THE WEST'S FEDERAL PARTY

APPENDIX II - B

Candidate Selection Rules and Procedures

I. Authority

A. The Local Nomination Committee

1. The Maverick Party recognizes the primary responsibility for selecting a Candidate for an election or by-election resides with the local Electoral District Association with the assistance and, under the supervision of, the Regional Nomination Committee.

B. The Regional Nomination Committee

- 1. The Candidate Selection Standing Committee (CSSC) shall appoint a Regional Nomination Committee (RNC) to have authority over
 - a. Enforcement of these rules,
 - b. Acceptance or rejection of prospective nomination contestants,
 - c. Resolution of disputes arising from these rules.
 - d. Development of questionnaires for candidate interviews by the Local Nominating Committee (LNC) in each electoral district to ensure fairness and equity in the interviews of prospective candidates.
- 2. The Standing Committee shall appoint seven (7) members to the RNC, of which three (3) will be from the Board of Directors and one of these three (3) shall be appointed Chair.
 - a. Each RNC member shall sign a declaration agreeing they shall; not become a Nomination contestant,
 - b. Remain neutral for the duration of the contest,
 - c. Maintain strict confidentiality of all matters arising from their duties on the RNC.
- 3. The RNC shall record minutes of its meetings to be filed with the Secretary of the Party.

II. Local Electoral District Nomination Committee (LNC)

A. Management of Nomination

- 1. The Board of each EDA shall appoint a Local Nominating Committee (LNC) to manage the nomination of a Candidate for the next general election or by-election unless.
 - a. No EDA Board exists, in which case the candidate will be selected by the CSSC
 - b. An existing EDA is unable to appoint a functioning LNC, in which case the candidate will be selected by the CSSC

2. Every EDA Board is encouraged to appoint an LNC as soon as the EDA is recognized by the Board of Directors.

B. Criteria for Beginning Nomination Process

- 1. The EDA Board must establish a LNC for its electoral district.
- 2. Any LNC may ask the RNC to open its nomination if it meets the following conditions.
 - a. Have at least one hundred (100) members residing in the electoral district,
 - b. Have sufficient funds in the EDA account to cover the Nomination Event costs,
 - c. Provides sufficient evidence that it has conducted a candidate search. Sufficient evidence being defined as a reasonable attempt to contact local members in the EDA to contest the Electoral District nomination.

3. The EDA Board may apply to the RNC to waive any of the above conditions in which case the RNC may manage the nomination event or process on behalf of that EDA Board.

C. Composition and Duties of the LNC

- 1. The LNC shall be comprised of:
 - a. Three (3) Board members, none of whom shall be EDA President unless this provision is waived by the RNC,
 - b. Up to two (2) members at large of that EDA,
 - c. One (1) of the Regional Directors for that region in which the EDA is located,
 - d. Two EDA Directors may be appointed as alternate LNC members, acting only in case one or more of the original LNC members resign.
- 2. Members of the LNC shall not be.
 - a. Members of the RNC,
 - b. Members of Caucus or the Leader,
 - c. Employees of the Government of Canada unless they are members of the EDA.
- 3. The LNC shall elect a Chairperson who shall.
 - a. Be in contact with the RNC,
 - b. Provide notice of meetings to all LNC members,
 - c. Ensure meeting minutes are kept and provided to the RNC,

- d. Ensure that the LNC members are aware of all rules pertaining to the selection process.
- 4. The LNC shall.
 - a. Conduct an active candidate search,
 - b. Conduct fair and complete interviews with each contestant (No special consideration shall be given to current members of Caucus in nomination events),
 - c. By majority vote, recommend to the RNC acceptance or rejection of every nomination Applicant,
 - d. Manage the date and time of the Nomination Event, subject to the Bylaws and Constitution, and subject to approval by the RNC.
 - e. Appoint a returning Officer (RO) from outside the EDA in which the Nomination Contest is being held

D. Neutrality and Confidentiality

- 1. Each LNC member, and alternate, shall sign a declaration agreeing they shall.
 - a. Not become a Nomination contestant,
 - b. Remain neutral for the duration of the contest,
 - c. Maintain strict confidentiality of all matters arising from their duties on the LNC.

2. On the recommendation of the Board of Directors, violation of these conditions may result in the removal of LNC members by majority vote of the RNC or the suspension of the whole LNC by 2/3 vote of the RNC.

E. Nomination Contestant's Application

- 1. Any person shall be considered a nomination contestant who has.
 - a. Submitted a valid Application and Nomination Petition,
 - b. Been interviewed by the LNC,
 - c. Not rejected by the RNC.
- 2. Applicants must meet the following requirements.
 - a. Be eligible to be a Candidate under the Elections Act,
 - b. Be a member of the Party in good standing for a period of 30 or 60 Days? prior to making application,
 - c. Have taken a leave of absence from all EDA boards and if a member of the Board of Directors must resign 30 to 60 Days prior to the commencement of the nomination process. If the EDA applies and is granted permission by the RNC to hold a Candidate Selection Process prior to the commencement of the nomination process, then the resignation must be immediate upon the RNC granting said nomination process in the EDA in which the Applicant wishes to run in.
- 3. Applicants must provide the RNC with the following documents cumulatively called the "Application":

- a. A completed and signed Nomination Questionnaire (Schedule A),
- b. A completed Criminal Background Check (Schedule B),
- c. Signed authorization for the Party to conduct a credit check (Schedule C),
- d. Signed consent forms as required by law (Schedule D),
- e. Signed summary of disclosure forms as required in Ethics Commissioner Filings (Schedule E),
- f. A signed Confidentiality Agreement covering the Application and Nomination Process (Schedule F).
- g. A signed declaration (Schedule G) stating the agreement of the Applicant to the following:
 - i. That the RNC has the authority to disqualify a contestant for any reason and that rejection may be appealed to the Board of Directors. Such a decision of the Board of Directors shall be final and binding,
 - ii. That there is acceptance of the principles, goals, and policies of the Maverick Party
 - iii. That membership information provided by the Party shall be used only for campaigning for that specific nomination and there shall be no access to the Party database,
 - iv. That there shall be no use of the Party logo by the contestant; nor any use of material that declares support or endorsement of the Caucus, Leader, or Party.
 - v. That if they become a candidate, they will participate in all training sessions
 - vi. That membership and voter information shall not be retained in any form after the campaign ends,
 - vii. That the applicant has read, understands, and will abide by the Candidate Selection Rules and Procedures.
- 4. Unless waived by the RNC, the applicant shall provide the following two payments:
 - a. A five-hundred-dollar non-refundable cheque to the EDA for which the applicant wishes to contest a Nomination. This shall be a fee and no tax receipt will be issued,
 - A five-hundred-dollar cheque to the Party to serve as a refundable good-conduct bond to be returned at the discretion of the RNC at the end of the Nomination Event. Any amount withheld by the RNC for conduct detrimental to the Party shall be a fee and no tax receipt shall be issued.

5. The Applicant shall provide the RNC with an original Nomination Petition signed by twenty (20) Maverick Party members of the local EDA. (Appendix H).

6. Any person who publicly declares themselves to be a nomination contestant shall have ten (10) days from the date of such a declaration to comply with the terms of the Application or be deemed ineligible to participate in the Nomination Event.

F. Application Process

- Applications must be received by the RNC prior to the close of Nominations which shall be at 5:00 PM, on a date determined by the RNC but must be at a minimum of twenty-one (21) calendar days after Opening Notice has been provided. It is the Applicant's responsibility to ensure that the RNC receives the application prior to the deadline.
- 2. The application and Nomination Petition do not need to be delivered together but both must be received prior to the close of Nominations.
- 3. The RNC shall forward the relevant portions of the Application to the LNC in preparation for the interview of the Applicant.
- 4. The LNC shall interview Applicants in person, by phone, or electronic meeting within seven (7) days of receiving the Application.
- 5. The Chair of the LNC shall inform the RNC of their approval of a nomination applicant immediately following the interviews of that applicant.

G. Acceptance or Rejection of Nomination Applicant

- 1. If a majority of the LNC believes an applicant should be accepted or rejected, the Chair shall immediately inform the RNC of their decision regarding each contestant. The RNC will convene a conference call to review the recommendations of the LNC within four (4) days.
- 2. The RNC may ask for additional information and for whatever documentation it requires from the LNC and applicant.
- 3. On the advice of the LNC, the RNC may accept or reject any applicant by simple majority.
- 4. Against the advice of the LNC, the RNC may disapprove any Applicant by 2/3 vote. The LNC must be given a written explanation of such a disapproval from the RNC Chair within four (4) days.
- 5. A decision to reject an applicant should be by mutual agreement between the LNC and the RNC where possible. Should there be no agreement the RNC decision is appealable to the President of the Party who shall refer the matter to the CSSC which shall render a decision by simple majority. Decisions of the CSSC in this matter are final.

H. Removal of Accepted Contestants or Nominated Candidates

- 1. On the recommendation of the Leader, RNC, or LNC, an accepted nomination contestant, or candidate, may be removed if evidence arose that would disqualify them for cause.
- 2. If a concern arises from a member, the LNC, or the Leader; then that concern must be outlined in full and submitted to the RNC for review and adjudication.
- 3. Such a recommendation for removal must be ratified by a 2/3 vote of all members of the RNC.
- 4. A decision to reject an accepted contestant or nominated candidate should be by mutual agreement between the LNC, RNC and Leader where possible. Should there be no agreement the RNC decision is appealable to the President of the Party who shall refer the matter to the

CSSC which shall render a decision by simple majority. Decisions of the CSSC in this matter are final.

5. In the event the removal of a candidate is necessary, the RNC may decide to re-run the nomination event or, in consultation with the Leader and the LNC, may appoint a new candidate. (Article IV)

I. Waiver of Requirements

- 1. The RNC, with approval of the Board of Directors, will have the authority to waive application qualifications regarding residency membership requirements if there is a compelling reason to do as outlined below:
 - a. The Applicant was a member of the media, think tanks, policy groups etc. where they were not allowed to hold a membership in a political party.
 - b. A person who has displayed leadership qualities in the political environment in another province and has established residency in the province or territory in which they run within the 3-month period prior to the application date.

J. Membership Lists

- 1. The RNC will provide a copy of the current EDA membership to any Applicant who.
 - a. Meet all eligibility requirements,
 - b. Have completed and submitted all applications and schedules,
 - c. Have not been rejected by the RNC.
 - d. Has signed the code of conduct and submitted it.
- 2. At any time, a membership list is provided to a nomination contestant that has met all the requirements as outlined in Section II-I-1 above, all approved contestants will receive the same updated membership list.
- 3. After the close of membership sales, which shall be eighteen (18) days prior to the first voting opportunity to comply with the 14-day membership requirement and allow processing and confirmation by the party, the RNC shall supply each nomination contestant with a preliminary list of members eligible to vote. Contestants shall have twenty-four hours to review the list for accuracy and forward corrections to the RNC who shall provide the final membership list to all contestants within twenty-four hours of receiving all corrections.
- 4. The party shall allow members whose membership has expired thirty (30) days prior to the Nomination Vote to renew their memberships as if they had never lapsed and will allow them to cast a ballot in the Nomination.

III. The Nomination Period

A. Application and Campaigning

- 1. The Nomination Period shall have two parts.
 - a. A minimum twenty-one (21) day period where Applications and Nomination Petitions are accepted; followed, if necessary, by,

- b. A minimum campaign period of twenty-one (21) calendar days.
- 2. The timing of the parts of the Nomination Period can be extended or shortened by the RNC by majority vote on the recommendation of the Board of Directors and the Leader.

B. Notice of a Nomination Event

- All notices under these rules shall be sent by the RNC to all members residing within the electoral district boundary where the nomination is to be held. The first notice (Opening Notice) shall open nominations in the EDA and shall include the name and contact of the Chair of the LNC and notice of date that Nominations close.
- 2. If a Nomination Event is required, a second notice (Event Notice) shall be sent to members of the given EDA eligible to vote. The Event Notice shall include the date(s), time(s), location(s) and description of the Nomination Event.
- 3. All notices shall be sent by email or phone call based on the records on file with the Party and by posting the information on the Party website.

IV. The Nomination Event

A. No Nomination Contestants

- 1. If there are no accepted contestant(s) for nomination in an EDA, the RNC may.
 - a. Re-run the nomination; or,
 - b. In consultation with the Board of Directors, Leader and the LNC may appoint an eligible candidate.

B. Two or More Contestants

- 1. The LNC will ensure all decisions made shall be to accommodate the maximum possible number of voters in any nomination event.
- 2. In the case of two or more Contestants, the LNC shall by motion determine.
 - a. The type of Nomination Event:
 - i. A single nomination vote at a specific time and date; or,
 - ii. Multiple nomination votes at various times and places
 - b. The date(s), time(s) and location(s) of voting
 - c. The number of hours that voting will be open ensures a minimum of six hours at each location, (if more than one location exists).

- 3. All nomination contestants, or their designate, must be notified of all EDA Board meetings and may be present as guests. The EDA may hold forums, or other such events, as determined by the LNC.
- 4. Only members of the LNC may be present for LNC meetings in accordance with their declared neutrality.

C. Voting and Membership

- 1. Voting shall be by single preferential ballot wherein the eligible voters numerically rank the nomination contestants in sequence of their choice. After counting the first counting of ballots, if no contestant receives a majority (50% plus 1) of valid votes cast, then the contestant receiving the lowest total of first place votes shall be dropped and the second-place choices on their ballots shall be apportioned among the remaining contestants. This process shall be repeated until one contestant receives a majority of valid votes cast.
- 2. The first vote of a Nomination Event must occur no sooner than forty-two (42) calendar days from the date of opening notice. The final vote (the last day of voting if multiple dates) of a nomination event must be held within forty-two (42) calendar days from the date of opening notice.
- 3. Only members in good standing for 21 days before the first vote in a nomination event are eligible to cast a ballot. (With the exception of section II-I-3)
- 4. Members whose memberships expired within thirty days of the first vote of a Nomination Event may renew as though they had never lapsed and be considered members in good standing to cast a ballot.
- 5. Memberships are valid from the time at which the application is accepted by the website, or a paper copy is marked as received by the Party.
- 6. Nomination contestants will be listed on the ballot in normal alphabetical order.
- 7. Nomination ballots shall be marked in secret. Only one person may be present in the voting booth at one time unless an exception is made for persons of limited mobility.
- 8. Nomination contestants are entitled to have scrutineers present to supervise voting, the counting of ballots and the credentialing of members.
- 9. No campaigning is permitted inside a polling place, or within one hundred and fifty feet of its entrance. Campaigning includes.
 - a. Distributing campaign literature,

- b. Wearing clothing, or buttons featuring an obvious reference to any contestant or campaign,
- c. Distributing lists of contestants in order of preference,
- d. Verbally advising a member to vote for any contestant,
- e. Any signs or posters with an obvious reference to any contestant or campaign,
- f. Any activity determined to be campaigning by the Returning Officer.

D. Membership Processing

- 1. Nomination contestants are required to process submitted sold memberships using the Party's approved format.
- 2. Responsibility for errors in membership information submitted by a nomination contestant, using the Party's approved format, will belong to the nomination contestant.
- 3. A person who has publicly declared themselves to be seeking a nomination must submit all sold memberships to the Party at the end of each week (Saturday at midnight local time).
- 4. The Party cannot guarantee proper processing of memberships if they are delivered in bulk too close to the cut-off date for sales. The responsibility to allow enough time for processing lies with the nomination contestant or applicant.

E. The Returning Officer

- 1. The LNC shall appoint an impartial Returning Officer (RO) from outside the EDA who shall have primary responsibility for enforcement of rules during voting hours.
- 2. The RO shall have the authority to.
 - a. Ensure a fair and accurate vote,
 - b. Ensure an accurate final vote tally,
 - c. Ensure the result is communicated to the LNC, RNC and the Leader,
 - d. Ensure these rules are followed by contestants, scrutineers, volunteers and voting members during voting hours.
- 3. The RO shall supervise the following.
 - a. Credentialing members as eligible voters. The voter must present one government issued photo ID such as a Driver's License, Passport, etc. If the photo ID does not state the physical residence location, then a secondary piece of residence confirmation is required, such as a utility bill etc. Post Office boxes and other forms of secondary mailing or business addresses are not permitted to prove residency.
 - b. Ensuring there shall be no voting by proxy, nor vouching for the eligibility of other voters.
 - c. The voting and counting of ballots,

- d. Credentialing of scrutineers,
- e. Ensuring that supplementary rules as may be provided from time to time by the RNC are followed.
- 4. The RO may appoint Deputy RO's to help supervise a Nomination Event.
- 5. The RO shall retain possession and custody of the ballots and voter sign in sheet for fourteen days after the final vote is tallied and reported.
- 6. The RO or Deputy RO must gather and maintain custody of all ballots and voter sheets from all multiple sites if there are multiple locations for voting in the Nomination event. They are to retain custody of such ballots and deliver them to the final voting location for counting and inclusion in the vote counting room.
- 7. The RO may make exceptions to these rules in case of persons with limited mobility who may require assistance marking and/or casting a ballot.
- 8. Decisions on these rules made by the RO during voting hours are not appealable. Such decisions may be subject to later review by the RNC upon receiving a written request from a nomination contestant.
- 9. If a contestant wishes to challenge the actual vote tally, they submit the challenge to the RNC immediately, clearly stating their concerns surrounding the vote.

V. Abridgement of the Rules

A. The Nominating Committee

- 1. Subject to the Maverick Party By-laws and Constitution and the Board of Directors, only the RNC has the authority to abridge the Candidate Selection Rules.
- 2. Abridgement of the rules shall be considered extraordinary and only considered in cases of.
 - a. The RNC, in consultation with the LNC, the Board of Directors and the Leader, recommends a rule change out of necessity to fight a general election, or by-election, in a short time frame,
 - b. The LNC requested a rule change due to local conditions, such as, but not limited to, weather and distance.
- 3. Any decision by the RNC to alter these rules for whatever reason is appealable to the President of the Party by any EDA member. The President shall refer the matter to the Board of Directors who shall render a decision by simple majority. The Board of Directors decision will be final and binding.

VI. Dispute Resolution and Appeal Process

A. Offenses

- 1. The following offenses may be reported to the RNC by a nomination applicant, contestant or the LNC to be investigated and may result in the rejection of an Applicant, the disqualification of a nomination contestant, or the removal of a candidate.
 - a. Submission of a misleading or fraudulent application,
 - b. Using the membership information provided by the Party for any purpose other than campaigning for the nomination,
 - c. Using the party logo or implying the endorsement of the Leader, a Member of Caucus, or the Party,
 - d. Buying memberships, or causing memberships to be bought, for other individuals except for family members who may pay for immediate family members (wife, husband, children).
 - e. Selling memberships as an add-on to a commercial activity,
 - f. Deliberately selling memberships to individuals who are ineligible,
 - g. Creating fake credentials or assisting individuals in falsifying credentials,
 - h. Filing unsubstantiated systematic eligibility challenges against an identifiable category of members,
 - i. Corrupt practices as defined by the Elections Act.
 - j. Filing false complaints against other applicants or nomination contestants,
 - k. Using the party membership list for campaigning before an application to be a nomination contestant has been received by the Party,
 - I. Submitting membership applications for individuals without their knowledge and consent,
 - m. Other activities which may bring the Party and the nomination process into disrepute.
- 2. The RNC may, subject to the Maverick Party Bylaws and Constitution, implement any corrective measures as required to conduct a free and fair nomination.

B. Grounds for Appeal

- 1. Lack of impartiality by the LNC, RNC, or any person acting with authority under these rules.
- 2. Offenses committed by another nomination campaign which could be reasonably concluded to have changed the outcome of the nomination event or application for nomination.

C. Appeal Process

- 1. If an applicant or nomination contestant has grounds for appeal against the LNC or any person acting in authority under these rules, a written request can be made to the Chair of the RNC for an investigation.
- 2. The Board of Directors may, by motion, direct the RNC to investigate any matter.

D. Appealing a RNC Decision

- 1. Decisions of the RNC can be appealed to the full Board of Directors, whose decision shall be final and binding.
- 2. Appeals of decisions of the RNC must be made in writing to the Party President within four (4) business days after notification of the RNC decision is transmitted.
- 3. The President will convene the Board of Directors to consider the appeal, by conference call to consider the appeal as soon as possible, or the appeal may be added to the agenda of a meeting already scheduled.
- 4. The Board of Directors may.
 - a. Investigate the appeal as it sees fit,
 - b. Ask for documentation from the RNC, LNC and/or the Leader,
 - c. Ask to interview anyone involved,
 - d. Postpone any decision for a reasonable time to gather and consider evidence.

E. Resolution

- 1. The Board of Directors may, by motion, summarily dismiss appeals it considers frivolous or vexatious.
- 2. When considering an appeal, the Board of Directors shall consider whether the RNC has.
 - a. Overstepped its authority under the Maverick Party Bylaws and Constitution or these rules,
 - b. Failed to be impartial,
 - c. Failed to consider certain evidence or circumstances which have resulted in an unfair nomination process.
- 3. The Board of Directors may, subject to the Maverick Party Bylaws and Constitution take any action it deems necessary to deal with the original complaint and appeal.
- 4. If the Board of Directors choose to act, its decision replaces the previous decision of the RNC.
- 5. Members of the Board of Directors shall not be entitled to vote on an appeal if.

- a. They are members of the RNC,
- b. They are members of an LNC in question,
- c. They are in a conflict of interest arising from the original dispute.
- 6. A written explanation of the Board of Directors decision shall be available to the RNC, LNC and/or the complainant, from the Party Secretary upon request.

VII Extraordinary Circumstances

A. In the case that in-person voting is not achievable because of extraordinary circumstances, the CSSC shall determine a method to conduct the Nomination Event with the involvement of the RNC and LNC.