



**STATEMENT
on behalf of
THE NATIONAL BOARD OF THE LIBERAL PARTY OF CANADA**

The National Board (“Board”) of the Liberal Party of Canada (“Party”) is acutely aware of the challenges that confront the Party in the wake of the recently concluded federal general election, as well as its responsibilities in these circumstances.

The Board intends to discharge its responsibilities under the Constitution of the Party (“Constitution”)¹ solely with a view to the interests of the Party as a whole having full regard to the views and rights of its members and to the unprecedented situation in which the Party finds itself.

Accordingly, the following sets out the matters in respect of which the Board has made a determination:

1. Interim Leadership

The Leader has delivered a formal letter of resignation to the President of the Party and has requested that the National Board discharge its responsibility under the Constitution² to appoint an Interim Leader to act until a permanent Leader is selected by the Party in accordance with the Constitution.

The National Board has resolved to meet next on May 19, 2011 to, among other things, appoint an Interim Leader of the Party.

The President of the Party has written to the Deputy Leader of the Party today to request an opportunity for the National Board to consult formally with the Caucus on May 18, 2011 in satisfaction of its obligation to do so under the Constitution.

The National Board has also directed the President of the Party to advise the Caucus that it has determined that the following criteria will guide the exercise of its discretion in the discharge of its responsibility to appoint an Interim Leader. Any candidate for Interim Leader acceptable to the National Board will be bilingual and, prior to any appointee being proposed to the National Board, be expected to:

1. demonstrate majority support of the Caucus including a majority of the Caucus from the House of Commons; and
2. agree to execute in writing a solemn undertaking that he/she will agree to be bound by the Constitution³ and that:
 - (a) he/she will not seek the permanent leadership of the Party as part of the next leadership selection process; and
 - (b) he/she will not engage in any discussions or negotiations that would require any fundamental or material change to the nature or structure of the party absent the prior approval of a resolution by delegates at a convention of the Party held in accordance with the Constitution duly authorizing such discussions or negotiations.

¹ Constitution – Article 14

² Constitution – Paragraph 54(3)(a).

³ As required of all contestants for the permanent leadership of the Party: Constitution – Paragraph 55(1)(e)(i)

2. Permanent Leadership

The Leader first stated his intention to resign on May 3, 2011. The President of the Party has therefore confirmed that, at the meeting of the National Board scheduled for May 19, 2011 as mandated by the Constitution⁴, he will propose a leadership vote of the Party to occur on or before October 19, 2011 as required under the Constitution (“Next Leadership Vote”).

The National Board, with the President concurring, has also indicated that, in the interim and notwithstanding its fixing of the date for the Next Leadership Vote in accordance with the Constitution, it shall be seeking the authority of the Party in Convention pursuant to its powers under the Constitution⁵ to amend the Constitution to enable the National Board to (i) fix the dates for the next Biennial Convention of the Party as January 13 to 15, 2012 and (ii) defer the Next Leadership Vote to a date or dates to be fixed between the dates of May 1, 2012 and June 30, 2013 in the discretion of the National Board with the actual date to be determined and publicly announced by the National Board, in consultation with the Caucus, on no less than five (5) months’ prior notice.

On May 9, 2011, the National Board therefore exercised its powers under the Constitution to announce and convene an extraordinary convention⁶ of the Party to be held on Saturday, June 18, 2011 (“Special Convention”). The Special Convention shall be conducted virtually via the Internet and all votes shall be taken by way of electronic ballot.⁷ The Special Convention will be a delegated convention of the Party conducted strictly in accordance with the Constitution⁸. The sole and special purpose of the Special Convention shall be to deal with the amendments required to enable the Biennial Convention to be rescheduled and the Next Leadership Vote to be deferred, all as aforesaid.

Finally, in accordance with its powers under the Constitution⁹, the National Board has determined that Delegate Selection Meetings in respect of the Special Convention shall be held on Saturday, June 11, 2011 and Sunday, June 12, 2011. The membership cut-off date in relation to eligibility to vote at such Delegate Selection Meetings shall be Friday, May 20, 2011. The registration fee for the Special Convention shall be \$20.00.

The proposed Biennial Convention in January, 2012 will mark an important phase in the rebuilding of the Party and will afford the membership a full opportunity to propose, consider and debate important resolutions on the full range of the Party’s business including policy matters, constitutional reform, organizational issues and the election of a new national executive. The new leadership selection process mandated under the Constitution (i.e. weighted one-person, one-vote system) does not involve a traditional delegated convention.

The following Timetable summarizes the foregoing:

Monday, May 9, 2011	Call of Special Convention re: Constitutional Amendments
Wednesday, May 11, 2011	Caucus Meeting – Discussion of Procedures for Selecting Interim Leader
Wednesday, May 18, 2011	National Board Consultation with Caucus re Interim Leader
Thursday, May 19, 2011	Appointment of Interim Leader by National Board
Friday May 20, 2011	Membership Deadline for Voting Eligibility at Delegate Selection Meetings
Saturday/Sunday, June 11/12, 2011	Delegate Selection Meetings
Saturday June 18, 2011	Special Convention re: Constitutional Amendments
January 13-15, 2012	National Biennial Convention (subject to approval on June 18, 2011)
May 1, 2012 – June 30, 2013	Period during which Leadership Selection Vote can be fixed on 5 mos. notice

⁴ Constitution – Paragraph 54(3)(a) – the President must call a meeting of the National Board within 27 days of the Leader publicly announcing an intention to resign or delivering a written resignation or request to the President to call a leadership vote.

⁵ Constitution – Paragraph 76(2)(b)

⁶ Constitution – Paragraph 61(3)

⁷ The National Board shall shortly publish bylaws governing voting procedures and registration fees and procedures for the Special Convention pursuant to Section 57 of the Constitution

⁸ Constitution – Chapter 16

⁹ Constitution – Section 67