



**PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE PARTY
OF NEW BRUNSWICK**

LEADERSHIP ELECTION RULES

Adopted by the Provincial Council
May 13, 2025

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Application

1.1.1 The Provincial Council establishes these Rules pursuant to Article 16 of the Constitution, to prescribe the manner in which the new Leader of the Party shall be elected.

1.2 Definitions

1.2.1 The following definitions apply in these Rules, unless the context requires otherwise:

- a) “Applicant” means a person who has submitted an Application;
- b) “Application” means the cumulative documents which are required from a Member wishing to become a Contestant, as prescribed by the Credentials Committee;
- c) “Contestant” means person who has been approved as a contestant for the leadership of the Party pursuant to Rule 2 and who has not withdrawn or been disqualified;
- d) “Constitution” means the Constitution of the Progressive Conservative Party of New Brunswick;
- e) “Convention” means the convention held pursuant to Rule 6;
- f) “Credentials Committee” means the Credentials Committee established under Article 16.3 of the Constitution;
- g) “Elector” means a Member who has become an Elector pursuant to Rule 7.3;
- h) “Elector List” means the list of all persons qualified to be Electors pursuant to Rule 7.3;
- i) “Electoral Act” means the Elections Act and the Political Process Financing Act;
- j) “Finance Committee” means the Finance Committee established pursuant to Rule 1.7, not the Party Finance Committee;
- k) “Membership List” means the names, addresses, telephone number and membership status of Members and past Members;
- l) “Independent Auditor” means the independent auditor appointed pursuant to Rule 1.8;
- m) “Province” means the Province of New Brunswick;
- n) “Provincial Council” means the Provincial Council of the Party established under Article 6 of the Constitution;
- o) “Provincial Executive” means the Provincial Executive of the Party as established

under Article 8 of the Constitution;

p) “Registration Form” means the form used to register to become an Elector as determined by the Applications Committee, or other such Committee as may be charged with that responsibility;

q) “Rules” or “Rule” means these leadership election Rules as a whole, or a specific Rule, as the context requires.

1.2.2 Unless specifically defined or otherwise used in these Rules, words, and phrases herein which are defined in the *Elections Act*, the *Political Process Financing Act*, or the Constitution, shall have the same meaning as in those documents.

1.3 Interpretation

1.3.1 The English and French versions of these Rules are equally authoritative.

1.3.2 In these Rules:

a) a citation or reference to an Act or regulation shall be read as a citation or reference to the Act or regulation of the Province;

b) a specified time refers to current New Brunswick time.

1.4 Dates and Deadlines

1.4.1 The Leadership Election commences on 20 October 2025.

1.4.2 The Application Deadline 19 June 2026.

1.4.3 The Review Deadline is 17 July 2026.

1.4.4 The Registration Deadline is 14 August 2026.

1.4.5 The Ballot Qualification Deadline is 31 July 2026.

1.4.6 The Election Day is 17 October 2026.

1.4.7 Any deadline specified in these Rules, including the above deadlines, will be met only if the application, registration, filing, notice or otherwise, is received or carried out:

- i. by 11:59PM on the specified date for transactions carried out online at the Party website;
- ii. at the Party office by 5:00PM Atlantic Time on the specified date for all other transactions.

1.5 Meetings and Quorum

- 1.5.1 A majority of the members of the Credentials Committee constitutes a quorum.
- 1.5.2 A decision by the Committee shall be made by a majority vote of those present.
- 1.5.3 The same procedure, mutatis mutandis, applies to each subcommittee of the Credentials Committee.

1.6 Chief Returning Officer

- 1.6.1 The Credentials Committee shall appoint a Chief Returning Officer.

1.7 Subcommittees

- 1.7.1 The Credentials Committee shall establish the following Committees as subcommittees of the Credentials Committee:
 - a) an Applications Committee;
 - b) a Convention Committee;
 - c) a Debates Committee;
 - d) a Finance Committee:
 - i. The Official Representative of the Party shall be an ex officio member of the Finance Committee;
 - e) a Voting Procedures Committee.
- 1.7.2 The Credentials Committee may establish other such subcommittees as it sees fit.

1.8 Independent Auditor

- 1.8.1 The Credentials Committee shall appoint an independent auditor to monitor and verify the leadership election process and result.

2 BECOMING A CONTESTANT

2.1 Eligibility

2.1.1 To be eligible to be a Contestant, a person must:

- a) Be a Member of the Party for at least six (6) months prior to the Application Deadline, subject to a waiver being granted by the Credentials Committee;
 - i. Requests for a waiver must be made in writing to the Chair(s) of the Credentials Committee;
 - ii. The Credentials Committee will make a determination on a waiver within a reasonable time following the request.
- b) Support the principles of the Party as set out in the Constitution;
- c) Be eligible to seek election as a member of the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick;
- d) Have made the maximum personal contribution to the Party that is permitted under the Political Process Financing Act within the calendar year in which the Application is submitted;
- e) Not have been or be the Interim Leader of the Party on or after 1 July 2025.

2.1.2 Any person who is not eligible to be a Contestant may be disqualified as a Contestant at any point in the election process up to and including the final ballot.

2.2 Application

- 2.2.1 The Applications Committee shall make recommendations to the Credentials Committee in respect of all matters relating to the Application, including but not limited to, the form of the Application and information required.
- 2.2.2 The Credentials Committee may approve any or all such recommendations as are not inconsistent with these Rules, on approval by the Credentials Committee and filing with the Executive Director, such recommendations will be deemed to be incorporated into these Rules.
- 2.2.3 Any Member may request an Application by emailing info@pcnb.ca
- 2.2.4 Any Member who is eligible to be a Contestant may apply by submitting an Application to the Executive Director by the Application Deadline;
- 2.2.5 Applications may be submitted:
 - a) By email at info@pcnb.ca;
 - b) By mail to: Progressive Conservative Party of New Brunswick, c/o Executive Director, 364 rue York St. Suite 215, Fredericton, NB E3B 3P7 CANADA;
 - c) In person at the Party office, 364 rue York St. Suite 215, Fredericton, NB.
- 2.2.6 Incomplete Applications will not be considered:
 - a) 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.
- 2.2.7 Providing false or materially misleading information in the Application or in response to a request for further information:
 - a) shall be grounds for refusal of the Application;
 - b) shall be grounds for disqualification of a Contestant.

2.3 Preliminary Review

- 2.3.1 Once a complete Application has been received by the Party, the Executive Director shall provide the Application to the Applications Committee forthwith.
- 2.3.2 Within 10 days of the receipt of the Application, the Applications Committee will undertake a preliminary review of the Applicant's application and any other information they see fit and make a preliminary assessment of the suitability of an Applicant by majority vote.
- 2.3.3 The Executive Director will inform the Applicant of the result of the Applications Committee's preliminary review within two weeks of receipt of the Application.
- 2.3.4 If the Applicant is not found to be unsuitable after the preliminary review, the Application shall be allowed to continue.
- 2.3.5 If the Application is allowed to continue, the Official Representative will issue the Applicant a Certificate of Authorization to Solicit Contributions on behalf of the Party;
- 2.3.6 If the Applicant is found to be unsuitable by the Applications Committee after the preliminary review, the Application will be refused.
- 2.3.7 If the Application is refused after the preliminary review, the Applicant may appeal the refusal by the process set out in Rule 8, but may not continue in the process and may not hold themselves out to be a contestant for the Leadership of the Party.
- 2.3.8 If an Applicant who has been refused after the preliminary review does hold themselves out to be a contestant for the Leadership of the Party during the appeal process, this in itself will be cause to refuse the Application.
- 2.3.9 If the appeal is successful, the Application will be allowed to continue in the same manner as if it had never been refused.
- 2.3.10 If the Application is refused by the Applications Committee at the preliminary review and the Application is allowed to continue on appeal, the Applicant may nonetheless be refused by the Applications Committee at the full review stage.

2.4 Full Review

- 2.4.1 If the Application is allowed to continue after Preliminary Review, the Application will continue to Full Review within one week of such time as the Party receives \$10,000 in Supporting Contributions that are directed to the Applicant, provided that all said Supporting Contributions are received by the Review Deadline.
- 2.4.2 If the said Supporting Contributions are not received by the Review Deadline, the Application shall be refused without right of appeal.
- 2.4.3 If the Application continues to Full Review, the Applications Committee will undertake a full review of the Applicant's application and any other information they see fit and make a final assessment of the suitability of an Applicant by majority vote.
- 2.4.4 In carrying out the Full Review, the Applications Committee may request additional information from the Applicant:
 - a) If such additional information is not provided in a timely manner, the review shall continue, but the Applications Committee may take into account the Applicant's failure to provide such additional information in making their assessment.
- 2.4.5 The Executive Director will inform the Applicant of the result of the Applications Committee's final review forthwith.
- 2.4.6 If the Applicant is found to be suitable after the Final Review, the Applicant shall be approved as a Contestant.
- 2.4.7 If the Applicant is found to be unsuitable by the Applications Committee after the Final Review, the Application will be refused.
- 2.4.8 If the Application is refused after the Final Review, the Applicant may appeal the refusal by the process set out in Rule 8.
 - a) If the appeal is successful, the Applicant shall be approved as a Contestant.
- 2.4.9 An Applicant who has been approved as a Contestant is accepted as a leadership contestant by the Party within the meaning of section 136.1 of the Elections Act.

3 SUPPORTING CONTRIBUTIONS AND ELECTOR ENDORSEMENTS

3.1 Supporting Contributions

3.1.1 A Supporting Contribution is a contribution made to the Party that is made in support of a Contestant or an Applicant whose Application has been allowed to continue after preliminary review:

- a) A Supporting Contribution is a contribution to the Party, not to the campaign of the Contestant or Applicant, and no part of that contribution shall be paid by the Party to the campaign of the Contestant or Applicant, or in any way treated other than in the same manner as any other contribution made to the Party;
- b) All Supporting Contributions must be compliant with the Elections Act and Political Process Financing Act.

3.1.2 A Supporting Contribution may be made online through the Party website:

- a) The Party website shall provide a means to allow the contributor to specify the Contestant, or an Applicant whose Application has been allowed to continue after preliminary review, whom the contributor wishes to support by a contribution;
- b) The Party may provide other means of making a Supporting Contribution by electronic or online means.

3.1.3 A Supporting Contribution may be made by personal cheque payable to the Party, with an instruction in the “Re” or “Memo” line to the effect that the contribution is in support of a particular Contestant or an Applicant whom the contributor wishes to support by a contribution:

- a) No Supporting Contributions may be made by cash, in any amount;
- b) Supporting Contributions may only be made by persons permitted to donate to a political party in New Brunswick under the Political Process Financing Act.

3.2 Elector Endorsements

- 3.2.1 Any Member who becomes an Elector may endorse any Contestant at the time the Member registers to be an Elector:
 - a) A Member may not endorse a Contestant after becoming an Elector; the endorsement must be made at the time of registration.
- 3.2.2 A Member who registers to be an Elector online through the Party website may make an endorsement at that time:
 - a) The Party website shall provide a means for allowing the Member to endorse any Contestant at the time of Registration.
- 3.2.3 A Member who registers to be an Elector by delivery of payment to the Party by mail or in person may make an endorsement by an instruction to direct the endorsement of a particular Contestant in the "Re" or "Memo" line of the cheque by which the registration fee is paid.

4 CONTESTANTS

4.1 Access to membership information

- 4.1.1 Upon an Applicant being approved as a Contestant in accordance with these Rules, the Executive Director shall provide such Contestant with the Membership List as it stood on the date the Leadership Election commences, on the Contestant entering into a Non-Disclosure Agreement, in the form determined by the Credentials Committee acknowledging that the Membership List is confidential and shall be used only for the purposes of this leadership campaign.
- 4.2.2 Each 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 Contestant's campaign may result in discipline, including, but not limited to, disqualification.

4.2 Use of Party Logo

- 4.2.1 Contestants are authorized to use the Party logo and, if any, the Convention logo on all materials and advertising for, before and during the Convention:
 - a) No Contestant shall use any logo or symbol of the Party or the Convention otherwise than in accordance with this Rule, unless authorized by the Committee in writing.
- 4.2.2 No Applicant or Contestant shall represent, directly or indirectly, that the Applicant or Contestant is or will be endorsed by the Party:
 - a) No contestant shall use a website address, social media or other communication channel which could be reasonably confused with a website, social media or communication channel operated by the Party.

4.3 Qualification to be on the Ballot

- 4.3.1 A Contestant is entitled to be on the Ballot and to receive the Elector List if, on or before the Ballot Qualification Deadline:
- a) the Party has received \$35,000 in cumulative Supporting Contributions that are directed to the Contestant;
 - b) the Party has received 500 Elector Endorsements for that Contestant, of which there must be at least 20 endorsements from Electors residing within each of at least 7 of the 9 Regions defined in the Constitution;
 - c) the Contestant has qualified for, attended and participated in all the Debates as determined by the Debate Committee:
 - i. the requirement to attend all debates is subject to a waiver by unanimous consent by the Credentials Committee which will only be granted in exceptional circumstances

4.4 Disqualification

- 4.4.1 Any Contestant who breaches these Rules, or any Electoral Act, may be disqualified by the Applications Committee:
- a) A disqualification by the Applications Committee may be appealed by the process set out in Rule 8, and if the appeal is successful at any level, the Contestant will be reinstated and may continue in the leadership contest as if they had never been disqualified.
- 4.4.2 If a Contestant is disqualified after their name is on the Ballot:
- a) All Electors shall forthwith be informed of the disqualification by email;
 - b) Any Ballots on which the disqualified Contestant's name is ranked shall be treated as if the disqualified Contestant's name did not appear on that Ballot.

4.5 Withdrawal

- 4.5.1 Any Contestant may withdraw by informing the Executive Director, who shall acknowledge such withdrawal.
- 4.5.2 Withdrawal is irrevocable and of immediate effect.
- 4.5.3 Any Contestant who withdraws may re-enter the election contest by filing a new Application, in the same manner as any Member who had never made an Application:
 - a) If a former Contestant re-enters the election contest, any Supporting Contributions or Elector Endorsements made prior to the Contestant's withdrawal shall not be counted towards any applicable requirements for the Contestant after re-entry.

4.6 Access to Elector information

- 4.6.1 The Executive Director shall provide each Contestant who is qualified to be on the ballot with the preliminary Elector List within one week after the Registration Deadline.
- 4.6.2 The Executive Director shall provide each Contestant who is qualified to be on the ballot with the final Elector List as finalized by the Chief Returning Officer after all challenges and corrections within one month after the Registration Deadline.

5 DEBATES

5.1 Debates

- 5.1.1 The Debates Committee shall make recommendations to the Credentials Committee in respect of all matters relating to Contestant debates, including but not limited to, the number of debates, the location of the debates and the language of the debates.
- 5.1.2 The Credentials Committee may accept any or all such recommendations that are not inconsistent with these Rules, on approval and filing with the Executive Director, such recommendations will be deemed to be incorporated into these Rules.
- 5.1.3 The Credentials Committee may refer any or all such recommendations to Provincial Council for approval prior to incorporation into these Rules.

6 CONVENTION

6.1 Convention

- 6.1.1 A Convention shall be held on Election Day.
- 6.1.2 The Convention Committee will prepare a Convention Plan for approval by the Credentials Committee.
- 6.1.3 The Convention Committee shall be responsible for the implementation of said Convention Plan once approved.

7 VOTING

7.1 Voting Procedures

- 7.1.1 The Voting Procedures Committee may make recommendations to the Credentials Committee on all matters relating to the conduct of the vote, including but not limited to, the integrity and fairness of the voting process and the form of the ballots.
- 7.1.2 The Credentials Committee may accept any or all such recommendations as are not inconsistent with these Rules, on approval and filing with the Executive Director, such recommendations will be deemed to be incorporated into these Rules.

7.2 Chief Returning Officer

- 7.2.1 The Chief Returning Officer will be responsible for:
 - a) all matters pertaining to the conduct of the election other than those governed by these Rules or exclusively reserved for the Credentials Committee, the Debate Committee, the Convention Committee, the Voting Procedures Committee or any other relevant committee as set out in these Rules, and, without limiting the generality of the foregoing;
 - b) ensuring compliance with these Rules;
 - c) certifying the Elector List;
 - d) certifying the ballot;
 - e) maintaining the integrity of the received envelopes throughout the postal balloting process;
 - f) all matters assigned to the Chief Returning Officer by these Rules.

7.3 Electors

- 7.3.1 A Member may become an Elector by paying a registration fee of \$40 prior to the Registration Deadline.
- 7.3.2 A non-Member may purchase a two-year membership and become an Elector by paying a combined membership and registration fee of \$50 prior to the Registration Deadline.
- 7.3.3 Registration may be done:
 - a) online through the Party website;
 - b) by mailing or delivering a Registration Form to the Party accompanied with a personal cheque in the amount of the applicable registration fee.

7.4 Voting

- 7.4.1 Only an Elector may vote.
- 7.4.2 An Elector must be a Member on the Registration Deadline to be eligible to vote.
- 7.4.3 Proxy voting is not permitted.
- 7.4.4 Voting shall be by secret ballot.
- 7.4.5 Voting will take place by way of postal voting only.
- 7.4.6 Ballots sent by post must be received on or before the day three days prior to Election Day in order to be counted.
- 7.4.7 Voting will be on the basis of one Elector, one vote by an unweighted preferential ballot (single transferable vote):
 - a) The voting process will permit, but not require, an Elector to list Contestants in the order of the Elector's preference;
 - b) If following the tabulation of votes a Contestant has received more than 50% of the total number of first preference votes cast, that 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);
 - c) If following the tabulation of votes no Contestant has received more than 50% of the total number of first-preference votes cast, then:
 - i. the Contestant with the fewest number of first- preference votes cast will be removed for the purposes of calculating the result;
 - ii. for the ballots for which the first preference was the removed Contestant, the second-preference votes will be allocated to the remaining Contestants;
 - iii. the votes will then be re-tabulated and if a Contestant has received more than 50% of the total number of votes cast, that Contestant will be declared the winner and will immediately become the Leader;
 - iv. if no Contestant has received more than 50% of the total number of votes

cast, this process will be repeated, removing one Contestant at a time, until a winner is declared.

- d) the members of the Credentials Committee shall vote, but their ballot shall be held apart by the Returning Officer, and not counted unless there is a tie between two or more of the Contestants with the lowest number of votes and a tie-breaking vote is needed to determine which Contestant is eliminated, in which case one ballot shall be selected at random by the Returning Officer, and that ballot shall be the deciding vote in that tie and in any subsequent tied vote.

- 7.4.8 The result of each round of counting shall be publicly announced at the Convention. Following the count, the ballots shall be stored at the Party offices for seven (7) days and then destroyed unless otherwise directed by the Credentials Committee.

7.5 Results

- 7.5.1 The results of the election shall be announced at the Convention.

7.6 Validity

- 7.6.1 The vote, calculated and verified by the Chief Returning Officer and verified by the Independent Auditor, is final and binding.

8 DISPUTE RESOLUTION

8.1 Challenges to adverse decision of the Applications Committee

- 8.1.1 An Applicant may, without fee, appeal an adverse decision of the Applications Committee to the Credentials Committee by informing the Executive Director of the Applicant's wish to appeal within three days of the date on which the Applicant was informed of the decision.
- 8.1.2 On appeal to the Credentials Committee, the Credentials Committee may overrule the Applications Committee by a majority vote:
 - a) In the event a tie, the appeal is considered to be successful.
- 8.1.3 The result of the appeal procedure is not subject to further internal appeal or to judicial review.

8.2 Challenges to Contestants

- 8.2.1 The Chief Returning Officer may, on request by a Contestant or Elector, or of their own initiative, inquire into whether a Contestant is eligible to be a Contestant, or whether a Contestant has contravened these Rules, any directive, or any Electoral Act.
- 8.2.2 The Chief Returning Officer shall notify the Contestant of its inquiry and will provide the Contestant with an opportunity to present a written response that shall be provided within two days.
- 8.2.3 If the Chief Returning Officer determines that a Contestant has contravened these Rules, any directive, or any applicable law, the Chief Returning Officer may do one or more of the following:
 - a) direct the Contestant to take specified actions to achieve compliance and to remedy any consequences of the contravention, with which direction the Contestant must immediately comply;
 - b) issue a warning;
 - c) make public the Chief Returning Officer's determination and ruling;
 - d) advise the appropriate authorities;
 - e) recommend to the Credentials Committee that the Contestant be disqualified;
 - f) recommend to the Credentials Committee that a waiver be granted if the Contestant was not eligible under Rule 2.1.1(a); and
 - g) take such other steps that it deems appropriate.
- 8.2.4 The Chief Returning Officer shall inform the Credentials Committee of any action taken under this Rule promptly after the decision is made.
- 8.2.5 Any decision of the Chief Returning Officer must be made within one week of notifying

the Contestant of the inquiry, or the inquiry shall be deemed to be resolved favourably to the Contestant.

8.2.6 Any decisions of the Chief Returning Officer under this Rule is not subject to appeal.

8.2.7 On recommendation by the Chief Returning Officer, the Credentials Committee may disqualify the Contestant within one week of being informed of the Chief Returning Officer's recommendation:

- a) The disqualification of a Contestant by the Credentials Committee is not subject to further internal appeal or to judicial review.

8.3 Challenges to Electors

8.3.1 A Contestant may challenge the eligibility of any Elector to vote on the grounds that, under these Rules, the individual is not eligible to be an Elector or is otherwise not qualified to vote.

8.3.2 Any challenge pursuant to this section must be made in writing and received by the Chief Returning Officer along with any supporting documentation no later than seventy-two (72) hours after receipt of the preliminary Elector List.

8.3.3 The onus of proof where a challenge has been submitted is on the Contestant who submitted the challenge.

8.3.4 The Chief Returning Officer shall investigate the challenge, request further information as deemed necessary, and make a determination:

- a) If the Chief Returning Officer determines that the Elector is not eligible, that Elector shall be removed from the Elector List, and the registration fee shall be returned to the Elector.

8.3.5 A Contestant, or the Elector who has been found to be ineligible, may appeal the decision of the Chief Returning Officer to the Credentials Committee within twenty-four (24) hours of the determination of the Chief Returning Officer along with any supporting documentation.

8.3.6 If, on appeal, the Credentials Committee determines that the Elector is not eligible, that Elector shall be removed from the Elector List:

- a) The determination by the Credentials Committee that an Elector is not eligible is not subject to further internal appeal or to judicial review.

8.3.7 The Credentials Committee may, in its sole discretion, refuse to allow further eligibility challenges and/or appeals of Chief Returning Officer determinations on eligibility challenges from a Contestant who has been determined to have made frivolous challenges.

8.4 Other

- 8.4.1 No failure by the Chief Returning Officer, the Credentials Committee, any neutral election official, or any other body referred to in these Rules, to meet any of the deadlines specified in these Rules shall be seen as invalidating the Rules, the Election Process, or any subsequent deadline.

9 FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

9.1 Spending Limit

9.1.1 Contestants shall not incur expenses exceeding \$250,000.

9.2 Regulatory Reporting

9.2.1 Contestants shall provide the Finance Committee with all financial reports required by Elections New Brunswick at the time of submission:

- a) The accuracy and completeness of the reports shall be attested to by the Official Representative of the Contestant.
- b) The Finance Committee will forward the reports to the Executive Director.

9.3 Authority to Audit

9.3.1 The Finance Committee shall be entitled to perform random audits on the accounts of Contestants throughout the election process.

9.3.2 Each Contestant's Official Representative shall provide all books and accounts to the Finance Committee forthwith upon request and failure to comply shall constitute a breach of these Rules.