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NS NDP CONVENTION RESOLUTIONS: A QUICK GUIDE

WHY RESOLUTIONS?

Every NDP member can help guide how our party works, in positions we take, and in the effect we have to improve Nova Scotia for all residents. One way you can do this is by submitting resolutions for our party convention to consider.

SOME KEY TERMS

The NSNDP holds **policy conventions** every two years. At policy convention, delegates of Electoral District Associations (EDAs) and others discuss and guide direction of our party.

A **convention resolution** is a statement our policy convention may adopt. A resolution may:

- change some part of our NS NDP constitution.
- change some party policy
- direct our party to take an action or make a statement.

HOW TO WRITE A RESOLUTION

Focus on an issue, action, or modification that you are concerned about in our province. Simple resolutions are easier for convention to understand, discuss, and adopt.

The key part of any resolution is what you are trying to achieve. That is expressed with a “BE IT RESOLVED” statement. It is what convention will decide to support or not support. There can be more than one Be It Resolves Statement, indicating more actions that need to be taken.

Resolutions to change the party constitution need to cite the section to be changed.

Examples

- *BE IT RESOLVED that the NS New Democratic Party support the Canadian Labour Congress campaign to protect and strengthen the Canada Pension Plan.*
- *BE IT RESOLVED that Provincial Council hold a special meeting to develop plans for increasing youth engagement in the political process; and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Provincial Council share the presentations and conclusions of that meeting with all provincial EDAs.*
- *BE IT RESOLVED that Article XX, Section YY (1) of the Constitution be amended by deleting the term “Diversity” and replacing it with “Cultural Diversity”.*

Resolutions are motivated with a “WHEREAS” statement: The “WHEREAS” section presents the facts as to why a specific action should be adopted at Convention. Whereas statements are not debateable, but they do provide insight as to why this action needs to be taken. The “WHEREAS” section is not required as part of a resolution. However, if you feel context is needed, keeping it short is best.

Proofread for grammar and spelling. Then get someone who didn't help you write the resolution to read it and tell you if it makes sense.

HOW TO GET A RESOLUTION TO CONVENTION

Contact your EDA so they can consider the resolution at a **general membership meeting**. The deadline for your EDA to submit a resolution to the Resolutions Committee for the 2018 policy convention is **May 19, 2018**.

If the EDA adopts your resolution, the EDA then sends it to resolutions@nsndp.ca, with the following information:

- A short, specific **title** for the resolution
- **Name of the EDA** or other body submitting the resolution
- **Date** of the meeting at which the resolution was adopted
- **Name and contact** information for at least one EDA Executive member
- The **type** of resolution:
 - constitutional amendment
 - adding a policy
 - amending or removing a policy

WHAT HAPPENS TO RESOLUTIONS?

The Resolutions Committee will assign resolutions to groupings. There will be a workshop for each grouping, and each workshop will deal with resolutions in order of priority. Delegates in the workshop will vote on each resolution that time allows. Each delegate will get a resolutions book with all this information.

IF A RESOLUTION IS NOT DEBATED AT CONVENTION. WHAT CAN WE DO?

If your policy is not debated at convention, the constitution moves policy to a subsequent Provincial Council, which is the governing body of the party between conventions and is elected by delegates at convention.

Need more information?

Contact the Resolutions Committee at resolutions@nsndp.ca