

Constitution of the Communist Party of Canada

*As amended at the 35th Convention
Communist Party of Canada
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PRINCIPLES OF ORGANIZATION

The Communist Party of Canada is the Marxist-Leninist party of the working class dedicated to the cause of socialism. It is a voluntary organization of like-minded people which strives to unite in its ranks the most politically advanced and active members of the working class and of other sections of the people exploited by monopoly who are prepared to work for the achievement of working class state power and the building of a socialist Canada. The Communist Party of Canada has no interests separate and apart from those of the working class from which it springs. Support and work for the Party program is the basis of membership in the Party.

The multi-national character of our country finds expression in the Communist Party, and is reflected in the Communist Party of Quebec which is a distinct entity, within the Communist Party of Canada, having complete control of its own policies and structures in Quebec.

The organizational principles of the Communist Party are determined by its political aims. To guide the working class to the achievement of these aims, and to lead the people's struggle, the Party must be founded on firm ideological, political and organizational unity, and on the continuous organized activity of its members in close contact with the working people, knowing their views and needs, and able to explain Party policy.

Democratic centralism is the organizational principle which ensures this.

Democratic centralism combines the maximum of democratic discussion and participation of the membership in Party life, with the self-imposed obligation to carry out majority decisions and execution of these decisions by an elected centralized leadership capable of leading the entire Party.

It includes full discussion by the entire membership of the policies necessary to advance the aims of the Party's program. Decisions as to what

these policies must be made by majority vote which are then binding on all members. This enables the Party to act as a united whole in all conditions of the struggle. Unity derives from agreement on the socialist program of the Party and the recognition that while differences may arise as to how best to advance the aims of the program under changing circumstances, there must be unity of action in executing decisions once they are made by majority vote. Thus the Party is a united, militant organization in which factional or splitting activities are impermissible. All Party members must carry out Party decisions, the minority must abide by majority decisions, and lower organizations must carry out decisions of higher organizations.

The principles of democratic centralism are binding on all Communists; the members of the Communist Party of Quebec, as members of the Communist Party of Canada, participate fully, on the basis of equality, in its life and activities, in its Conventions, Central Committee and leadership, take part in the collective formulation of policy and share in the common responsibility for action in the interests of the working class of Canada.

All Party committees are elected. Elected committees are bound by Party policies as decided by conventions. They have the right to make decisions on the basis of these policies, and all Party members and lower Party committees are obliged to carry them out. All Party committees must report regularly on their work to the Party organization which elected them and must abide by the principle of collective leadership coupled with individual responsibility.

The basic organization of the Communist Party is the Party Club. It should educate, encourage and in all ways develop each Party member to become an active worker for the Party's program and policies among their fellow workers.

Principled criticism and self-criticism carried on in a comradely and objective manner strengthens the solidarity and unity of the Party and enables it to improve its ties with the people. Any tendency to suppress or evade principled criticism is detrimental to the Party and must be constantly opposed.

In its consistent defence of the real interests of Canada, the Communist Party is guided by the world outlook of Marxism-Leninism. The Communist Party of Canada upholds the time-honoured and tested principle of working-class internationalism. It develops fraternal ties with Communist

and Workers' Parties of other countries for the victory of the common aims of the working class.

ARTICLE 1

Name and Purpose

The name of the organization shall be the Communist Party of Canada. The aims and purposes of the Party are set forth in its Program.

ARTICLE 2

Party Emblem¹

The emblem of the Party shall be a gear and pinion flanked by ears of wheat, on a background of a maple leaf, symbolizing the unity of the workers and farmers of our land.

¹ - The 34th Convention voted to change the Party emblem in deference to national sentiment in Quebec which regards the maple leaf as a symbol of national oppression, in favour of a new party emblem incorporating the themes of peace and working class internationalism. The 35th Convention directed the incoming Central Committee to solicit designs for a new emblem from interested members and friends, and that the best of these be put to the membership for their consideration in a referendum vote within one year.

ARTICLE 3

Membership

Section One

Any resident of Canada, sixteen years of age or older, who subscribes to the provisions of Section Two of Article 3, shall be eligible for membership.

Members of the Communist Party of Quebec are members of the Communist Party of Canada.

Section Two

A Party member is one who accepts and works to carry out the program and policies of the Party as determined by this constitution and by Convention, carries out Party decisions, belongs to a club, pays dues regularly and supports the Party financially. A Party member attends club meetings, reads, supports and spreads the Party's press and literature and works to build the Party to the best of his or her ability.

Section Three

All applications for membership shall be subject to discussion and decision by a majority vote of the Club. Once accepted the member, or, members shall be invited to attend the following club meeting where they shall take the initiation pledge (page 24), pay their initiation fee and their first month's dues, and shall receive a membership book, a copy of the Constitution and Program. All new recruits shall be reported by the Club to the next higher body of the Party. Where an application is rejected, the Club shall report such rejections to the next higher body which shall review the case.

Section Four

In areas where no Party organization exists, membership at large can be granted only by the Provincial Executive Committee of the Party, or the Central Executive Committee where no Provincial Committee exists. Where deemed advisable this authority may be granted by the Provincial Executive Committee, or the Central Executive Committee, to a Regional Executive Committee. Only in exceptional circumstances may such membership be

granted where Party organizations exist. Members at large shall pay the regular dues and assessments direct to the office to which they are attached.

Section Five

A Party member three (3) months in arrears in payment of dues shall cease to be in good standing (refer to Article 4, Section One) and shall be officially informed thereof; a member who is six (6) months in arrears shall be stricken from the rolls after all efforts have failed to bring such a member into good standing. This information should be forwarded by the Club to the next higher body of the Party. If those whose membership terminated for these reasons apply for readmission within six (6) months they may, upon approval of the Club or local committee be permitted to pay up back dues and maintain standing as old members.

Section Six

The issuance and acceptance of new cards each year is a reaffirmation of membership in the Party. The Club Executive is therefore obligated to notify all members of the Club in advance, that a special meeting shall take place to review members' work prior to the exchange of cards, and that each member has the right and duty to be present and to participate in this review of work and exchange of cards. A Club, after all efforts have failed, may upon majority decision, and in consultation with the next higher Party body, refuse to renew a membership in the event of failure to live up to the requirements of membership in the Party as described in Article 3 Section Two and Article 4 Sections Two, Ten, Eleven, Twelve and Thirteen. A member disagreeing with such an action has the right to appeal under Article 4, Section Three.

ARTICLE 4

Rights and Duties of Members

Section One

Every member of the Communist Party in good standing has the right and duty to participate in formulating and carrying out the policies of the Party,

including the right and duty to discuss any and all policies and tactics within the Party organization and in designated Party publications, the right to reserve their opinion in the event of disagreement with a decision or submit it to a leading committee, at the same time unconditionally carrying it out. Every Party member in good standing has the right to elect the Party's leading committees and to criticize their work and composition. Every Party member in good standing has the right to be nominated and elected to all offices and committees as provided for by the Constitution. A Party member has the right to be present whenever decisions are taken regarding his activity or conduct, and the right to address any question or statement to any Party body, including the Central Committee and receive full information pertaining to the question.

Section Two

Party members should constantly endeavour to deepen their political knowledge and understanding through systematic study of Marxism-Leninism and work to build the Party. Party members work to implement the decisions of the Party, observe Party discipline and oppose everything detrimental to the working class and the Party. Party members should study and explain to potential members and supporters the program and policies of the Party in order to win them for these aims.

It is the duty of every Party member to refrain from activities in conflict with established Party policy as expressed through decisions arrived at in conventions and by higher Party committees. It is the duty of every Party member to defend and strengthen Party unity.

Section Three

A Party member, club or committee, disagreeing with a decision of a Club, Ward territory, City Committee, Region or Province, has the right to appeal that decision to the next higher body and may carry the appeal to the highest body of the Party, its Central Committee and the Convention. While such an appeal is pending the individual member, club or committee appealing such a decision must abide by the decision already rendered. All appeals shall be heard by the respective committees within sixty (60) days.

Section Four

Questions raised with a higher Party Committee as a result of disagreement with a majority decision, in addition to being considered by the committee to which the appeal is made, may be made the subject of special organized discussion for a specified period within the Party organization by a majority vote of the Central Committee or its Executive.

Section Five

All decisions arrived at in regular or special Club meetings shall be decided by a majority vote of all members present, and all members shall abide by such decisions. The Club executive is obligated to notify all members of regular or special meetings.

Section Six

All Party officers and leading committees of the Party, from the Club executive member to the higher Party bodies shall be elected by secret ballot and majority vote either directly by the membership or through their elected delegates. Committees and officers must report regularly on their activities to the body which elected them or the body to which they are responsible.

Section Seven

Members of a Club, by majority vote, have the right to recall any of the Club officers or committees provided all members have been given written notice in good time as determined by the Constitution.

Section Eight

Any Party officers or members elected to a committee may be recalled at any time from their position by a majority vote of the body which elected them except as modified by Article 7, Section Eight. Vacancies shall be filled by the same body by a majority vote.

Section Nine

A Party member shall have the right to prefer charges against any other member in accord with Article 9, Section Two. Any member who has been

subject to disciplinary action has the right to appeal to the next higher body up to the Convention.

Section Ten

Every Party member must combat every effort, whether it comes from abroad or from within the country to injure the rights of labour and the people, or any section thereof, or to impose upon Canada the arbitrary will of any group, party, clique or conspiracy, thereby violating the unqualified right of the majority of the people to direct the destiny of our country.

Section Eleven

It shall be the obligation of every member to oppose all forms of national discrimination, oppression and all ideological influences and practices of racial intolerance and discrimination or special privileges based on nationality.

Section Twelve

It shall be the duty of every Party member to work for the complete social and economic equality of women and for the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women.

Party members shall set an example of gender equality in social and political life, in the home and in the workplace, and must oppose all forms of patriarchy and gender discrimination.

Section Thirteen

Party members shall belong to the respective trade union to which they are eligible, further its interests and fight consistently to uphold and promote trade union democracy. Where no trade union exists Party members shall work consistently for the promotion of trade union organization, principles and standards.

Party members eligible to do so shall join farm, cooperative, fraternal, professional and other peoples' organizations which defend the interests of the working people.

ARTICLE 5

Structure

(a) The Party Club

Section One

The primary organization of the Communist Party is the Club. Clubs may be established wherever three or more applicants desire to set one up providing they do not already belong to a club. Clubs are organized in communities (cities, towns, wards, constituencies, or neighbourhoods), and places of employment or on any other basis determined by the responsible Party committee in the area. Party members shall be organized in Shop Clubs wherever possible. The Club shall have the right to choose its own name.

Charters are issued to each club, and may be withdrawn by the CEC upon recommendation or consultation with the Provincial Executive Committees, subject to the provisions of Article 6

Section Two

Party Clubs shall meet at least once a month or oftener if decided by the Club membership. The Club shall elect an organizer and whatever officers are deemed necessary to conduct the business of the Club. These officers shall constitute the executive. Such elections shall take place annually, through secret ballot with nominations taking place at least two weeks before election, for a term of one year unless a majority of the Club membership desires to replace any one of them before the above time expires.

The two-week period in December or January, while nominations are open shall constitute the annual review of the political, ideological and organizational work of the Club and its executive, the results of which shall be forwarded to the next higher body of the Party. The election shall take place upon the completion of this process.

The Club treasurer shall submit a full financial report to the Club at least every six months. Each Club shall elect an auditing committee for the

purpose of auditing the books. This committee may, when deemed advisable, avail itself of professional assistance. On the eve of elections of officers the yearly report on club finances must be audited and presented to the Club membership.

Following Club elections, the ward territory, city, regional or provincial executive shall be informed of the personnel elected. The next higher body of the Party shall be kept informed of any changes in Club personnel during the year.

Section Three

It shall be the aim and duty of the Party Club to bring about the closest relationship between the Party and the working people in the area in which it works by joining in the struggle of the people for their political, economic and cultural needs; by conducting propaganda, agitational and organizational work among the working people in order to convince them to support the Party's program and policy; by helping each member to become an active fighter for Party policy and a builder of the Party.

The Party Club shall constantly strive to gain new members and organizes the political education of its members so as to make them more effective workers in their areas, communities and industries.

The Party Club checks up regularly on the carrying out of its decisions and on the activities of its members and works to strengthen Party discipline and Party unity.

(b) City or Regional Organization

Section Four

In areas where two or more clubs exist, a city or regional organization may be formed by the decision of the Provincial organization or the CEC where no Provincial organization exists. In such cases, conventions composed of delegates from all clubs in the city or region or of Party membership meetings shall elect a city or regional committee responsible for the work in the given area. Such conventions shall take place at least once every two years. Clubs may submit names to the Convention for the election of the city or regional committee.

These committees shall assist the Clubs to strengthen their public work, administer the affairs of the city or regional party organization and elaborate at the local level the decisions of the Central and Provincial bodies of the Party.

To be eligible for election to the city or regional committee one shall have been a member of the Party in continuous good standing for at least one (1) year.

(c) Provincial Organization

Section Five

All Party organizations within a province shall constitute a provincial organization. The highest body in the provincial organization shall be the Provincial Convention which shall be convened at least once every two years. Provincial Conventions shall be composed of delegates elected by each Club of the Party on a basis determined by the Provincial Committee of the Party.

The Provincial Convention shall by secret ballot and majority vote and with due regard for the need to ensure regional representation elect a Provincial Committee and alternate members in such numbers as the Convention may determine. The Provincial Committee shall meet between conventions at least once every six (6) months.

A Special meeting of the Provincial Committee shall be called at the request of one-third of its membership, or if special circumstances render it necessary, by decision of the Provincial Executive or upon the written request of clubs representing one-third of the membership in the province. If the Provincial Committee is not called within 30 days of such a request, clubs representing 51% of the membership in the province can call a Special Provincial Convention.

Party clubs, City or Regional Conventions may submit nominations to the Provincial Convention for election of the Provincial Committee. To be eligible to the Provincial Committee one shall have been a member of the Party in good standing for at least two (2) years. This shall not apply where a new provincial organization is to be established.

The Provincial Committee shall elect a Provincial Executive Committee of whatever size it deems necessary to lead the work of the Party between sessions of the Provincial Committee and shall elect a Provincial Party

Secretary. The PEC shall, where necessary, establish sub-committees to assist it in the guidance of work in particular fields. Such committees shall be advisory and their function shall include assistance in the implementation of policy and decisions of the respective responsible Party bodies. Such committees shall report regularly on their work. This shall apply to sub-committees established by Regional or City Committees.

In matters of a provincial, regional or local nature, including all forms of electoral and other public activities, the Party organization concerned shall exercise full initiative in formulating policies and make decisions in conformity with the general policies of the Party and its Convention. Should a lower Party organization find that a decision made by a higher Party body does not, in its opinion, suit the actual conditions in its locality, it should request the higher Party body to modify the decision. If the higher Party body still upholds its decision it must be carried out.

The Provincial Committee must give a duly audited financial statement annually to the clubs and Central Committee and a two-yearly financial report to the Provincial Convention as indicated in Article 10, Section Three of the Constitution.

(d) Special Provincial Conventions

Section Six

Special Provincial Conventions may be called either by a majority vote of the Provincial Committee or upon the written request of Clubs representing one-third of the membership in the province. In the event that the Provincial Committee fails to call a convention to be held within 60 days of the request, clubs representing 51% of the membership can call a Special Convention.

ARTICLE 6

Communist Party of Quebec

The Communist Party of Quebec is a distinct entity within the Communist Party of Canada. The Communist Party of Quebec has complete control over its policies and structures within Quebec as decided by the National Convention and the National Committee of the Communist Party of Quebec.

ARTICLE 7

Central Organization

Section One

The highest authority of the Communist Party is the Convention. It amends the Party program and constitution, elects the Central Committee of the Party and makes other political and organizational decisions which are binding upon the entire Party membership. Regular Conventions shall be held not more than three (3) years apart, with no option for the Central Committee to extend the period between conventions.

Section Two

A Special Central Convention may be called either by a majority vote of the Central Committee or upon the written request of clubs representing one-third of the membership in the Party. If such a convention is not convened within 90 days of such a request, clubs representing 51% of the membership can convene a Special Convention.

Section Three

The Convention shall be composed of delegates elected by secret ballot at Special Provincial Conventions called for this purpose, excepting that Provincial Committees may decide with the agreement of the Central Committee that delegates shall be elected by Regional Conventions or by Club meetings called specially for this purpose. Clubs or Cities or Regions existing where Provincial bodies do not exist are entitled to elect Convention delegates from Clubs or from City or Regional Conventions in consultation with the Central Committee. Those attaining the highest vote shall be declared elected delegates. Delegates shall be elected on the basis of proportional representation as determined by the Central Committee according to paid-up convention assessments and of initiation fees dating from the immediately preceding September 1st, and up to a cut off date determined by the CC at the time the Convention is called.

To be eligible for election as a delegate to the Central Convention one shall have been a member of the Party in continuous good standing for at

least one (1) year. This provision may be waived by the CEC where a new Party organization has been established.

Members of the outgoing Central Committee, unless elected as delegates, shall be seated with voice only.

Section Four

The convention shall be preceded by not less than three months discussion in all Party organizations of the draft political resolution and such other documents as are submitted by the Central Committee to the Convention. During the discussion period the Central Committee shall make available a Party publication within which to conduct the pre-convention discussion. During the discussion all Party organizations may propose amendments to the draft Convention resolution and the Constitution or other documents submitted by the Central Committee and submit any document for the consideration of the Convention. All resolutions for the Convention must reach the Central Executive no later than fifteen (15) days before the opening of the Convention, and such resolutions shall be made available in suitable form to all delegates.

Section Five

The Central Executive Committee of the Party shall have the right, prior to the Convention, to establish Convention committees from among the accredited delegates, subject to later approval or change by the Convention and where necessary to call upon such committees to commence their work prior to the Convention.

Section Six

The Convention shall by secret ballot and majority vote elect a Central Committee, and by a subsequent secret ballot and majority vote elect alternate members who shall replace members unable to attend, and that these alternate members shall have full voting rights when replacing a Central Committee member. An alternate becomes a full voting member of the Central Committee in the order determined by the Convention when a vacancy occurs. The number of alternates shall be determined by the Convention.

The Convention shall elect a Committee on Nominations which shall receive all nominations for election to the Central Committee. Its functions shall be to decide on the eligibility of all candidates nominated. To help all delegates be fully informed, the committee shall submit to the convention its recommendations on the composition of the central committee in a form decided by the convention. It shall give due regard to leadership qualities; links with the working class and democratic forces; the multi-national character of Canada; area representation; balance of experienced comrades and the timely promotion of younger comrades, taking into account the systematic advancement of women, persons with disabilities, aboriginal people and people of colour, and lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans persons.

Those receiving the most votes shall be declared elected provided that they obtain at least 50 percent plus one of the ballots cast. In case there are not sufficient elected in this way, there shall be a run off vote until such time as the proper number has been elected with 50 percent plus one of the ballots cast.

Clubs, elected committees, Regional or Provincial Conventions, the National Convention of the Communist Party of Quebec and delegates to the Central Convention may submit nominations for the election of the Central Committee to the Convention accompanied by the written consent of the nominees.

The Convention shall, by secret ballot and majority vote, elect the Party's executive members, including the party leader. The offices, whose number and responsibilities shall be determined by the Convention shall constitute the Central Executive Committee.

To be eligible for election to the Central Committee one must have been a member of the Party in continuous good standing for at least two (2) years.

Section Seven

The Central Committee is the highest authority of the Party between Conventions. It is responsible for assuring the execution of Convention policies and decisions and for enforcing the Constitution. It is responsible for the Central treasury and submits audited financial reports to each Convention as outlined in Article 10, Section One.

It shall have the power to decide on new policy when events make that necessary. It shall initiate discussions throughout the Party prior to such

decisions being taken. It shall have the authority to hold referendums of the membership in order to alter basic policy between Conventions.

Referendums shall be preceded by not less than three months discussion of the referendum question in all Party organizations. During the discussion period the Central Committee shall make available a Party publication within which to conduct the pre-referendum discussion. It shall elect the editor of the central press.

It shall meet at least two times a year. A special meeting of the Central Committee shall be convened by decision of the Central Executive, or at the request of one-third of the Central Committee, or on the written request of clubs representing one-third of the membership of the Party. If the Central Committee is not convened within 30 days of such a request, clubs representing 51% of the membership can convene a Special Convention.

Reports, summaries, decisions and other material adopted at Central Committee meetings shall be made available to all Provincial and Regional Committees and to the National Committee of the PCQ, and shall appear in some Party publication available to the Party membership for discussion of Party policies.

Section Eight

The Central Committee shall elect from its ranks a Central Executive Committee, and any officers the Convention deems appropriate. This election shall take place during the Convention, so that the election results shall be ratified by the Convention in a secret ballot. In the event that the election of the CEC or any of its members or officers is not ratified by the Convention, the CC shall conduct another election, until all CEC members have been ratified by the Convention.

The Central Executive is charged with carrying out the decisions of the Central Committee between sessions of the said Committee and giving prompt and effective leadership to all Party committees and the membership. It shall develop the public work of the Party, initiate campaigns and further advance Party policy in accord with the general line of the Party. The CEC may establish sub-committees of an advisory character wherever necessary, responsible to it, whose function shall be to implement the policies and decisions of the CEC and assist it in the guidance of the work of Party members in various fields of activity.

The CEC is responsible for all its decisions and actions to the Central Committee with whom it shall consult regularly on political and organizational questions. All members of the CEC shall be responsible to the Central Committee and may be removed, released or changed by a majority vote of the Central Committee. Vacancies may be filled by a majority vote of the CC.

The Central Committee by a two-thirds majority vote has the power to suspend any of its members for continuous absenteeism, for unauthorized lengthy or permanent departure from Canada, and replace him or her by an alternate member of the CC in the order established by the Convention.

ARTICLE 8

Parliamentary Elections

Section One

All Party members who are eligible to do so shall make certain they are on the voters' lists and shall vote in accordance with the tactic adopted by the Party at each election and referendum.

Section Two

Where more than one Party Club exists in a given provincial constituency, nominating conventions should be held to nominate candidates for the Provincial Legislature. Such nominations are subject to approval of the Provincial Executive.

Section Three

Where more than one Party Club exists in a given constituency, nomination conventions should be held to nominate candidates. Such nominations are subject to approval of the Provincial and Central Executives.

Section Four

The parliamentary candidates including the leader and elected members shall be subject to the discipline of the Party as determined by the Central and Provincial Committees.

ARTICLE 9

Disciplinary Procedure

Section One

Conduct or action by any member of the Party detrimental to the Party and the best interests of the working class including failure to carry out Party decisions may be dealt with by censure, removal from all responsible posts, suspension pending investigation, suspension from membership for a specified period, and finally expulsion from the Party. Expulsion from the Party is the most severe of all Party disciplinary measures. In taking such a decision, all Party organizations must exercise the utmost care, thoroughly investigate and study the facts and material evidence of the case and listen carefully to the statement made in his or her defence by the Party member concerned.

Section Two

Charges against any individual shall be made in writing to the individual and to his/her Party Club. Where a Party Club fails to take action against an individual whose actions are detrimental to the Party, the next higher body, including the CEC, may initiate such action. The Party Club shall have the right to decide by a vote of a majority of its members on any disciplinary measure involving its members up to and including expulsion from the Party. Notice of motion must be given to all members of the Club that a proposal concerning disciplinary action will be placed before the next meeting. Expulsions shall be effective when voted on by a majority of those present at a Party Club meeting and following ratification by the Regional or Provincial Executive of the Party, pending which the member retains his or her membership. Regional or Provincial Executives shall act upon such matters within fourteen days after notification of the action taken by the Club. All actions of discipline (censure, removal from responsible posts, suspensions and expulsions) must be reported at once to the Provincial and

thence the Central Executives of the Party which shall then take whatever appropriate measures may be necessary to inform the Party.

Section Three

Charges against any elected Party Committee shall be made in writing to the Committee being charged and to the next higher body. Notice of motion must be given to all members of the higher Party body that a proposal concerning disciplinary action will be placed before the next meeting. Disciplinary action against an elected Party Committee shall be effective when voted upon by a majority of those present at a meeting of the higher body and following ratification by the next higher body which shall act upon the matter within fourteen days after notification of the action taken. Should the disciplinary action taken involve the removal of the said Party Committee, the higher body shall convene a convention of the body which elected the removed Committee within 60 days, which convention shall have the power to review the action taken, and either ratify or appeal it to the Convention of the next highest body.

Section Four

All parties concerned in any disciplinary action shall have the right to appear, bring witnesses and freely testify before the given Party organization. Party bodies before whom a disciplinary case has been placed, may strike off a committee from its members within its jurisdiction to investigate the matter and report back with recommendations within 60 days.

Section Five

In the case of unmistakable evidence that a person holding Party membership is an undercover agent or provocateur, such a person may be summarily expelled by the Central Committee or by a Provincial Committee. Such actions shall be reported on to the next higher body which has the power to review such decisions. Summary expulsion is subject to an appeal, during which process, should it be invoked by the expelled individual, the Central or Provincial Committee must make its case to the Appeals Committee which shall have the right to overturn the decision. Should the decision be overturned, the Central or Provincial Committee may appeal directly to the Convention, pending which the expulsion is binding.

Section Six

No member may form or participate in a faction -- that is a group which advocates a political line different from or opposed to that decided by the Convention or the respective responsible Party Committee, and which agrees formally or otherwise to an internal discipline standing above that of the Party.

Section Seven

Any member shall be expelled from the Party who is found to be a strikebreaker, provocateur or traitor to the working class. Any member shall be expelled from the Party who advocates putschism, conspiracy or terrorism.

Section Eight

The practice or advocacy of any form of discrimination based on national, ethnic, or aboriginal origin, race, gender, colour, disability, sexual orientation, or religious belief shall be subject to disciplinary action including expulsion from membership, if necessary.

Appeals

Section Nine

The Central Convention shall elect a Central Appeals Committee of three members to consider and deal with appeals after they have been dealt with by the Party organizations in accordance with provisions of the Constitution. The Central Appeals Committee shall report its findings to the Central Committee whose decisions shall be binding unless they are further appealed to the Convention whose decisions shall be final and binding.

Members of the Central Appeals Committee shall have voice but no vote, at all Central Committee meetings.

Members of the Central Appeals Committee shall be members in good standing for not less than five (5) years.

Section Ten

Either side involved in a disciplinary action shall have the right to appeal the decision to the next higher body, up to and including the Convention of the Party, whose decisions shall be final. Pending the appeal such disciplinary measures shall be binding. Party Committees shall deal with such appeals within 30 days, failing which the member shall have the right to appeal to the next higher body. Party bodies at the Regional and Provincial levels before whom an appeal has been placed, may strike off a committee from its members within its jurisdiction to hear the appeal and report back with recommendations within 60 days.

Section Eleven

In the case of applications from former Party members where the applicant was expelled from the Party or left because of basic disagreement with Party policy, the Club or local Party committee shall submit such applications and their recommendations to their respective Provincial Committees and where circumstances warrant, to the Central Executive Committee for final decision. When a person applies to rejoin the Party, the club considering the application will request and give due consideration to the views of the applicant's former club and any Party body to which the applicant had previously been elected.

ARTICLE 10

Audit Committee

Section One

The Central Convention shall elect a Central Audit Committee of three (3) members whose task shall be to examine the financial state of the central organization and submit audited financial reports to the Central Committee when in session and to the Convention covering the period between Conventions.

Section Two

Members of the Audit Committee shall be members in good standing for not less than five (5) years, shall not be members of the Central Committee, or on the payroll of the Party, and shall be within access of the city in which the Central headquarters is located.

Section Three

Provincial and Regional Audit Committees shall be elected by Provincial and Regional Conventions and shall submit audited financial reports to Provincial and Regional committees and to Provincial and Regional Conventions. Copies of such reports shall be forwarded to the Central Audit Committee.

The Central Audit Committee may make recommendations, as to financial policy and procedures in respect to the control of Party funds, to the appropriate Party committees.

Section Four

The Central Audit Committee shall be responsible for ensuring that properly audited financial statements are submitted to the City, Regional, Provincial and Central conventions by the outgoing committee immediately prior to the election of a new committee.

ARTICLE 11

Initiation Fees, Dues and Assessments

Section One

Initiation fees, dues and convention assessments shall be paid according to rates fixed by the Convention of the Party. The income from dues shall be distributed to the various sub-divisions of the Party as determined by the Convention.

Section Two

No obligatory assessment, other than the Convention Assessment, shall be levied upon the membership, except by special decision of the Central Committee of the Party.

ARTICLE 12

Transfer of Members

Members transferring from one Party Club to another in the same city, town or region shall apply to their Club and on receiving approval shall obtain the Club Secretary's signature to the transfer form in their Party card. The Club shall notify the next higher Party committee of all transfers. No member shall be granted a transfer unless in good standing.

It shall be the responsibility of Club members to notify their Club upon any change of personal circumstances which might require transfer to a more appropriate Club, and it shall be the responsibility of the Club to act upon a transfer forthwith.

Where the member transfers to another Region or Province, he or she shall present his Party card signed in accordance with the above provision to the Party committee in the area to which he or she has been transferred. It shall be the responsibility of the Club and the Party committee in the area from which the member is transferring to promptly forward through the Central office any information with respect to the work of the member which it is considered will be helpful to the Party in the area to which he or she is transferring.

These provisions for transfer shall also apply to members of the Communist Party of Quebec moving to other parts of Canada, and to members of the Communist Party of Canada moving from other areas to Quebec.

Provincial, Regional or City Committees shall assign or reassign members to Clubs. This shall be done in consultation with the member and Clubs concerned.

In all cases involving transfers the responsible committee shall promptly assign the member to a Club in consultation with the member and the Club.

ARTICLE 13

Amending and Interpreting the Constitution

The Constitution of the Communist Party may be amended:

- (a) by decision of a majority of voting delegates present at any regular or special Convention;
- (b) the CEC shall have the authority to interpret the Constitution and lay down procedures in all matters not specifically covered by it.
- (c) such interpretations shall be submitted to the next Central Committee meeting for its approval.

ARTICLE 14

Documents and Publications

Section One

The Communist Party of Canada is not responsible for any political document, policy, book, or article or any other expression of political opinion except such as are issued by authority or sanction of its Convention, Central Committee or Central Executive Committee.

ARTICLE 15

Election Procedures

Section One

In the election of Party committees and of delegates, a ballot shall be valid if it is marked for not more and not less than the number to be elected.

Section Two

The election of alternate members to a committee shall in all cases be carried through by separate nominations and balloting.

Section Three

All party officers and leading committees of the party, from the Club executive member to the higher bodies shall be elected by secret ballot and majority vote either directly by the membership or through their elected delegates.

ARTICLE 16

By-laws

Section One

By-laws may be adopted, based on this Constitution, for the purpose of establishing rules of order and procedure for the proper functioning of the Party organizations. By-laws may be adopted or changed by a majority vote of the Convention or between Conventions, by a majority vote of the Central Committee.

Section Two

By-laws may be adopted by Provincial and Regional Conventions or by Party Clubs providing such conform to the Constitution.

Initiation Fee and Schedule of Dues

Upon acceptance into the Party subject to Article 3, Section Three, new members shall pay an initiation fee of \$1.00. All members of the Party shall pay monthly dues and an annual Convention Assessment on the following basis:

Net Monthly Income	Monthly Dues	Convention Assessment
Under \$ 600	\$ 1.00	\$ 1.00
\$ 601 – 1,000	\$ 4.00	\$ 4.00
\$1,001 – 1,500	\$ 8.00	\$ 8.00
\$1,501 – 2,000	\$ 12.00	\$ 12.00
\$2,001 – 2,500	\$ 16.00	\$ 16.00

\$ 2,501 – 3,000	\$ 20.00	\$ 20.00
\$ 3,001 – 3,500	\$ 24.00	\$ 24.00
\$ 3,501 – 4,000	\$ 28.00	\$ 28.00
\$ 4,001 – 4,500	\$ 34.00	\$ 34.00
Over \$4,500	\$ 40.00	\$ 40.00

Convention assessments shall be collected and a receipt issued from the first of September to the end of the current year from any member in good standing. A new membership card shall not be issued until all monthly dues and the Convention Assessment have been collected. All members of the Party who join prior to September 1 must pay the Convention Assessment for the current year.

Monthly dues and Convention Assessments are based on members' net aggregate monthly income.

Division of Dues

Between Clubs, Regions, Provincial Office and Central Office

- Party Club – 10%
- Region/City – 20%
- Provincial Ctte. – 20%
- Central Party – 50%

INITIATION PLEDGE

The new member on being initiated into the club will repeat after the presiding officer the following pledge:

I,, accept as my own the aim of the Communist Party to work unceasingly for the establishment of a socialist society in Canada, in which the principal means of producing and distributing wealth will be the common property of society

as a whole, and where exploitation, want, poverty and insecurity will be ended forever.

In furtherance of this noble aim, I accept and will work to the best of my ability to carry out the program and policies of the Communist Party of Canada as determined by the constitution and Convention.

I will be active in my Club, pay my dues regularly and support the Party financially.

I will read, support and spread the Party's press and literature and work at all times to build the Party.