# 2020 GPC Leadership Contest Rules

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# 1. OVERVIEW OF ROLES

1.1 Leadership Contest Committee

1.1.1 Oversight: Ensure that contest is set up and proceeds smoothly.

1.2.2 Appeals: Handle any appeals from contestants that arise from the work of the Leadership Contest Authority.

1.2 Leadership Contest Authority

1.2.1 Compliance: Work with contestants and their staff to ensure proper conduct of the contest. Encourage and monitor compliance, assess penalties to contestants.

# 2. THE CANADA ELECTIONS ACT

2.1 All Leadership applicants, Contestants and their Financial Agents are

2.1.1 Subject to all regulations put forth in the Canada Elections Act;

2.1.2 Responsible for ensuring that their Leadership campaigns adhere to all regulations put forth in the Canada Elections Act.

2.2 In cases of discrepancy between any documents related to the Leadership Contest and the Canada Elections Act, the Canada Elections Act prevails.

# 3. GREEN PARTY CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

3.1 All Leadership applicants, Contestants and their Financial Agents are

3.1.1 Subject to all regulations put forth in the Green Party Constitution and bylaws;

3.1.2 Responsible for ensuring that their Leadership campaigns adhere to all regulations put forth in the Green Party Constitution and bylaws.

3.2 In cases of discrepancy between any GPC document related to the Leadership Contest and the Green Party Constitution and bylaws, the Green Party Constitution and bylaws prevail.

# 4. LEADERSHIP CONTEST AUTHORITY

4.1 The Leadership Contest Authority is

4.1.1 Appointed by the Federal Council

4.1.2 Responsible for the oversight, compliance and enforcement of the Leadership Contest Rules

4.1.3 Made up of three members, who are not members of the Leadership Contest Committee, and between them provide:

- full bilingualism (at least 1 required);
- familiarity with Elections Canada rules and regulations; and
- legal background.

4.2 The Leadership Contest Authority has full authority, delegated by Federal Council, to enforce the Leadership Contest Rules as needed. These powers include but are not limited to: expelling Leadership Contestants from the contest, limiting the participation of Leadership Contestants in official events, administering fines and providing Leadership Contestants with written warnings for any violations of Contest Rules.

4.3 Any enforcement decisions will be communicated to the Leadership Contestant in writing and, after seven days, if no appeal is made, will be made public by posting on the party website.

# 5. RULE COMPLIANCE

5.1 The Leadership Contest Authority will work proactively and in good faith, with Contestants, their teams and GPC staff to identify potential violations and preemptively avoid the need to issue a compliance violation ruling.

5.2 Should the Leadership Contest Authority deem a Leadership Contestant, their Financial Agent or a person acting under their direction is in violation of a rule related to the Leadership Contest found in:

- The Canada Elections Act;
- The GPC Constitution and bylaws;
- This document,

The Leadership Contest Authority may impose a fine, suspension or expulsion on the Leadership Contestant. The suspension may include (but is not limited to):

5.2.1 The Leadership Contestant not receiving the Voters List

5.2.2 The Leadership Contestant being excluded from official Party events or debates

5.2.3 Delayed transfers of the Directed Contributions of the Leadership Contestant

5.3 Leadership Contestants may appeal a decision or ruling of the Leadership Contest Authority to the Leadership Contest Committee in writing within forty-eight (48) hours of receiving notice of the decision or ruling. Decisions on appeals will be issued within seven (7) days of receipt of the appeal.

5.4 All decisions of the Leadership Contest Authority in response to violations, or decisions of the Leadership Contest Committee in the case of an appeal, are final.

5.5 The Party will provide a compliance web page accessible via the Leadership Contest landing page that will outline each violation with the following details:

5.5.1 The Leadership Contestant(s) involved

5.5.2 Details of the infraction, including the date of the infraction and the rule(s) that were deemed to have been violated

5.5.3 Whether or not the decision was appealed to the Leadership Contest Committee

5.5.4 The ruling of the Leadership Contest Authority or, in the case of an appeal, the ruling of the Leadership Contest Committee.

5.6 The Leadership Contest Authority or the Leadership Contest Committee may keep the details of the infraction private if:

5.6.1 The ruling results in the expulsion of a Leadership Contestant; or

5.6.2 Publishing details of the infraction violates a confidentiality or non-disclosure agreement.

5.7 The Leadership Contest Authority may fine a campaign between [$500-$2500] for every infraction of the rules depending on severity.

5.8 Any attempt to circumvent the leadership rules will be subject to review and penalty by the Leadership Contest Authority.

# 6. LEADERSHIP CONTESTANT ELIGIBILITY

6.1 An individual may stand as a Leadership Contestant for the Leadership Contest if they

6.1.1 Complete the contestant application process and vetting to the satisfaction of the Leadership Contest Authority;

6.1.2 Are a Green Party of Canada Member in good standing as of the date of application;

6.1.3 Are eligible for election to the House of Commons under the Canada Elections Act as of the date of application.

6.1.4 Have no debt owed to the GPC

6.1.5 Have no open litigation against the GPC

# 7. BY-ELECTION DURING THE LEADERSHIP CONTEST

7.1 A Leadership Contestant may not apply for the candidacy of a federal by-election unless: a) they withdraw from the Leadership Contest; or b) they request and receive approval from

Federal Council to apply for the nomination; or c) the nomination date for the by-election is after Oct 3, 2020.

# 8. OTHER FUNCTIONARY ROLES IN PARTY

8.1 Any approved Leadership Contestant who is a member of Federal Council, Young Greens Council, Shadow Cabinet or any official Committee of the Green Party of Canada must resign their position within 48 hours of approval of application and prior to registering as a Leadership Contestant with Elections Canada.

# 9. WITHDRAWAL OF A LEADERSHIP CONTESTANT

9.1 A Leadership Contestant may voluntarily withdraw from the contest by informing the Leadership Contest Authority in writing.

9.2 All fees that are due on the date of withdrawal remain due.

9.3 Any outstanding expenses of the Leadership Contestant remain the responsibility of the Leadership Contestant (as set out by the Canada Elections Act).

9.4 Any surplus of funds in the Leadership Contestant's campaign bank account must be transferred to the central party within 30 days of the Contestant's withdrawal.

9.5 Notice of the withdrawal of a leadership contestant will be posted on the GPC website without detail.

# 10. LEADERSHIP CONTESTANT APPLICATION, FEES AND ENDORSEMENT OF MEMBERS

10.1 Leadership applications may be submitted to the Leadership Contest Authority from February 4th, 2020 (6:00 AM Pacific Time) to June 3, 2020 (6:00 PM Pacific Time).

10.2 To apply to be a Leadership Contestant, an individual must submit the following to the Leadership Contest Authority

10.2.1 A fully completed nomination application package as approved by the Leadership Contest Authority.

10.2.2 One hundred (100) nominations from Party members including at least twenty (20) Young Greens using the form provided in the Application package. Signatories must be Party Members in good standing when the application is submitted to the Leadership Contest Authority.

10.2.3 A payment for the Application Fee as outlined below.

10.3 All Leadership Contestants will be notified when their application has been received in full.

# 11. FEES

11.1 The following fees are non-negotiable for Leadership Contestants and must be paid to the Green Party of Canada Fund:

11.1.1 **Initial non-refundable Application Fee**: $1,000 due at the time the application is submitted for review ;

11.1.2 **Non-Refundable Initial Contest entry Fee**: $9,000 due within ten (10) days of the Leadership Application being approved;

11.1.3 **Non-Refundable Secondary Contest Fee**: $20,000, due by September 1st, 2020

# 12. VETTING

12.1 All applicants will be notified of their approval/rejection exactly seven (7) days after they receive notice that their application has been received in full. This 7-day period will be used to review the application and complete a thorough vetting of the applicant.

12.2 The applicant must remain available during this 7-day period to answer additional questions that may arise during the review of their application.

12.3 Failure of the applicant to respond in a timely manner may extend the vetting period until all questions are answered.

12.4 An application may be denied at the Leadership Contest Authority's discretion and in the interests of the Party, based on information received in the Contestant Application or subsequent information discovered during the 7-day vetting period.

12.5 Applicants will not be given details of why their application has been denied, unless approved by the Leadership Contest Authority.

12.6 Rejected applicants may appeal the decision of the Leadership Contest Authority within twenty-four (24) hours of the determination of the Leadership Contest Authority. If no appeal is received by the Leadership Contest Committee within 24 hours, the Leadership Contest Authority's decision is final.

12.7 The Leadership Contest Committee will have seven (7) days to review the appeal.

12.7.1 The Leadership Contest Committee may request further information from the applicant or any other person(s) during their review.

12.7.2 The Leadership Contest Committee will inform the Leadership Contest Authority and the applicant in writing of their decision to approve or reject the applicant.

12.7.3 The decision of the Leadership Contest Committee is final. Applicants will not be given details on the decision of the Leadership Contest Committee.

12.8 If at any time during the contest the Leadership Contest Authority is made aware of information that was omitted from the initial application that may have caused the applicant to be rejected:

12.8.1 The Leadership Contest Authority may order a follow-up 7-day vetting of the Contestant.

12.8.2 The Leadership Contest Authority may expel the Contestant immediately.

12.9 If the Leadership Contest Authority orders a follow-up vetting:

12.9.1 The Leadership Contestant will be informed in writing that a follow-up 7-day vetting has been ordered.

12.9.2 During the follow-up vetting the Leadership Contestant may continue to campaign unless directed otherwise.

12.9.3 The Leadership Contestant must make themselves available during the seven days to provide the Leadership Contest Authority information as requested.

12.9.4 For privacy and fairness, information of the follow-up vetting will be kept confidential to the parties involved.

12.9.5 If, at any point during the follow-up 7-day vetting period, the Leadership Contest Authority confirms the validity of information that was omitted from the original application that disqualifies the Contestant, the Leadership Contestant Authority may remove the Contestant from the contest immediately by informing the Contestant in writing.

12.9.6 Expelled Leadership Contestants will not be given details of why their approval has been revoked and may not contest the decision. Notice that the Contestant is no longer in the contest will be posted to the GPC website without detail.

12.10 If after the follow-up 7-day vetting period, the Leadership Contest Authority determines the Contestant shall remain an approved Contestant:

12.10.1 The Leadership Contestant will be informed in writing that the follow-up 7-day vetting has concluded with no further action.

# 13. ADDITIONAL MEMBER NOMINATIONS

13.1 Between August 1st and September 1st 2020, each Leadership Contestant must provide an additional 150 signed nominations from members using the form provided by the Leadership Contest Authority.

13.2 These 150 members must include at least 20 members residing in each of a minimum of five of the six regions of Canada as defined in the GPC bylaws (Atlantic, Quebec, Ontario, Prairie, British Columbia and North).

13.3 These 150 nominations from members may not include the members from the original 100 nominations made at the time of the Contestant's application.

13.4 A member may nominate more than one Leadership Contestant.

# 14. FUNDRAISING, LOANS AND EXPENSES

14.1 All monetary contributions to a Leadership Contestant must be processed through the Green Party office as “directed contributions” and are subject to a twenty-five percent (25%) administrative fee.

14.2 All reconciled directed contributions will be transferred from the GPC Head Office to the intended Leadership Contestants on a weekly basis.

14.3 The transfer will include the available contact information and amounts of each individual contribution.

14.4 25% of all monetary contributions received by the Leadership Contestant prior to their registration with Elections Canada as a Leadership Contestant must be transferred to the Green Party of Canada within 10 days of confirmation of their registration by Elections Canada.

14.5 Any loans from individuals to a Leadership Contestant may be received directly by the Financial Agent from the lender.

14.6 Prior to accepting the loan, the Financial Agent must confirm with the GPC that the loan does not put an individual over their annual contribution limit.

14.7 All loans received from individuals are subject to a twenty-five percent (25%) administrative fee transferred to the GPC within 5 business days.

14.8 Up to $7,500 of the administrative fees retained by the GPC can be used to cover part of the contestant’s entry fees, the total of which is $30,000.

14.9 The Leadership Contest Expense Limit is $500,000 for the duration of the Leadership Contest. Expenses of the Contest are defined by the Canada Elections Act.

14.10 Leadership Contest Fees (in above “Fees” section) and are not included expenses under the Contest Expense Limit.

# 15. APPOINTMENT AND DUTIES OF THE FINANCIAL AGENT

15.1 Each Leadership Contestant must appoint a Financial Agent.

15.2 The Financial Agent is responsible for ensuring the Leadership Contestant and their campaign follow all financial regulations set out in this document, the Party Constitution & bylaws, and the Canada Elections Act.

15.3 For the purposes of compliance, communications between the Leadership Contest Authority and the Financial Agent of the Contestant will be considered communication between the Leadership Contest Authority and the Leadership Contestant themselves.

15.4 The Financial Agent must open a separate bank account to be used exclusively for the contestant's campaign. The account must be named in compliance with the Canada Elections Act.

15.5 All monetary transactions in relation to the contest must go through the Contestant's campaign bank account, unless they involve the payment of personal or litigation expenses.

15.6 The bank account has to remain open until the Financial Agent fulfills all financial obligations of the contest.

15.7 Once a Leadership Contestant has been approved and registered with Elections Canada all monetary contributions must be deposited as directed contributions through the Green Party of Canada.

15.8 All expenses must be recorded in accordance with Elections Canada regulations and must be reported to Elections Canada as set out in the Canada Elections Act.

15.9 If a Financial Agent resigns or is removed by the Leadership Contestant, the Leadership Contest Authority and Elections Canada must be informed without delay.

15.10 It is the responsibility of the Leadership Contestant to replace a Financial Agent who resigns or is removed.

15.11 Any debts incurred by the Leadership Contestant are the full responsibility of the Leadership Contestant and their Financial Agent. The GPC will take no responsibility for any such debt including when a Leadership Contestant withdraws from the contest or is successful in being elected Leader.

# 16. ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

16.1 Within seven (7) days of initial approval of the Contestant the Financial Agent must provide any and all monthly bank statements of the Leadership Contestant's bank account including the opening statement and details on all campaign loans received and paid.

16.2 On the first Tuesday of each month from March to September 2020:

The Financial Agent of the Contestant will provide the Leadership Contest Authority with the previous month's bank statement showing all deposits, withdrawals and details on all campaign loans received and paid. In the case that the Leadership Contest Authority requests additional documentation of financial transactions, the Financial Agent will have 5 business days to comply.

16.3 A bank statement showing deposits, withdrawals and details on all campaign loans received and paid that covers September 1st to September 25th, 2020 will be due on September 28th, 2020.

# 17. VOTERS LIST

17.1 The Leadership Contest Authority will instruct the Party to supply Approved Leadership Contestants with an electronic, up-to-date Voters List.

17.2 The Voters List will be provided as a spreadsheet and contain the name, phone number (if available), address, riding, membership start/end date and preferred language of each eligible voter.

17.3 The Final Voters List issued on Sept 30th will also include an indication of whether or not each member has voted.

17.4 An Approved Leadership Contestant will not be eligible to receive the initial Voters List or any updates of the Voters List until all monetary fees have been received in full.

17.5 An up-to-date Voters List will be provided to all eligible Leadership Contestants:

17.5.1 Upon confirmation that a new Leadership Contestant is Approved and has paid all required fees.

17.5.2 The 30th day of each month for the duration of the Leadership Contest (For February, the list will be provided to eligible Contestants on the 29th day of the month).

17.6 The Voters List can only be used by the Leadership Contestant and their team during the Contest for the purposes of promoting/opposing a registered Leadership Contestant or to promote/oppose a specific position held by a registered Leadership Contestant.

17.7 All reasonable measures must be taken to maintain the confidentiality of the Voters List, as per the GPC Privacy Policy. As part of the application, all Leadership Contestants will be required to affirm that they will abide by the GPC Privacy Policy and Usage Guidelines above.

17.8 Contestants will not use the Voters List for any purpose at all after voting closes. All copies of the Voters List must be destroyed or returned to the Party by October 11th, 2020.

17.9 The Voters Lists will contain security features to detect misuse or loss, trackable to specific contestants.

# 18. USE OF GVOTE

18.1 Leadership Contestants and their campaign teams may not use GVote or information previously obtained from GVote for any leadership contest purposes.

# 19. VOTING ELIGIBILITY

19.1 All Party Members as of Sept 3rd, 2020 at 11:59 PM Pacific Time are eligible to vote.

# 20. VOTING DATES AND FORMAT

20.1 The Leadership Vote will begin at 1:00 PM Atlantic time (9:00 AM Pacific) on Sept 26th, 2020 and end at 7:30 PM Atlantic (3:30 PM Pacific time) on Oct 3rd, 2020.

20.2 The results of the Leadership Vote will be announced at 9:00 PM Atlantic (5:00 PM Pacific) on Oct 3rd, 2020.

20.3 The election of the Leader will use a one-member, one-vote system using a preferential ballot. A majority vote shall elect the Leader. Ballots will include an option for "None-of-the-Above" (NOTA).

20.4 Voting will be primarily conducted by online ballot, but a mail in ballot option will be available in the case that a Party Member is not able to vote online.

# 21. MAIL-IN VOTING

21.1 Request for a mail-in ballot (or a request to replace a lost/missing mail-in ballot) opens on February 4th, 2020 and closes at 5:00 PM Eastern on August 27th, 2020.

21.2 Completed mail-in ballots must be received by the GPC central office by 5:00 PM Eastern on September 28th, 2020.

21.3 Mail-in ballots will be input into the online voting system by volunteers at the head office in Ottawa between September 29th and October 2nd.

21.4 All Leadership Contestants will be notified of the exact times so a Contestant's scrutineer may be present.

21.5 The volunteers responsible for inputting the votes will be appointed by the Leadership Contest Authority and must remain impartial between September 29th and October 2nd.

21.6 The volunteers will be required to keep all voter information including any identifying factors of the voter and their voting intentions in strict confidentiality.

21.7 The total number of mail-in ballots will be recorded but mail-in vote tallies will not be made available.

21.8 The mail-in ballots must be held by the GPC for six months.

# 22. LEADERSHIP DEBATES

22.1 The Party will organize at least two official leadership debates, one in each official language.

22.2 The debates will be organized at the discretion of the Leadership Contest Authority.

22.3 Leadership Contestants will be responsible for arranging their own travel and accommodations for the official debates.

# 23. ROLE OF GPC STAFF, COMMITTEES AND RIDING ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVES

23.1 GPC Staff, Electoral District Associations (EDAs) and EDA Executives acting in those roles must remain impartial during the Leadership Contest. They must not use their position or access to Party resources to influence the Electorate to support or oppose a Leadership Contestant or any person who has publicly announced their interest in becoming a Leadership Contestant.

23.2 EDA funds and resources may not be used to support or oppose a Leadership Contestant including:

23.2.1 transferring or lending the funds or resources to a Leadership Contestant

23.2.2 sharing supporter data with a Leadership Contestant, including data stored in GVote

23.2.3 using EDA resources to communicate with supporters in a partisan manner, including communications through GVote.

23.3 Members of the Executive of an EDA, Federal Council, Young Greens Council, Shadow Cabinet and all other official Party committees (excluding the Leadership Contest Authority and

members of the Leadership Contest Committee) may support a Leadership Contestant or a Leadership campaign as an individual Party member.

23.4 GPC Staff, the Leadership Contest Authority and members of the Leadership Contest Committee must remain impartial at all times. This includes using personal social media accounts to promote or oppose a Leadership Contestant.

23.5 At times, staff, the Leadership Contest Authority and members of the Leadership Contest Committee may offer support services to a Leadership Contestant. It is required that the same offer of support is made to all other Leadership Contestants equally.

23.6 The Party may use internal resources to promote the Leadership Contest, BGM, or official Leadership Contest events in an impartial manner.

23.7 The Party will take all precautions to avoid highlighting a specific Contestant, or their key campaign staff, who happen to participate at a GPC event that is promoted using Party resources.

23.8 If the Party wishes to produce a specific promotion highlighting the approved Leadership Contestants, each Contestant will be provided equal opportunity to be included in the promotional material.

23.9 Any Leadership Contestant or person(s) acting on behalf of a Leadership Contestant who contacts an EDA, EDA executive or GPC staff member must identify themselves as a Leadership Contestant or representative of a Leadership Contestant.

23.10 A central repository of communications between Leadership Contestants and GPC staff (or the Leadership Contest Authority) in regards to the administration of the Contest will be made available to all Leadership Contestants.

# TIMELINE

February 4th - Contest Opens (request for application opens)
February 4th - Request for Mail-in Ballots Opens
February 29th - Voters List provided to all eligible Leadership Contestants

March 3rd - Contestants' Financial Report due to Leadership Contest Authority
March 30th - Voters List provided to all eligible Leadership Contestants

April 7th - Contestants' Financial Report due to Leadership Contest Authority
April 30th - Voters List provided to all eligible Leadership Contestants

May 5th - Contestants' Financial Report due to Leadership Contest Authority
May 30th - Voters List provided to all eligible Leadership Contestants

June 2nd - Contestant's Financial Report due to Leadership Contest Authority
June 3rd - Nominations Close (deadline to submit application)
June 30th - Voters List provided to all eligible Leadership Contestants

July 7th - Contestants' Financial Report due to Leadership Contest Authority
July 30th - Voters List provided to all eligible Leadership Contestants

August 1st to Sept 1st - 150 additional member nominations required
August 4th - Contestants' Financial Report due to Leadership Contest Authority
August 27th - Request for mail-in ballots closes
August 30th - Voters List provided to all eligible Leadership Contestants

September 1st - Secondary Contestant Fee due, Final date for Leadership Contestants to submit 150 member nominations
September 3rd - Deadline to become a member and be eligible to vote in the Leadership Contest
September 8th - Contestants' Financial Report due to Leadership Contest Authority
September 26th - Open of online voting
September 28th - Mail-in ballots due
September 28th - Contestants' Financial Report due to Leadership Contest Authority
September 29th to October 2nd, 2020 - Mail-in ballots counted
September 30th - Voters List provided to all eligible Leadership Contestants

October 2nd - October 4th - GPC BGM
October 3rd - Close of online voting
October 3rd - Winner announced