

# Constitution

New Blue Party  
of Ontario



# CONSTITUTION



**NEW  
BLUE**  
ONTARIO

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# MISSION STATEMENT & PRINCIPLES

**Mission Statement.** The New Blue Party of Ontario was established by Belinda and Jim Karahalios to offer the solutions necessary to ensure our province's future is one of hope, opportunity, and prosperity.

Ontario needs to move forward - the right way forward. It's time to get our province working again by empowering individuals, strengthening our democracy, defending taxpayers, promoting small businesses, and standing up for faith and families.

Ontario's establishment political parties are entrenched in radical left-wing ideology that seeks to socially re-engineer our province through tax-and-spend economics, government overreach, and crony capitalism.

We have seen this since 2018 with the Ontario PC government's repeated lockdowns and implementation of vaccine passport measures as well as their continuation of the Ontario Liberal Party agenda that governed the province from 2003 to 2018. Grassroots attempts to change the establishment political parties into offering solutions based on the principles below are rebuffed by Ontario's political class - dominated by insiders and the lobbyists of big business and big government - who use anti-democratic and corrupt methods to shut citizens out of the political process.

To achieve a brighter future for Ontario, the New Blue Party brings together citizens of Ontario as members of the party, loyal to Canada, in adherence to the processes outlined in this constitution, for the purpose of electing candidates to the Ontario legislature who will promote policies that advance the following:

**Principles.** At its noblest, good and responsible government should demonstrate

accountability, transparency, and integrity while acting in the best interests of its citizens. A peaceful, well-ordered, and stable democracy in which individuals can flourish is achieved by strengthening the rule of law and ensuring full equality before the law, while at the same time recognizing the supremacy of natural law, a democratic parliament, and the Canadian constitution.

The dignity and wellbeing of the individual is at the heart of a democratic society. Liberty is best promoted through the ability of individuals to make decisions in their own best interests and encouraging free will (including freedom of speech, worship, assembly, association, political participation, conscience, and religion), while recognizing the responsibilities that accompany all rights.

Prosperity is best ensured by empowering individuals to improve their personal situation through self-reliance and the maximum enjoyment of the fruits of one's own labour. This is best achieved by providing equal opportunity to participate in a competitive market economy that rewards initiative and innovation, values ethical transactions, protects private property, and ensures security and privacy.

The health and wellbeing of society is improved by strong families in which parents are the primary educators and caregivers of their children and by recognizing the inherent value and dignity of human life from conception to natural death. Government works best when there is a clear division of powers and when it avoids intruding on those functions better served by individuals, families, voluntary associations, religious groups, local governments, and the private sector. Changes to existing systems should adhere to the principles outlined above while recognizing the importance of Ontario's heritage and balancing any possible benefits against the costs of change.

# ARTICLES



**NEW  
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ONTARIO

**A. Establishment**

**1. Name**

There is an unincorporated association officially registered with Elections Ontario named the “**New Blue Party of Ontario**,” hereinafter referred to in this constitution as the “**Party**.” The Party was registered with Elections Ontario on January 7, 2021, (hereinafter referred to as the “**Registration**”) by Belinda and Jim Karahalios (hereinafter referred to as the “**Founders**”). Upon Registration, the Party shall be governed by the founding members of the Party’s board of directors (as further described below and hereinafter referred to as the “**Founding Board**”) and in accordance with the provisions of this founding constitution (hereinafter referred to as the “**Founding Constitution**”). Subject to any provisions herein to the contrary, the Founding Constitution shall be superseded by the Party’s constitution (hereinafter referred to as the “**Party Constitution**”) which shall be established and ratified at a future convention of the Party, such convention scheduled and conducted as set out by the Founding Board pursuant to the provisions herein.

**2. Purpose**

The Party shall aspire to achieve a brighter future for Ontario by bringing together Party Members (as described below), loyal to Canada, in adherence to the processes outlined in this Founding Constitution for the purpose of:

- a. Endorsing and supporting candidates of the Party to stand

for election to the Ontario legislature;

- b. Advocating and supporting the Party’s values, principles, and policies;
- c. Providing a forum for Party Members to participate in the Party’s affairs in accordance with this Founding Constitution and the processes determined by the Founding Board; and
- d. To raise and spend money in support of these purposes.

**3. Founding Constitution**

This Founding Constitution and the by-laws made by the Founding Board pursuant hereto govern the affairs of the Party, its committees, and associations. No board, committee, or association of the Party, other than as approved by the Founding Board, may establish a constitution or by-laws other than this Founding Constitution.

**4. Property**

Only the Party, or the New Blue Ontario Fund (as described below), may hold property, money, accept contributions, make expenditures, enter contracts of employment, enter leases, or otherwise make agreements or arrangements. Notwithstanding the foregoing, a recognized constituency association of the Party (as defined below and hereinafter referred to as a “**Constituency Association**”) or the campaign of an official Party candidate in a provincial electoral district, may hold and administer property and funds or enter into

agreements for the provision of services, with the prior written approval of the Founding Board and subject to any provisions of this Founding Constitution and any by-laws or decisions as established by the Founding Board.

## **B. Party Members**

### **1. Registry**

Membership to the Party is open to those persons meeting the requirements as set out by this Founding Constitution, the Party by-laws, and the Founding Board (hereinafter referred to as "**Membership Requirements**"). The Party will, under the direction of the Founding Board, maintain a register of those members in good standing who meet the Membership Requirements (hereinafter referred to as "**Party Members**"). Those Party Members who endorsed the Party's formation for Registration shall be the founding Party Members (hereinafter referred to as "**Founding Members**"). Membership to the Party shall be subject to any determinations of the Founding Board.

### **2. Rights**

A Party Member shall have the right to participate in Party activities in accordance with and subject to this Founding Constitution, any Party by-laws, and any determinations of the Founding Board. Status as a Party Member will remain current for the period established by the Founding Board and may be renewed and / or terminated in the manner and at the times set out by the Founding Board.

### **3. Eligibility**

No individual shall be a member of this Party who:

- a. Is a member of another Ontario provincial political party;
- b. Holds a position on an association, committee, or board of another Ontario provincial political party;
- c. Holds a position on a constituency association of an independent Member of Provincial Parliament;
- d. Does not abide by the provisions of this Founding Constitution;
- e. Does not support the Party's principles described herein;
- f. Promotes, has promoted, or has participated in, corrupt voting practices, voting irregularities, or voter fraud, in general elections or internal political party elections, as determined by the Founding Board.
- g. Is employed by, member of, or volunteer with, an organization (including another political party registered in the province of Ontario) that advocates on behalf of principles that are contrary to the principles of the Party or advocates in favour of the election of another Ontario provincial political party or a candidate for another Ontario provincial political party, as determined by the Founding Board.

### **4. Determinations**

The Founding Board shall be responsible for determining any discipline of a Party Member or an organization described in this Founding Constitution for failure to:



- a. Act in the best interest of the Party;
- b. Abide by or keep in accordance with Ontario's election laws; or
- c. Abide by or keep in accordance with the provisions of this Founding Constitution, Party by-laws, or any decisions of the Founding Board.

### **C. Constituency Associations**

#### **1. Recognition**

Recognition may be granted by the Founding Board to one Constituency Association in each provincial electoral district. Such recognition may be revoked, pursuant to this Founding Constitution, Party by-laws, a determination of the Founding Board, or in accordance with Ontario's election laws.

#### **2. Purpose**

Each Constituency Association shall:

- a. Endorse and support the candidate of the Party for election to the Ontario legislature for its provincial electoral district;
- b. Engage in and support field organizing, outreach, and fundraising, in its provincial electoral district; and
- c. Facilitate input into Party policy by Party Members in its provincial electoral district consistent with the policy process established by the Founding Board and in accordance with any Party by-laws and this Founding Constitution.

#### **3. Governance**

Each of the officers and directors governing a Constituency Association shall be Party Members (unless such requirement is waived, in writing, by the Founding Board for a specific purpose). The selection of the officers and members of the board of directors of a Constituency Association shall be in such numbers and in such a manner, in accordance with and determined by the processes in this Founding Constitution, any Party by-law, or a decision of the Founding Board in writing. Constituency Associations shall comply with such other requirements as to their governance, financial management, and reporting, as may be required by the Founding Constitution, any Party by-law, any decision implemented by the Founding Board, or as required under any electoral laws of the province of Ontario.

#### **4. Selection Process**

The Founding Board shall set a process for the selection of candidates representing the Party in elections for each provincial electoral district (the "**Candidate Selection Process**"). Only Party Members may seek nomination as a Party candidate. The Candidate Selection Process shall include an interview process and where a Constituency Association has been established in the respective electoral district, the board of directors of the Constituency Association shall be consulted. The Founding Board shall have the right to disallow the candidacy of any person

before or after their selection as a candidate, subject to the appeal of such decision to the Founding Board and subject to any decision of a Dispute Resolution Committee panel as set out in the provisions herein.

**5. Other Recognized Associations**

The Founding Board may grant recognition to other associations to further the objectives of the Party as deemed necessary by the Founding Board, and such recognition may be revoked, pursuant to this Founding Constitution, any Party by-law, or a determination of the Founding Board.

**D. Board, Officers, Executive**

**1. Composition**

The Party Constitution shall establish the composition and selection process for the Party's board of directors (hereinafter referred to as the "**Party Board**"). Prior to the Party Constitution, a founding committee shall be established of the board of directors of the Party (hereinafter referred to as the "**Founding Board**"), which shall function as the principal management and administrative authority of the Party, for the purposes of any requirements of Elections Ontario, or as required under Ontario's election laws, as well as to fulfill the requirements of this Founding Constitution.

The Founding Board shall be composed of the following voting members:

- a. The Party's leader (hereinafter referred to as "**Party Leader**");
- b. The Party's president (hereinafter referred to as "**Party President**");

- c. The Party's chief administrative officer (hereinafter referred to as the "**CAO**");
- d. The Party's chief financial officer (hereinafter referred to as the "**CFO**");

(each of the foregoing referred to as a "**Party Officer**" and collectively as "**Party Officers**");

- e. Four or fewer additional directors (each hereinafter referred to as a "**Party Director**" and collectively as "**Party Directors**");
- f. A Member of Provincial Parliament that represents the Party's legislative caucus as recommended by the Party's legislative caucus and as approved by the Founding Board; and
- g. Additional Party Members as determined by the Founding Board in a voting or non-voting ex-officio capacity, as deemed necessary by the Founding Board for the effective and efficient governance of the Party.

**2. Selection**

The positions of the Founding Board shall be selected in accordance with the following:

- a. The Party Leader shall be selected in accordance with the provisions provided herein.
- b. Upon Registration Belinda Karahalios was named the Party President. Upon a vacancy in the position of Party President prior to the establishment of the Party Constitution, the Party President

shall be selected by the Founding Board.

- c. Upon Registration Helen Shwery was named the CFO. Upon a vacancy in the position of CFO prior to the establishment of the Party Constitution the CFO shall be selected by the Founding Board.
- d. Upon Registration, the Party Leader, Party President, and CFO unanimously selected the CAO.
- e. The Party Leader, Party President, CFO, and the CAO select the Party Directors of the Founding Board as described above.
- f. Upon a vacancy to the Founding Board for a position outlined in articles D.1.e or D.1.f or D.1.g, the director shall be selected by the Founding Board.
- g. Nothing precludes one person from serving two positions on the Founding Board simultaneously if deemed necessary by the Founding Board, notwithstanding which such person shall only have one vote on the Founding Board.

### **3. Powers**

Each director of the Founding Board will have the powers and responsibilities set out for them in this Founding Constitution and will serve until new directors are selected in accordance with this Founding Constitution. The Founding Board shall meet not less than four times per calendar year. Subject to quorum requirements which shall be half of the Founding Board, one of the Party President or the Party Leader, and

half of the Party Officers, the Founding Board will have the power to make Party by-laws and decisions by majority vote subject to the provisions of the Founding Constitution and to determine any matter delegated to it in this Founding Constitution, including without limitation:

- a. The creation of and delegation of authority to any committee of the Party;
- b. The establishment and governance of standing and special committees, including without limitation committees dealing with matters of policy, election readiness, conventions, and leadership contests;
- c. The establishment, recognition, and governance of commissions, sections, branches and clubs of the Party;
- d. The governance and administration of Constituency Associations;
- e. The process of policy consultation and development followed by the Party;
- f. The rules governing registration as a Party Member;
- g. The rules governing registration and attendance (both remote and in-person) at any convention of the Party;
- h. The rules governing the election of directors to the Founding Board or the Party Board;
- i. The removal by majority vote of an individual occupying one of the positions on the Founding Board

outlined in Articles D.1.c to D.1.g inclusive;

- j. Reviewing and making a recommendation to the Party Leader, Party President, and the Party's legislative caucus of Members of Provincial Parliament of the inclusion into the Party's legislative caucus of an Ontario Member of Provincial Parliament; and
- k. The responsibilities, rules and procedures of the Founding Board and any Party committee.

### **E. New Blue Ontario Fund**

#### **1. Creation**

The New Blue Ontario Fund, a non-share capital corporation incorporated under and governed by the provisions of the laws pertaining to corporations of Canada and operating in accordance with the electoral laws of the province of Ontario (hereinafter referred to as the "**Fund**"), is the sole fundraising arm of the Party.

#### **2. Selection**

Upon Registration and the establishment of the Fund, the initial directors of the Fund were selected as the Party Leader, the Party President, and the CFO (hereinafter referred to as "**Fund Directors**"). Additional directors of the Fund, or the selection of directors of the Fund in the event of a vacancy, shall be completed in accordance with the laws pertaining to corporations of Canada and the Fund's governing articles.

### **3. Governance**

Fund Directors shall be volunteers and receive no compensation for their service in such capacity. Notwithstanding the foregoing, nothing precludes a contractor or employee of the Party or the Fund from receiving compensation for services provided to the Party or the Fund as authorized by the Fund Directors, while such contractor or employee also serves as a Fund Director. The Fund shall submit an annual audited financial statement to the Founding Board (or eventual Party Board) for submission to and approval from Elections Ontario. Constituency Associations and any affiliated organizations recognized by the Party shall provide such financial information to the Fund as the Founding Board or the Fund Directors require.

### **4. Powers**

The Fund Directors will have the power to make by-laws by majority vote, to determine any matter delegated to it in this Founding Constitution, by the Founding Board, in accordance with the laws pertaining to corporations of Canada, or in accordance with the electoral laws of the province of Ontario, including without limitation to:

- a. Oversee the financial administration of the Party and the Fund, including the approval of budgets, fees, expenses, revenue targets, and the administration of banking matters;
- b. Oversee the hiring and supervision of personnel,

employed, contract or otherwise, of the Fund or the Party and any Party board, committee, or commission;

- c. Approve the incurrence of debt and granting of security on behalf of the Party or the Fund or any Party board, committee, or commission; and
- d. Approve the entering into of any lease or agreement or the acquisition of any real, personal, moveable, or immoveable property on behalf of the Party or the Fund or any Party board, committee, or commission.

### **5. Assets**

Where a Constituency Association fails to operate in accordance with Ontario's election laws, the provisions of this Founding Constitution, any decisions of the Founding Board or the Fund Directors, or in the best interest of the Party, the Fund Directors shall request that the Founding Board take all necessary steps to assume control and ownership of all the assets of a Constituency Association including the suspension or revocation of recognition of any Constituency Association, where doing so is deemed necessary by the Fund Directors in their sole discretion. In such a scenario, assets assumed shall be held by the Fund and shall be returned to, or paid out to, the next duly selected board of the Constituency Association. Where a duly selected board of the Constituency Association is not formed within a reasonable period, as

determined by the Founding Board in its sole discretion, the assumed assets shall become property of the Fund. The Founding Board may select to transfer its powers outlined under this article to the Fund Directors.

### **F. Policy**

#### **1. Process**

The Founding Board shall establish and maintain a provincial policy process which provides for the following:

- a. Communication, discussion, and engagement of Party Members;
- b. Reporting and accountability to Party Members;
- c. Flexibility to accommodate changing technology, conditions outside the control of the Founding Board, including but not limited to electoral cycles;
- d. Consistency with the Party's Mission Statement and Principles;
- e. Consideration of the prior public policy positions of the Party Leader;
- f. Consideration of the prior public policy positions of the Party President;
- g. Consideration of the prior public policy positions of any of the Party's Members of Provincial Parliament; and
- h. Informing the creation of the Party's election platform including any issues, positions, and policies which shall comprise of the Party's election platform.

**G. Conventions**

**1. Call**

The Founding Board shall hold a provincial convention, or regional conventions, as may be required, to deal with policy, leadership selection, governance matters, training, election readiness, and such other matters, as deemed necessary by the Founding Board.

**2. Registration and Attendance**

Party Members who pay the fees established by the Founding Board and are selected to attend a convention in accordance with the convention's procedures may register to attend a convention to the extent and in the manner provided for by the Founding Board. Registration could be remote or in person as determined by the Founding Board.

**H. Party Leader**

**1. Office**

The Party Leader is entitled to exercise all authority of a leader of a political party under the electoral laws of the province of Ontario and as provided for by this Founding Constitution, any Party by-laws, or any decisions of the Founding Board.

**2. Role**

The Party Leader is responsible for:

- a. Speaking for the Party concerning any political issue, position, or policy;
- b. Participating in the development of the Party's policies;
- c. Leading the development of the Party's election platform;

- d. Being guided by the Party policies and its platform;
- e. Participating in the Candidate Selection Process;
- f. Reporting to the Party and Party Members; and
- g. All other functions as deemed necessary by the Founding Board.

**3. Selection**

Upon Registration the Party Leader was identified as Jim Karahalios. The Party Constitution shall establish provisions by which subsequent Party Leaders shall be selected including provisions for how a leadership contest will be held, the voting procedures, and the formation of ballots. Where a vacancy of Party Leader occurs prior to the formation of the Party Constitution, the vacancy shall be selected by a resolution of the Founding Board in consultation with the Constituency Associations. Where the Founding Board deems it necessary to hold an election to select a Party Leader the Founding Board shall determine the process and procedures for holding such election.

**I. General**

**1. Amendment**

This Founding Constitution may be amended by a majority vote of the Founding Board. Amendments to this Founding Constitution may be proposed to the Founding Board for consideration and a vote by:

- a. Any member of the Founding Board; or
- b. Any individual who is a Founding Member, a Party Member for at

least one full calendar, or president of a Constituency Association, subject to the proposed amendment being submitted in a form as prescribed by the Founding Board and receiving the endorsement of twenty-five (25) presidents of Constituency Associations, fifty (50) Founding Members across five (5) Constituency Associations, or seventy-five (75) Party Members across five (5) Constituency Associations who have been Party Members for at least one full calendar year.

The following changes to the Founding Constitution shall not be deemed an “amendment”:

- a. Renumbering articles to accommodate amendments;
- b. correct typographical errors, spelling errors, and cross-references between articles which are no longer accurate;
- c. correct errors which are purely typographical; and
- d. any changes necessary for formatting or stylistic purposes.

Upon the establishment of the Party Constitution, an amending formula shall be established by a provision that reflects the ratification process of the Party Constitution. Notwithstanding anything herein, the Party Constitution shall include Article E, above, and no provision of the Party Constitution shall allow for any amendment to Article E other than by the Fund Directors or the Founding Board.

## **2. Interpretation**

This Founding Constitution will be governed by the interpretation provisions of this paragraph, and the Founding Board will have authority to interpret this Founding Constitution. This Founding Constitution is to be interpreted and read subject to the provisions of any electoral laws of the province of Ontario. Unless the context otherwise requires, words and phrases used herein have the same meaning as in any legislation dealing with electoral laws of the province of Ontario or any legislation pertaining to corporations of Canada. To the extent there is any conflict between any provision of this Founding Constitution and any electoral laws of the province of Ontario or corporation laws of Canada, or other applicable law, the law shall prevail. Words importing the singular include the plural, and vice versa. The power to appoint includes the power to replace. The power to make a by-law, or adopt rules, processes, or procedures, includes the power to amend. Subject to the foregoing, the Founding Constitution shall govern the affairs of the Party and in the event of any conflict between the Founding Constitution and any other document, the Founding Constitution shall prevail.

## **3. Notice**

Unless this Founding Constitution otherwise provides, any notice to a Party Member may be given by mail to each household, by electronic mail, or in any other manner established by

the Founding Board. A notice need not be given to any Party Member designated as “inactive” in accordance with procedures established by the Founding Board, or any by-law, rule, process, or procedure, or who has requested not to receive correspondence. The inadvertent failure to give notice to any Party Member of anything does not invalidate the notice, the meeting, or any business of the meeting.

#### **4. *Dispute Resolution***

Except for any dispute related to the leadership selection process, any twenty-five (25) members of a Constituency Association may give notice in writing to the Founding Board of a dispute as to whether the requirements of the Founding Constitution, any by-law, any rules and procedures, or decisions of the Founding Board, are being met by the Constituency Association or an affiliated organization, board, committee, or commission of the Party. The Founding Board shall appoint one or more Party Members to investigate the merits of the dispute, which Party Member(s) shall be authorized to intervene to attempt to resolve the dispute. If the Party

Members appointed decide not to intervene or are unsuccessful in resolving the dispute, the Founding Board shall establish a dispute resolution committee (hereinafter referred to as the “**Dispute Resolution Committee**”), and, in writing, refer the matter to the Dispute Resolution Committee. On receipt of a referral from the Founding Board, the Dispute Resolution Committee shall select a panel of three (3) individuals, including the chair, to arbitrate and decide on the dispute. The decision of a Dispute Resolution Committee’s panel is final and binding and there shall be no appeal or review on any ground whatsoever for as long as such decision is done in accordance with the provisions of this Founding Constitution, any by-laws, and the laws of the province of Ontario and of Canada. Subject to any specific directions from any panel of a Dispute Resolution Committee, the Founding Board has the power to implement the decisions made by the panel. The general rules and procedures for a Dispute Resolution Committee and its panel shall be determined by the Dispute Resolution Committee subject to any decisions of the Founding Board.



**The above Founding Constitution of the New Blue Party of Ontario, as adopted by the New Blue Party of Ontario’s founding board of directors by written resolution on September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021:**

<p><i>Belinda Karahalios</i></p> <hr/> <p><b>Belinda Karahalios, Party President</b></p>	<p><i>Helen Shwery</i></p> <hr/> <p><b>Helen Shwery, Chief Financial Officer</b></p>
<p><i>Allison Bruns</i></p> <hr/> <p><b>Allison Bruns, Chief Administrative Officer</b></p>	<p><i>Antonette Nolan</i></p> <hr/> <p><b>Antonette Nolan, Director</b></p>
<p><i>Joshua Carron</i></p> <hr/> <p><b>Joshua Carron, Director</b></p>	<p><i>Mark Trueman</i></p> <hr/> <p><b>Mark Trueman, Director</b></p>
<p><i>Nathaniel Bruns</i></p> <hr/> <p><b>Nathaniel Bruns, Director</b></p>	<p><i>Adam Quistini</i></p> <hr/> <p><b>Adam Quistini, Director</b></p>
<p><i>Lillo Ognibene</i></p> <hr/> <p><b>Lillo Ognibene, Director</b></p>	<p><i>Jim Karahalios</i></p> <hr/> <p><b>Jim Karahalios, Party Leader</b></p>