

1950



**THE
BRITISH COLUMBIA
SOCIAL CREDIT
LEAGUE**

•

**Constitution
and By-Laws**

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VANCOUVER, B. C.

THE BRITISH COLUMBIA SOCIAL CREDIT LEAGUE

Constitution and By-Laws

Effective December 1st, 1950

CONSTITUTION

1. The name of the Society is "THE BRITISH COLUMBIA SOCIAL CREDIT LEAGUE."

2. The objects of the Society are:

(a) To foster and encourage the universally recognized principles of Christianity in human relationships.

(b) To establish, in accordance with the highest traditions of the British way of life, responsible and effective democratic government in Canada, so that the people will gain the results they desire from the management of their own affairs.

(c) To oppose and expose any attempts to weaken the democratic sovereignty and the democratic institutions of the people by means of increased centralization of power.

(d) To liberate the country from the yoke of the present financial system and its enslavement of a constitutionally free people.

(e) To restore to Parliament effective control over the issue of all currency and credit.

(f) To obtain the economic security which the vast resources of Canada can provide for her citizens.

(g) To abolish poverty and privation.

(h) To secure freedom from oppressive debt and taxation.

(i) To provide the people with an effective organization for obtaining information on matters essential to their welfare and for taking united action to assert their democratic will.

3. The operations of the Society are to be chiefly carried on in the Province of British Columbia.

BY-LAWS

The By-Laws of the British Columbia Social Credit League, hereinafter referred to as the "League," are as follows:

1. MEMBERSHIP IN LEAGUE

(a) Membership in the League shall be open to Canadian Citizens resident in the Province of British Columbia who subscribe to the principles, aims and objectives of the League. Applicants for membership shall sign the prescribed application form and pay the prescribed membership fees.

(b) The annual membership fee shall be One Dollar (\$1.00).

(c) Each application, together with membership fee, shall be forwarded to the address in the Province of British Columbia to which all communications and notices may be sent and at which all process may be served (hereinafter called "The Head Office") and the official membership card will be mailed directly to the individual unless the Head Office is otherwise instructed.

(d) All memberships shall be for a period of one (1) year from the date of application.

(e) All paid-up members of the League shall be entitled to attend Constituency and Provincial meetings or Conventions and to take part in the discussions but only accredited delegates shall be entitled to vote or move resolutions. Any League member present and in good standing is eligible for nomination and elevation to office.

(f) Membership in the League shall cease automatically upon non-payment of the said annual membership fee.

(g) The League shall reserve the right to refuse the application for membership of any person or to cancel the membership of any member who, by his or her actions or public statement reveals beyond a reasonable doubt that he or she is not in accord with the aims and objects of the League.

2. GROUPS

(a) Ten or more members of the League may form themselves into an officially recognized Group by electing a President, Vice-President and Secretary-Treasurer, and by notifying the Head Office of the League.

(b) Groups shall make their own Rules and By-Laws for the conduct of their business, provided they do not conflict with any of the provisions of the Constitution and By-Laws of the League.

(c) Groups may collect, in addition to League membership fees, fees from their own members provided such fees are approved by not less than two-thirds of the members present and voting at a duly called meeting.

(d) For the first ten members, each Group shall be entitled to elect two delegates to the Constituency Convention and an additional delegate for every additional ten members or the major portion thereof.

(e) A Group failing to function or conform to the provisions of the Constitution and By-Laws of the League shall after a proper investigation, be declared defunct and all properties, monies, records, certificates or charters in

possession of the Group before being declared defunct shall pass into the common ownership of the League and shall be held or disposed of by the Constituency Executive on the directions of the President of the League.

3. CONSTITUENCY ASSOCIATIONS

(a) The Constituency Association shall be comprised of the accredited representatives from the Groups in the Constituency, together with one delegate from each accredited Women's Auxiliary and one representative from each polling sub-division not otherwise represented and shall have jurisdiction over all matters of general policy within the Constituency.

(b) The Constituency Association shall meet in annual Convention before the Provincial Convention. At this meeting:—

- (I) A President and three Vice-Presidents shall be elected and these shall continue to hold office at the pleasure of the Constituency Association, or until their successors are elected.
- (II) The business of the Constituency for the past year shall be reviewed and an annual report presented by the President, Secretary and Treasurer (or Secretary-Treasurer).
- (III) Resolutions and all others matters to be referred to the Provincial Convention shall be considered.

(c) The Constituency President and Vice-Presidents in consultation with the M.L.A.'s (if any) representing the Constituency shall appoint a Secretary, a Treasurer (or a Secretary-Treasurer) and such other officers as they may deem necessary for the proper administration of the Constituency.

(d) The Constituency President, Vice-Presidents, Secretary and Treasurer (or Secretary-Treasurer), and the President of the Women's Auxiliaries Council, together with the M.L.A.'S (if any) representing the Constituency, shall comprise the Constituency Executive.

(e) The Constituency Association shall meet as often as it may be deemed convenient. Should circumstances render it necessary, the President may, at his discretion, or shall, upon the request of five or more Groups within the Constituency, call a special meeting of the Association.

(f) Following the annual Constituency Convention the Secretary shall be responsible for sending a report of the Convention, together with copies of Resolutions for consideration at the Provincial Convention, to the Head Office of the League at least three weeks before the date of the Provincial Convention.

4. ZONES

(a) Zones may or may not be used in the organization of the Constituency.

(b) Where a Constituency is divided into zones, zone directors may be elected by the Groups in each zone and such zone directors, with the approval of the Association, may become members of the Constituency Executive.

5. THE PROVINCIAL CONVENTION

(a) The Provincial Convention shall be held annually in the month of October.

(b) The mode of calling the Provincial Convention shall be by advertisement in the Canadian Social Crediter, the official organ of the League, not less than thirty days prior to the date set for the Provincial Convention.

(c) The Provincial Convention shall be open to all League members in good standing. Voting delegates shall be limited to fifteen from any Constituency and three official delegates from the Women's Auxiliaries Convention. The number constituting a quorum at any such meeting shall be fifty.

(d) In addition to the ordinary business, the Provincial Convention shall elect a President, a first Vice-President, a second Vice-President, a third Vice-President, a fourth Vice-President, a fifth Vice-President and a sixth Vice-President of the League.

(e) Every Annual Provincial Convention shall elect the auditors of the League for the ensuing year.

6. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

(a) The Board of Directors of the League shall be the President, the Vice-Presidents, the Provincial Leader and one representative from the Women's Auxiliaries with power to fill vacancies occurring on the Board of Directors from time to time as, in their discretion they may deem necessary. The Board of Directors shall appoint the League's representative to the National Board of Directors of the Social Credit Association of Canada.

(b) The Board of Directors shall appoint a Secretary-Treasurer and such other officials which, at their discretion, they consider necessary for the proper conduct of the League's affairs.

(c) The Board of Directors shall be responsible to act in accordance with the decisions of the Provincial Convention, but shall have full authority to deal with all matters affecting the welfare of the League which might arise during the year.

(d) The Board of Directors shall meet at the call of the President or upon the written request of any two directors as often as may be necessary.

(e) The remuneration, if any, of the directors and other officers of the League shall be in the discretion of the Board of Directors.

(f) The seal of the League shall be kept in the custody of the President or in the custody of such other person or persons as may be designated by the Board of Directors. The seal of the League shall not be affixed to any document without a resolution of the Board of Directors authorizing its use.

7. PROVINCIAL ELECTIONS

(a) In all instances in which it is decided to contest an election, Provincial Constituency Nominating Conventions shall be called in the same manner and comprised of the same delegates as are entitled to be present at annual meetings of the Constituency Association.

(b) At all nominating Conventions for the selection of Candidates for Provincial Elections the delegates shall vote by ballot as set forth in By-Law 9 (c) hereof, and shall vote until the final selection of candidates or candidate has been made.

8. FEDERAL COUNCIL AND CONVENTIONS

(a) The Federal Constituency Council shall consist of the Federal Social Credit M.P., if any; and the Presidents of the Provincial Constituencies, the major parts of which are included in the Federal Constituency; and one of the Vice-Presidents of each of the Provincial Constituencies, the minor parts of which are included in the Federal Constituency.

(b) In all instances in which it is decided to contest an election, Federal Constituency Nominating Conventions shall be called by the Federal Constituency Executive in the same manner, and comprised of the same delegates (provided they reside in the Federal Constituency), as Provincial Constituency Nominating Conventions.

(c) The Federal Council shall meet annually and at such other times as may be necessary.

(d) At the annual meeting, the Council shall elect from their number a President, and Vice-President, who with the M.P., if any, shall form the Constituency Executive.

(e) The Constituency Executive shall appoint a Secretary-Treasurer or a Secretary and a Treasurer.

(f) At all nominating conventions for the selection of candidates for Federal elections the delegates shall vote by ballot as set forth in By-Law 9 (c) hereof, and shall vote until the final selection of candidate or candidates has been made.

9. GENERAL REGULATIONS

(a) Officials of all units of the League when not re-elected shall continue to carry out their respective duties until their successors take over.

(b) Each retiring official shall be responsible for handing over to his successors any records, correspondence or information properly belonging to the office which he is relinquishing.

(c)

(i) Throughout the entire organization of the League all voting on the election of officials shall be carried out by ballot.

(Note) No votes shall be cast except by a delegate actually present at the proceedings. There shall be no voting by proxy.

- (ii) Except as provided under (c) (iii), balloting shall be carried out by the process of eliminating the candidates receiving the lowest number of votes until a candidate has been elected with an absolute majority.
- (iii) In urban constituencies and in all conventions when more than one person is to be elected, it shall be done according to the Proportional Representation Ballot unless otherwise decided by the Convention.

(d) The mode of calling a Provincial Convention shall be by advertisement in the Canadian Social Crediter, the official organ for the League, not less than thirty days prior to the date set for the Provincial Convention. The mode of calling a special meeting of the League shall be in the discretion of the Board of Directors and not less than seven clear days notice of any such meeting shall be given to those entitled to attend. The notice calling any Provincial Convention or Special Meeting of the membership of the League at which meeting it is proposed to change the By-Laws of the League, whether by way of alteration or addition shall expressly stipulate the proposed change. A quorum for a Special General Meeting of the Membership of the League shall, as in the case of the Provincial Convention, be fifty.

Any change in the By-laws of the League shall be made by extraordinary resolution.

NOTE—"Extraordinary resolution" means a resolution passed by a majority of such members entitled to a vote as are present in person

at a Provincial Convention or a Special General Meeting of the League of which notice specifying the intention to propose the resolution as an extraordinary resolution has been duly given, such majority being two-thirds of those present in person.

(e) No unit of the League whether a Group, Constituency Association or otherwise, or the League itself shall have any right whatsoever to borrow money.

(f) All units of the League whether Groups, Constituency Associations or otherwise, and the League itself shall have a proper audit of its accounts made by a duly qualified persons for presentation to their respective annual meetings.

(g) The Secretary of the respective units of the League and the Secretary of the League itself shall be responsible for the preparation and custody of the minutes of proceedings of meetings of their respective units. In the case of the League itself the Secretary shall have the responsibility for the preparation and the custody of minutes of proceedings of meetings of the League and of the Board of Directors and other books and records of the League.

(h) The books and records of the League may be inspected by members upon giving the Secretary seven days' notice in writing. The Secretary shall designate the time and place at which said books and records may be inspected.

10. WOMAN'S AUXILIARIES

(a) Six or more women members of the League may form themselves into a Woman's Auxiliary by payment of an additional membership fee of twenty-five cents (25 cents) per member, which shall be remitted to the Provincial Secretary-Treasurer of Auxiliaries.

(b) In single member constituencies where it is not convenient for an Auxiliary meeting to be held apart from the Group meeting, the Group may, by paying the Auxiliary fee of twenty-five cents, become eligible to carry on the work of an Auxiliary within their own Group and shall be entitled to all the privileges of a separately organized Auxiliary.

(c) Each Auxiliary shall elect a President and Vice-Presidents at a properly convened meeting of which adequate notice has been sent to its members, and these officials shall hold office at the pleasure of members of the Auxiliary.

(d) The Presidents and Vice-Presidents shall appoint a Secretary-Treasurer, and these four officials shall constitute the Auxiliary Executive.

(e) Every such executive shall be entitled to send one representative to the Constituency Association.

(f) In any Constituency the Auxiliary Presidents and Vice-Presidents or an official delegate substituting for either or both shall constitute the Constituency Council of Women's Auxiliaries, and shall meet when necessary to deal with matters affecting the activities of Auxiliaries within the Constituency.

(g) The said Council shall elect from their number a President and Vice-President, who shall appoint a Secretary-Treasurer, or Secretary and Treasurer, and they shall hold office at the pleasure of the members of the Council.

(h) The Provincial Convention of Women's Auxiliaries shall be held in the same place, and immediately prior to, the Provincial Convention of the League.

(i) The Delegates to the Provincial Convention of the Women's Auxiliaries shall be as follows: two delegates for the first six members of an Auxiliary and one delegate for each additional ten members.

(j) In addition to ordinary business, the annual Convention shall elect a President and two Vice-Presidents who shall attend the Provincial Convention of the League as delegates.

(k) The President and Vice-Presidents of the Provincial Convention of the Women's Auxiliaries, in consultation with the President of the League, shall appoint a Secretary-Treasurer and these four shall constitute the Provincial Executive of the Women's Auxiliaries. The executive may appoint such officials as they deem necessary for the proper conduct of Auxiliaries within the province.

(l) The Provincial Executive shall appoint from their number a representative on the board of Directors of the League.

(m) There shall be a social service division operating within the Women's Auxiliary organization.

11. YOUNG PEOPLE'S BRANCHES

(a) Ten or more members of any group may form themselves into a Young People's Branch by payment of an additional membership fee of twenty-five (25) cents per member.

(b) In all other respects Young People's Branches shall be subject to the same provisions as those which apply to Women's Auxiliaries.