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Guide to Writing
Convention Resolutions

New Democrats believe in building a better, fairer, and more sustainable Canada- one where equality, justice, and opportunity are shared by all. Every Convention is a chance for members to shape the direction of our Party. Through the resolutions process, New Democrats can propose ideas, amend the policy book or Constitution, and ensure member voices directly shape the decisions we make together. Resolutions help set the Party's direction and ensure our work reflects the priorities and values shared across our movement.

RESOLUTION INFORMATION AND SUBMISSION CRITERIA

Where do resolutions come from? Most of them come from members like you- people interested in an issue, who bring ideas forward to their electoral district association, youth delegating body or affiliate for debate.

In the months leading up to a convention, electoral district associations, affiliates, youth clubs and other delegating bodies hold General Meetings to select delegates to convention and to pass resolutions. Any member of a delegating body such as an EDA or affiliate may submit a resolution for consideration at a meeting. If the resolution passes, it is submitted to the Federal Party to be considered and debated at Convention.

Resolutions can also come from the Party Executive and Council, provincial or territorial sections, affiliates, the New Democratic Youth of Canada and the Party's standing committees and commissions.

All resolutions must include the following when submitted:

- Type of Resolution
- Resolution Title
- Whereas Section (100 Words Max)
- Be It Resolved Section (100 Words Max)

All resolutions submitted will be assigned to one of the following sections of the policy book, below:

1. Innovating and Prospering in a New Energy Economy
2. Building a Clean and Sustainable Canada
3. Investing in a Canada Where No One Is Left Behind
4. Redefining Canada's Place in the World
5. Governing in an Inclusive and Fair Canada
6. Strengthening Human Rights and the Canadian Identity

The deadline to submit resolutions for Convention 2026 is Tuesday, January 27, 2026.

WHAT TYPES OF RESOLUTIONS ARE THERE?

Changes to the Policy Book

The policy book contains the Party's principles and policy as formulated and voted on by Party members. A copy of the policy book can be found on the Convention website. Members may amend, delete or change sections of the policy book at the Convention. Any amendments should focus on the text that follows "New Democrats believe" and not on the preamble at the beginning of each section. The preamble is simply an introductory narrative to those policies.

Proposals for amending the policy book, to change the content, add to it, or delete from it, require a simple majority to be adopted at Convention.

Directives and Statements

Some resolutions take the form of directives or statements. Directives may require the Party to undertake a specific action, like a specific research project. Directives may also require the Party to ensure its activities are all undertaken in a certain way, such as requiring that all activities be carried out in an energy efficient manner.

Statements provide an opportunity for the Party to take a position on an ongoing event or issue, such as a labour dispute or an international human rights crisis.

Both directives and statements require a simple majority to be adopted at Convention. Please note, due to the temporary nature of directives and statements, they are not included in the Policy Book.

Constitutional Amendments

Constitutional Amendments may include such changes as representation at Convention. Changes to the Party's Constitution require a two-thirds vote of all delegates present and voting at any Convention.

In addition, the word count for resolutions does not apply to constitutional amendments.

WRITING YOUR RESOLUTION

Want to make sure your resolution is one of those debated at the Convention? It's important to take some time to consider exactly what you want to achieve.

Resolutions relating to the policy book

Before sitting down to write a resolution relating to the policy book, familiarize yourself with the Party's policy book. The policy you are interested in may already be there, or you may just want to amend what currently exists. A copy of the policy book can be found on the Convention website.

There are a few ways resolutions can be submitted as it relates to the policy book. In order to help delegates understand how the various options would be submitted, below please find the options and an example in the context of the current policy book.

Section 3.9 of the policy book currently reads:

New Democrats believe in:

a. Investing in crime prevention, focusing on at-risk youth and gangs.

1. Option 1: Delete existing policy

If you wish to delete Section 3.9.a., you could write a resolution as follows:

Therefore, be it resolved that section 3.9.a. in the policy book be deleted.

2. Option 2: Amend an existing policy

To amend Section 3.9.a., you could write a resolution as follows:

Be it resolved that Section 3.9.a. in the policy book be amended to read:

a. Investing in crime prevention, focusing on at-risk youth and the root causes of crime

3. Option 3: Create new policy

To create a new policy, you could write a resolution that speaks to an issue beyond what is currently listed in the policy book on the topic

Directives and Statements

Some resolutions are not necessarily an expression of a policy but ask the Party to take on a certain project or direction. (e.g. research a certain issue). This is a directive policy.

Statements enable the Party to take a position on an ongoing event, such as a labour dispute, or recent actions in international affairs.

Amendments to the Constitution

Some resolutions seek to amend the Party's Constitution. If you propose to amend the Party's Constitution, make sure you point to the exact section of the Constitution, provide the precise wording for the amendment or addition you wish to make, as well as any text you wish to remove. A copy of the Party's Constitution can be found on the Convention website.

As a reminder, the word count for resolutions does not apply to constitutional amendments.

HOW TO WRITE A RESOLUTION

Step 1: Find out if the Party has an existing policy on the issue you want to address. The Party's current policies have been compiled in the policy book, which can be amended at Convention.

Step 2: Ask yourself if you want to:

- Amend or delete existing policy,
- Add new policy
- Direct the Party to run a campaign, research an issue, develop a policy
- Have the Party make a statement on an ongoing event or issue, or
- Amend the Party Constitution

Step 3: Write your resolutions. Keep the following things in mind:

- You are not writing legislation- use clear, concise language to outline policy.
- If drafting a resolution related to the policy book, follow its format and clearly identify the section you want to amend, delete, or add to.
- Remember: whereas clauses/preambles are only to provide rationale and are not debated. Only the "Be it Resolved" clause is debated and may become policy.
- Stick to one topic and keep the resolution short and concise- resolutions must be under 100 words to be considered.
- Evaluate necessity- if the Party already has existing policy covering your issue, a new resolution may not be needed (e.g., affordable housing).

RESOLUTION SUBMISSION PROCESS

Resolution submissions will be accepted once registration opens in early December 2025.

1. Resolutions must be adopted at a general meeting of an eligible submitting body, such as an EDA, affiliate, youth delegating body, or other authorized group
2. The resolution submission deadline is Tuesday, January 27, 2026

Each resolution must be accompanied by all of the information below and each resolution must be submitted separately. The form for submitting your resolution is found on the Convention website. Resolutions will only be accepted via the online form and will not be accepted via e-mail or other methods of communication.

- Full Name
- Email Address
- Phone Number
- EDA/Affiliate/Youth Delegating Body Name
- Full Address
- Your Role with the Delegating Body
- Type of Resolution (Amend or delete existing policy; Add new policy, Direct the Party to run a campaign; Have the Party make a statement on an ongoing event or issue; or Amend the Party Constitution)
- Resolution Title
- Whereas Section (Max 100 Words)
- Be It Resolved Section (Max 100 Words)
- Date of Resolutions Meeting

RESOLUTION PRIORITIZATION PROCESS

After the submission deadline, the General Policy Statements & Resolutions Committee (GPSRC) will meet to review all submitted resolutions. GPSRC is a Committee of Federal Council.

The GPSRC is empowered to determine whether resolutions are in order and to group and merge identical resolutions. The GPSRC will be in touch with resolution submission bodies if there are any issues that arise as part of this review.

In early March, all Convention delegates will participate in an online, open prioritization process for resolutions that were submitted. All delegates that have signed up for Convention by this time will be able to vote in the prioritization process and instructions on how to vote in the prioritization process will be made available prior to the opening of the vote.

After prioritization concludes, all delegates will receive the final prioritized list of resolutions.

- That the proposed resolution is consonant with existing policy;
- That the proposed emergency resolution falls within the purview of the federal New Democratic Party of Canada and/or the Government of Canada;
- Whether the policy related to the issue already exist within the NDP Policy Book

A separate Emergency Resolutions submission form will be available to delegates once general resolution submissions have concluded.

EMERGENCY RESOLUTIONS

Emergency Resolutions may be submitted to the Convention on an issue or topic that has arisen after the resolution deadline of Tuesday, January 27, 2026. Similar to a regular policy resolution, an emergency resolution may be submitted by any delegating body to the Convention, such as an EDA or affiliate that was passed at a General Members' Meeting.

In order to be deemed an emergency resolution, the proposed resolution must meet the following criteria, set out by the GPSRC:

- That the proposed emergency resolution addresses an issue that has arisen since submission deadline for Convention resolutions (Tuesday, January 27, 2026);
- Been passed by the general membership of a duly convened meeting of a delegating body as per the Constitution under Article V Section 7(b);