

National Membership Secretariat

Information Bulletin

Term of Membership

Issue:

The Liberal Party's National Executive passed By-Laws dealing with National Membership in December 2008 and January 2009.

As part of the by law, all memberships will now expire on December 31 of any given year. Members will be permitted to purchase a membership for the subsequent year beginning October 1.

Rationale:

As National Membership Rules are adapted, it is important that all members are treated equally across the country. Membership terms were being treated in two different ways – some provincial and territorial associations were allowing memberships to run for a 12 month term from date of purchase while others were using the calendar year system with all memberships expiring on December 31.

A decision was made to move to a system that would ensure the memberships all expire at one given time and that renewals would also occur at the same time.

Transition:

For those provincial and territorial associations that were using a 12 month term from date of purchase to calculate the term of membership, all those members who expire after July 1, 2009 will have their memberships automatically extended until December 31, 2009.

As well, all provincial and territorial renewal grace periods in affect before the coming into force of the National Membership Rules remain in affect until June 30, 2009.

Benefits:

The Party will benefit from having all memberships expire and renewals taking place at the same time every year.

Members will more easily be able to determine exactly when their membership expires.

The Term of Membership as well as other important Membership Issues will be the topic of discussion at a Membership Workshop at the 2009 Leadership and Biennial Convention in Vancouver.

National Membership Secretariat

Information Bulletin

National Membership Fee

Issue:

The National Executive decided, by resolution, on January 17, 2009, that a National Membership Fee of \$10 per annum would apply to all members of the Liberal Party effective April 1, 2009.

Rationale:

The Liberal Party of Canada's Constitution provides authority to the National Executive – in consultation with the Council of Presidents – to set a National Membership Fee. In its deliberations, the National Executive sought to ensure the cost of administering a membership was recovered, while also ensuring the price did not pose a barrier to entry for potential members.

Transition:

Any member current as of March 31, 2009 will not be asked to adjust their membership fee to reflect the new fee. Only new memberships or membership renewals taking place after March 31, 2009 will be affected by the change of fee.

Benefits:

A single national membership fee will be a recognizable aspect of a uniform National Membership regime and will also eliminate the past confusion as to why the fee varied from one province or territory to the next and, in the province of Ontario, from one riding to another.

A National Membership Fee provides fairness, in that it ensures the costs of joining and exercising the rights of any Liberal Member are the same for all Liberal members across the country.

The National Membership Fee as well as other important Membership Issues will be the topic of discussion at a Membership Workshop at the 2009 Leadership and Biennial Convention in Vancouver.

National Membership Secretariat

Information Bulletin

National Membership Application

Issue:

The Liberal Party's National Executive passed By-Laws dealing with National Membership in December 2008 and January 2009.

As part of the by law, all members will apply for membership or renew their membership using a universal national form. Each form will be required to include an option for the member to automatically renew their membership as well as the option to join the Victory Fund or provide another level of donation to the Party or their Riding Association.

Rationale:

One National Membership Application and Renewal Form will ensure all levels of the Party collect the same information for inclusion within the Party's National Membership Registry. Having one universal form will also allow the Party to benefit from economies of scale and allow all printing to be done centrally.

Transition:

It is expected that all provincial and territorial associations will begin using the New National Membership Application no later than July 1, 2009. The Renewal Form will be sent to renewing members from the National Membership Secretariat beginning in October of 2009.

Benefits:

A new application will help ensure the integrity of the National Membership Registry while also ensuring all Members are being treated equally in all regions of the country.

A National Membership Application as well as other important Membership Issues will be the topic of discussion at a Membership Workshop at the 2009 Leadership and Biennial Convention in Vancouver.

National Membership Secretariat

Information Bulletin

Identification Standards

Issue:

The Liberal Party's National Executive passed By-Laws dealing with National Membership in December 2008 and January 2009.

As part of the by law, all members will be required to show suitable ID in order to vote at nomination meetings, delegate selection meetings and at Conventions of the Liberal Party of Canada.

Rationale:

By passing these standards the National Executive wanted to make change that would ensure all votes were conducted fairly and ensure that all members were adequately informed of what would be required of them in order to exercise the vote. The Standards are modelled after those adapted by Elections Canada with a couple of additions to ensure rural and aboriginal members were adequately protected.

Transition:

The changes to identification standards are effective immediately and should be enforced at all nomination meetings, delegate selection meetings and at conventions of the Liberal Party of Canada – including the biennial convention in Vancouver..

Benefits:

The Party will benefit by ensuring all voting takes place in an open and transparent manner.

Identification Standards as well as other important Membership Issues will be the topic of discussion at a Membership Workshop at the 2009 Leadership and Biennial Convention in Vancouver.

National Membership Secretariat

Information Bulletin

Renewal of members

Issue:

The Liberal Party's National Executive passed By-Laws dealing with National Membership in December 2008 and January 2009.

As part of the by law, the National Membership Secretariat will be actively working to renew existing members through an information campaign by e-mail and post. The renewal efforts will begin each October as all renewals after October 1 – or new membership applications - will be effective for the subsequent year (i.e. renew membership in October 2009 and membership expiry will be December 31, 2010)

Additionally, the new National Membership Application will allow members to indicate that they would like to automatically renew each year and the Party will do so provided the member has also provided an up to date credit card or void cheque.

Rationale:

The National Executive wants to ensure that the party retains members on a year to year basis and feels that renewal efforts that are centrally controlled will ensure the greatest level of retention. The National Executive also wanted to provide tools to members to make renewal as easy as possible.

Transition:

The National Membership Secretariat will begin its renewal campaign in October 2009.

Benefits:

Membership retention will allow riding associations and the Party to have a more stable membership to work with year in and year out.

The Renewal of Members as well as other important Membership Issues will be the topic of discussion at a Membership Workshop at the 2009 Leadership and Biennial Convention in Vancouver.