



**Senior Liberals' Commission • Liberal Party of Canada  
Commission des aînés libéraux • Parti libéral du Canada**

## **Report of the Co-chairs**

**Doug Brydges (English) and Roger Légaré (French)**

**Senior Liberals' Commission**

**General Meeting April 9, 2021**

### **Commission National Board Composition**

Our Commission's National Board is composed of six elected Officers:

Two Co-chairs, one French-speaking and one English-speaking,

- Secretary;
- Governance Committee Chair,
- Policy Committee Chair,
- Communications Committee Chair,

The Chairs of provincial & territorial Section Boards (currently 10), and the immediate Past Co-chairs (for one year | non-voting).

Each Section Board is responsible for connecting with, assisting, and encouraging establishment of Clubs and Commission Representatives on electoral district association (EDA) boards within their provincial or territorial boundaries.

You can learn more about how our Commission operates by reading and downloading the current version of our Charter at - [https://slc-cal.liberal.ca/wp-content/uploads/sites/370/2020/09/SLC-Charter\\_EN\\_Sept-23-2020.pdf](https://slc-cal.liberal.ca/wp-content/uploads/sites/370/2020/09/SLC-Charter_EN_Sept-23-2020.pdf)

### **Commission Expenditures**

Our Commission is allocated \$25,000 annually by the Party to cover expenses attributed to our Commission. Accounting of expenses is handled by the Party's accounting staff. Expenses covered include:

- A subscription for conducting online surveys for political policy consultation;
- Bulk email notices to Commission Members who have given their email addresses to LPC;
- Translation of all Commission documents to be available in both official languages;

- Limited travel expenses for attendance to important Commission functions;
- Events and activities hosted by the Commission’s provincial Sections;
- Printing costs for business cards, meeting materials and newsletters.

## **Governance**

A new Constitution for the Liberal Party of Canada was adopted at the Party’s National Convention held in Winnipeg at the end of May 2016. Ten new By-laws were adopted by the Party’s National Board and came into effect in January 2017. These new governance documents significantly changed the relationship between the Party, its Provincial & Territorial Boards (PTBs) and Commissions.

One of the changes in the Party’s new Constitution was that there was to be only one Constitution within the Liberal Party of Canada, and that Commission Constitutions were to be replaced with Commission Charters.

The volunteer National Board of our Commission appointed a Charter Committee to develop our first Charter in March 2017. The final draft was completed and submitted to the Party’s National Board for approval in February 2018. It was not approved until September 2018, five months after the Party’s last National Convention held in Halifax, in mid-April 2018.

Our first Governance Committee was appointed following adoption of its Terms of Reference by the Commission’s new National Board on May 17, 2018. Over the past three years this committee of volunteers held countless teleconference meetings to develop internal policies that govern how our Commission operates. These policies now make up the bulk of our Commission’s first Governance Manual.

The Governance Committee also conducted an extensive review of – and proposed numerous minor amendments to – our Charter. Our revised Charter was adopted by the Party’s National Board in September, 2020.

We recognize the significant contributions made by the Governance Committee Chair, Dianne King (Alberta), and her fellow Committee members Anne Marie Gillis (Nova Scotia) and Thomas Kendell (Newfoundland & Labrador). More information will be provided in the upcoming report by the outgoing Governance Committee Chair, Dianne King.

## **Representation on Electoral District Boards**

One of the ten governing By-laws ratified at the Party’s last National Convention in Halifax (April 2018) is By-law 2 governing Electoral District Associations (EDAs). By-law 2 specifically prescribes the composition of EDA Boards; specifically, that they “shall include” a voting representative of each Commission referred to in By-law 1, which governs the Party’s four Commissions.

Senior Commission Representatives are of significant importance to our Commission. We urge all EDA Boards to appoint one in compliance with LPC By-law 2. If your EDA has not yet appointed an SLC Representative and you wish to be appointed, we urge Senior Registered Liberals to contact the Chair of their EDA Board and express your interest and filling the vacant position.

If you need assistance communicating with the EDA Board Chair where you live, please contact our Commission Section Chair in your Province from our Board web page at:

<https://slc-cal.liberal.ca/executive/>

## **Communications**

As noted by the Past Co-chairs of our Commission at our last General Meeting held in Halifax (April 2018) communicating with our Commission Members has been – and continues to be – a significant challenge.

Although our Communications Committee has attempted to distribute quarterly newsletters and other notices of importance to our members by bulk email over the past three years, the Party's headquarters views its own communications requirements as having a higher priority. This means our communications efforts have not been as successful as we would like them to be. However, our Communications Committee continues to work with Party staff to improve future scheduling of email notices to our Members.

Our Communications Chair is fortunate to have administrative access to our Party-sponsored Commission website, which allows for updating website information more regularly. Thanks to the Party's digital team, our website was recently upgraded to the Party's overall branding and provides for regular posting of Commission news as Blog posts. The process of posting new information to our website is easier now that content need only be pre-approved by our Commission C-chairs before being translated into French so that it can be posted in both official languages.

Our volunteer Communications Committee members deserve a lot of credit for the advances we have been able to make. More details will be provided in the upcoming report from Committee Chair, Hilary Williamson.

## **Policy Consultation**

Consulting with our Commission Members on the direction of our Party's political policy front is a complex and sometimes arduous task. We also thank our National Policy Committee for their oversight of this very important role under the leadership of Chair, Judy Berg (BC). Please stick around to learn more about our ongoing Policy Consultation process from Judy, next on our agenda.