must be received at the Party office by 5:00PM MT on August 12, 2022 to be eligible to vote.
- 3.4. Voting for Leader of the UCP will begin on September 2, 2022.
- 3.5. Each Elector may only vote once.
- 3.6. Voting shall be by secret ballot.
- 3.7. Voting will take place by way of postal and in person voting.
 - 3.7.1. Ballots sent by post must be received by October 3, 2022 in order to be counted.
 - 3.7.2. In person voting locations will be permitted on October 6, 2022 at 5 locations, one from each of the regions specified in the Bylaws, to be determined by the LEC not later than June 24, 2022.
- 3.8. To prove their eligibility, Members must provide either one piece of photo identification that provides their name and address or one piece of photo identification that provides their name and photo *and* a separate document that provides their name and address.
 - 3.8.1. Photo identification must be issued by the Government of Alberta or the Government of Canada.
 - 3.8.2. The Returning Officer may waive this requirement on an individual basis where the Member is otherwise known or other exceptional circumstances apply.
 - 3.8.3. Statutory declarations in lieu of proper credentials will not be allowed.
 - 3.8.4. Proxy voting is not permitted.
- 3.9. Voting will be on the basis of one Elector, one vote by an unweighted preferential ballot (single transferable vote).
- 3.10. Leadership Contestants will be listed on the ballot in alphabetical order by surname.

- 3.11. The voting process will permit, but not require, an Elector to list Leadership Contestants in the order of the Elector's preference.
- 3.12. If following the tabulation of votes a Leadership Contestant has received more than 50% of the total number of first preference votes cast, that Leadership Contestant will be declared the winner and will immediately become the Leader (spoiled ballots are not valid ballots for the purposes of determining votes cast).
- 3.13. If following the tabulation of votes no Leadership Contestant has received more than 50% of the total number of first-preference votes cast, then:
 - 3.13.1. the Leadership Contestant with the fewest number of first-preference votes cast will be removed for the purposes of calculating the result;
 - 3.13.2. for the ballots for which the first preference was the removed Leadership Contestant, the second-preference votes will be allocated to the remaining Leadership Contestants;
 - 3.13.3. the votes will then be re-tabulated and if a Leadership Contestant has received more than 50% of the total number of votes cast, that Leadership Contestant will be declared the winner and will immediately become the Leader;
 - 3.13.4. if no Leadership Contestant has received more than 50% of the total number of votes cast, this process will be repeated, removing one Leadership Contestant at a time, until a winner is declared;
 - 3.13.5. the chair of the LEC shall vote, but his ballot shall be held apart by the Returning Officer and not counted unless there is a tie between two or more of the Leadership Contestants with the lowest number of votes and a tie-breaking vote is needed to determine which Leadership Contestant is eliminated, in which case the vote cast by chair of the LEC shall be counted by the Returning Officer to break the tie; and
 - 3.13.6. the result of each round of counting shall be publicly announced when it is completed.
- 3.14. Following the count, the ballots shall be stored at the Association offices for seven (7) days and then destroyed unless otherwise directed by the Arbitration Committee or the Executive Director.

4. Returning Officer

- 4.1. The LEC shall appoint a Returning Officer to oversee the Leadership Election and ensure that it is conducted in a manner that is fair, impartial, and accountable to the Members.
- 4.2. The Returning Officer will be responsible for:
 - 4.2.1. all matters pertaining to the conduct of the vote;
 - 4.2.2. ensuring compliance with these Rules;
 - 4.2.3. appointing neutral deputy returning officers and other election officers, as required;
 - 4.2.4. training of all deputy returning officers and other election officers;
 - 4.2.5. certifying a list of eligible voters;
 - 4.2.6. providing ballots and ballot boxes;
 - 4.2.7. approving the form of ballot;
 - 4.2.8. maintaining the integrity of the received envelopes throughout the postal balloting process;
 - 4.2.9. ensuring the security of the ballot boxes; and
 - 4.2.10. such further and other duties as may be determined by the LEC.

5. Regulatory and Financial Matters

- 5.1. An Applicant and a Leadership Contestant shall comply with all applicable legislation, including the *Elections Act* and the EFCDA.
- 5.2. An Applicant and/or Leadership Contestant shall disclose to the Chair of the LEC on an immediate basis the existence of any investigation undertaken by Elections Alberta, or any other regulatory body, in relation to the Leadership Election and shall undertake to provide the Chair of the LEC copies of any correspondence related to that investigation, unless otherwise prohibited by law.
- 5.3. The Returning Officer shall be entitled to perform random audits on the accounts of Leadership Contestants throughout the election process. The Leadership Contestant will provide all records, books, and accounts to the Returning Officer or any person that the Returning Officer designates forthwith upon request and failure to comply shall constitute a breach of these Rules.
- 5.4. Each Applicant will be required to make the following payments:

- 5.4.1. An Entry Fee;
 - 5.4.2. A Compliance Deposit for good conduct and compliance;
 - 5.4.3. Payments can be made by electronic funds transfer, certified cheque, bank draft, or money order payable to the "United Conservative Association" with all funds originating from the Applicant's or Leadership Contestant's campaign bank account.
- 5.5. The Entry Fee is \$150,000, payable in three (3) instalments.
- 5.5.1. The first instalment of the Entry Fee is \$50,000 which must be included with the Applicant's Application.
 - 5.5.2. The second instalment of the Entry Fee is \$50,000 which must be received by the UCP prior to a Leadership Contestant receiving any preliminary membership list and not later than 5:00 p.m. MT on July 29, 2022.
 - 5.5.3. The third instalment of the Entry Fee is \$50,000 which must be received by the UCP not later than 5:00 p.m. on August 12, 2022.
 - 5.5.4. If an Application to be a Leadership Contestant is rejected, the Entry Fee installments provided by the Applicant will be refunded. If an Application to be a Leadership Contestant is accepted, the Entry Fee will be non-refundable.
 - 5.5.5. If an Applicant or Leadership Contestant fails to pay the Entry Fee in accordance with these Rules, the Applicant shall not be qualified as a Leadership Contestant or the Leadership Contestant will be disqualified and unable to participate in the Leadership Election.
- 5.6. Leadership Contestants must make a refundable Compliance Deposit for good conduct and compliance of \$25,000. The Compliance Deposit must be submitted together with the first instalment of the Entry Fee with the Applicant's Application.
- 5.6.1. If disciplinary action against a Leadership Contestant results in a fine, such fine will be deducted from the amount of the Compliance Deposit. In such instance, the Leadership Contestant must make an additional payment to the UCP within three (3) business days to restore the amount of the Compliance Deposit to the original amount of \$25,000. Failure by a Leadership Contestant to restore the full amount of the Compliance Deposit shall cause the Returning Officer to recommend to LEC that LEC

disqualify the Leadership Contestant and remove his or her name from the ballot pursuant to the process in section 14.4.

- 5.6.2. The balance of each Leadership Contestant's Compliance Deposit will be repaid to such Leadership Contestant at the end of the leadership contest campaign period.
- 5.7. Only persons who have complied with these Rules, including payment of the full amount of the Entry Fee by the deadlines described in this section, will have their names placed on the ballot.
- 5.8. Membership applications must be submitted in the manner approved by the LEC to the UCP office for processing. There will be no sharing of membership revenues received by the UCP with Leadership Contestants.
- 5.9. Leadership Contestants must agree to transfer any funds held at the end of the Leadership Election campaign period to the UCP, in accordance with section 12.2(1)(a) of the EFCDA, and not return those funds to contributors as stated in section 12.2(1)(b) of the EFCDA.
- 5.10. A Leadership Contestant will provide to the LEC all registrations and reports filed with Elections Alberta pursuant to the EFCDA upon request.

6. Access to membership information

- 6.1. Upon an Applicant becoming qualified as a Leadership Contestant in accordance with these Rules, the Executive Director shall provide such Leadership Contestant with a preliminary membership list. Whenever the Executive Director provides a Leadership Contestant with an updated preliminary membership list, it will provide a copy of that list to all other Leadership Contestants at the same time.
- 6.2. An authorized membership list will be provided to all Leadership Contestants not later than ten (10) days after the Membership Deadline.
- 6.3. All preliminary membership lists and the authorized membership list will include each member's name, mailing address, residential address, and phone number. Email addresses will not be included.
- 6.4. A Leadership Contestant may challenge the eligibility of any individual on the authorized membership list on the grounds that any such individual is not a Member in good standing or may challenge the eligibility of any individual not on the authorized membership list on grounds that any such individual is a Member in good standing.

- 6.4.1. Any challenge pursuant to this section must be made in writing and received by the Returning Officer along with supporting documentation no later than three (3) days after receipt of the authorized membership list referenced in section 6.2;
 - 6.4.2. Any challenge pursuant to this section must specify the name of the Member or individual, the membership number (if any), and the basis of the challenge;
 - 6.4.3. The onus of proof where a challenge has been submitted is on the Leadership Contestant who submitted the challenge;
 - 6.4.4. The Returning Officer shall investigate the challenge, request further information as necessary, and make a determination in his or her absolute discretion as to whether the challenged Member should be removed from the authorized membership list or whether the challenged individual should be added to the authorized membership list. The decision of the Returning Officer shall be final and binding and not subject to review by any court.
 - 6.4.5. Notice of all Members removed from or added to the authorized membership list as a result of challenges under this section will be provided to all Leadership Contestants on a timely basis.
 - 6.4.6. In the event that the Returning Officer determines that a challenge pursuant to these sections has been made frivolously then the Returning Officer shall be entitled to impose any remedy set out in section 14.3.
- 6.5. The Leadership Contestant shall use a preliminary membership list and the authorized membership lists only for the purpose of the Leadership Election and not for any improper purpose whatsoever, including, but not limited to, disclosure of the list to any third party, except those authorized by the Leadership Contestant to carry out leadership contest campaign activities and who agree to be bound by the terms of the UCP's confidentiality and non-disclosure agreement.
- 6.6. Each Leadership Contestant is responsible for their campaign's proper use of the membership list. Any unauthorized use or disclosure of the membership list by any member of a Leadership Contestant's campaign may result in discipline, including, but not limited to, forfeiture of the Compliance Deposit and disqualification.

- 6.7. If a Leadership Contestant withdraws, fails to pay the second instalment of the Entry Fee or is disqualified from the Leadership Election, the Leadership Contestant shall immediately return any membership list to the Executive Director and certify by statutory declaration that all membership list data, including electronic databases, records or derivative works, have been erased, deleted, are destroyed.
- 6.8. Prior to the return of the Compliance Deposit and not later than October 20, 2022, each Leadership Contestant shall return all preliminary membership lists and the authorized membership list and certify by statutory declaration in a form prescribed by the UCP that all membership list data, including electronic databases, records or derivative works, have been erased, destroyed or obliterated. Further, each Leadership Contestant shall provide the Executive Director with a list of any third parties to whom the membership list or data was disclosed, including name and contact information, and the date of disclosure, and the original confidentiality and non-disclosure agreement duly executed by the third party.

7. Use of UCP intellectual property

- 7.1. No one shall use any UCP wordmark, including logo, name, etc. without the prior written authorization of the LEC.
- 7.2. No one shall use any mark, including any logo, name, etc., that causes or is likely to cause confusion with any UCP trade-mark, including logo, name, etc.
- 7.3. The use of a mark causes confusion if the use by a person would likely lead to the inference that the goods or services associated with those marks are given, made or produced by the UCP.
- 7.4. No one shall represent, directly or indirectly, that an Applicant or Leadership Contestant is or will be endorsed by the UCP or LEC.

8. Right to delegate

- 8.1. Unless expressly stated to the contrary, the LEC may delegate any duty or act to a person who has been authorized by the LEC to perform the duty or act.

9. Debates

- 9.1. The LEC has created a Debates Committee for the purposes of scheduling debates and proposing debate rules and procedures;
- 9.2. The LEC will approve debate rules and procedures. All Leadership Contestants must comply with the debate rules;
- 9.3. Each Leadership Contestant must participate in all UCP-organized debates;
- 9.4. Failure of a Leadership Contestant to participate in a UCP-organized debate may result in a fine, disqualification of such leadership contestant or both;
- 9.5. The LEC may require that Leadership Contestants not participate in debates or candidate forums that are not organized or approved by the Debates Committee.

10. Code of conduct

- 10.1. The Party's Code of Conduct applies to Leadership Contestants. All Applicants shall agree to be bound by the Code of Conduct.

11. Communications

- 11.1. Each Leadership Contestant shall be required to provide a list of their contact information along with the contact information for his or her campaign manager and chief financial officer.
- 11.2. Communications with or notices delivered to or from a Leadership Contestant's campaign manager or chief financial officer will be deemed to be the same as if such communications or notice had been given directly to or from the Leadership Contestant.
- 11.3. The Executive Director or his designate will make reasonable efforts, at his absolute discretion, to facilitate email correspondence to all or part of the preliminary membership list and authorized membership list, as applicable, on behalf of Leadership Contestants.
- 11.4. Any communication transmitted by or on behalf of a Leadership Contestant to a Member or member of the public by telephone, text message, facsimile or email must have a timely and effective mechanism to allow the recipient to opt out of receiving further communication. If any person indicates to a Leadership Contestant or any person acting on behalf of the Leadership Contestant that they no longer wish to receive any communication from the

Leadership Contestant or Leadership Contestant's campaign, then the Leadership Contestant or any person acting on behalf of the Leadership Contestant shall no longer transmit any communication to that person.

- 11.5. Leadership Contestants are required to comply with all CRTC regulations regarding communication with the public.

12. Neutrality and confidentiality

- 12.1. Members of the Party Board, LEC, the Returning Officer and all other election officials will sign neutrality and confidentiality agreements in the form prescribed by the LEC.
- 12.2. Party staff and contractors are required to remain neutral throughout the Leadership Election and will not support any Applicant or Leadership Contestant or involve themselves in any Applicant or Leadership Contestant campaign in any way.

13. Independent auditor

- 13.1. The LEC will retain such auditors as are necessary to ensure a fair and equitable conduct of the voting process, including verification of membership.

14. Dispute resolution

- 14.1. The Returning Officer may commence an Inquiry into whether a Leadership Contestant has contravened these Rules, any directive, or any applicable law. Any Leadership Contestant or Member can request an Inquiry of a Leadership Contestant.
- 14.2. The Returning Officer shall notify the Leadership Contestant of an Inquiry and will provide the Leadership Contestant an opportunity to present a written response that shall be provided within twenty four (24) hours.
- 14.3. Following consultation with the Chair of LEC, if the Returning Officer determines, in their absolute discretion, that a Leadership Contestant has contravened these Rules, the Code of Conduct, any directive or any applicable law, he or she may do one or more of the following:
 - 14.3.1. Direct the Leadership Contestant to take specified actions to achieve compliance and to remedy any consequences of the

- contravention, with which direction the Leadership Contestant must immediately comply;
- 14.3.2. Levy a fine and charge any such fine against all or part of the Leadership Contestant's Compliance Deposit;
 - 14.3.3. Issue a written warning;
 - 14.3.4. Make public the Returning Officer's determination and ruling;
 - 14.3.5. Advise the appropriate authorities;
 - 14.3.6. Recommend to LEC that LEC disqualify the Leadership Contestant and remove his or her name from the ballot; and
 - 14.3.7. Take such other steps that it deems appropriate.
- 14.4. Upon receipt of a recommendation from the Returning Officer to disqualify a Leadership Contestant and remove his or her name from the ballot, the LEC shall meet to consider the recommendation. The LEC shall, in its absolute discretion, determine whether to disqualify the Leadership Contestant and remove his or her name from the ballot. The Chair of LEC shall promptly communicate the LEC's decision in writing to the Leadership Contestant and the Returning Officer. The LEC may refer the matter back to the Returning Officer or request information from the affected Leadership Contestant if required in the absolute discretion of the LEC. The decision of the LEC shall be final and binding and are not subject to review by any court.
- 14.5. A decision of the Returning Officer made pursuant to section 14.3.1, 14.3.2., 14.3.3., 14.3.4., 14.3.5 and 14.3.7 shall be communicated to all affected Leadership Contestants. Such decision may be reviewed by the LEC upon receipt of a written Review Application by an affected Leadership Contestant.
- 14.5.1. An affected Leadership Contestant must file a Review Application with the Chair of the LEC within twenty-four (24) hours of being provided notice of the Returning Officer's decision, along with a non-refundable administrative fee of \$1,500 payable to the Party.
 - 14.5.2. A Review Application must include all supporting documentation. The Returning Officer may provide a written response to the Review Application, but is not obligated to do so. The LEC may request further information from the Leadership Contestant, the Returning Officer, or any other person, but is not obliged to receive representations with respect to any Review Application other than the contents of the Review Application and any response provided by the Returning Officer.

- 14.5.3. The LEC shall have full and absolute discretion to grant or dismiss a Review Application and may implement any remedy available to the Returning Officer or may choose to disqualify a Leadership Contestant.
- 14.5.4. All decisions of LEC are final and binding and are not subject to review by any court.

15. Amendment

- 15.1. The LEC may amend these Rules or issue further rules or procedures from time to time as it deems necessary, to conduct an open, fair and equitable Leadership Election.