ADOPTED September 20, 2024, at the Inaugural OLRNC AGM in London, Ontario
Revised and adopted September 12, 2025, at the 2025 OLRNC AGM in Toronto, ON

CONSTITUTION OF THE

ONTARIO LIBERAL RURAL AND NORTHERN COMMISSION

TABLE OF CONTENTS

		PAGE
Article 1	Name of Organization and Relationship to the Ontario Liberal Party	3
Article 2	Objectives	3
Article 3	Membership	3
Article 4	Officers	4
Article 5	Executive Committee	6
Article 6	Table Officers	8
Article 7	Meetings of the OLRNC	8
Article 8	Elections	9
Article 9	Regions and Regional Committees	10
Article 10	Meetings of the Regional Committees	11
Article 11	Representation at Conventions and Meetings of the Ontario Liberal Party	12
Article 12	The Constitution	12
Article 13	Official Languages	14
Schedule A	Regions	15

ARTICLE 1

NAME OF ORGANIZATION AND RELATIONSHIP TO THE ONTARIO LIBERAL PARTY

1.1 The name of this Organization is the Ontario Liberal Rural and Northern Commission (herein after referred to as the "OLRNC").

1.2 The OLRNC is a commission operating within the Ontario Liberal Party (herein after referred to as the “OLP”). It is governed exclusively by this Constitution except where on a matter of OLP business or compliance with applicable legislation this Constitution is in conflict or silent, the Constitution of the OLP shall prevail.

ARTICLE 2

OBJECTIVES OF THE OLRNC

2.1 The objective of the OLRNC shall be to maintain an active organization of rural and northern members of the Ontario Liberal Party, to speak with a collective voice on behalf of rural and northern Liberals in Ontario, while simultaneously upholding Liberal principles and supporting the Ontario Liberal Party.

2.2 To that end, the OLRNC shall strive to accomplish the following:

(a) Advocate and encourage the participation of rural and northern citizens in the political process.

(b) Recruit rural and northern citizens to become members of the OLP and encourage and assist them to run for positions within the OLP.

(c) Promote both the nomination and election of rural and northern candidates.

(d) Support and promote the Rural and Northern Fund.

(e) Participate in the development of policy to ensure that issues related to and/or that affect rural and northern areas are properly addressed through a rural and northern lens in the policies of the OLP.

ARTICLE 3

MEMBERSHIP

3.1 All OLP members who reside in the electoral districts specified in ‘Schedule A - Regions’ shall be considered members of the OLRNC.

ARTICLE 4

OFFICERS OF THE OLRNC

4.1.1 The Executive Committee of the OLRNC will consist of the following officers who shall be elected at an Annual General Meeting of the OLRNC (the "AGM") for a term that expires at the conclusion of the next Annual General Meeting of the OLRNC, as described in Articles 7 and 8:

(a) President;

(b) Executive Vice-President;

(c) Immediate Past-President (ex-officio);

(d) Secretary-Treasurer;

(e) Vice-President Policy and Constitutional Affairs;

(f) Vice-President Communications;

(g) Vice-President Fundraising;

(h) Vice-President of Francophone Affairs

(i) Regional Vice-Presidents (Per “Schedule A – Regions” herein)

4.1.2 The Executive Committee of the OLRNC will also consist of the following non-voting officers for a term that expires at the conclusion of the next Annual General Meeting of the OLRNC:

(a) Youth Representative (non-voting, appointed by OYL Executive);

(b) Indigenous Representative (non-voting, appointed by Indigenous Executive);

(c) Women’s Representative (non-voting, appointed by OWLC Executive);

(d) Seniors’ Representative (non-voting, appointed by OLSC Executive)

4.2 In the event of a vacancy of an elected position, the Executive Committee may appoint a replacement to hold office until the next AGM:

(a) If the position of President is vacated where there is an Executive Vice-President, the Executive Vice-President will automatically be appointed as President unless they decline

such appointment.

(b) If the Executive Vice-President declines, the Executive Committee shall appoint a replacement from the Executive Committee to hold office until the next AGM.

4.3 The President plays an important leadership role on the Executive Committee and the Commission. The President is the presiding officer and shall chair meetings of the Executive Committee and the Commission, and is responsible for calling meetings of the Executive Committee as defined in Article 5.

4.4 The Executive Vice-President shall assist the President and act in their absence. The Executive Vice-President shall support and aid Regional Vice-Presidents with election readiness.

4.5 The Secretary-Treasurer shall be responsible for:

(a) Preparing and sending all notices of meetings to the Executive Committee.

(b) Taking minutes during all meetings and circulating all minutes of meetings of the Executive Committee and the Annual General Meeting.

(c) Maintaining an up-to-date Executive Committee List of the OLRNC, which will include the: name, residential address, postal code, telephone number and email address of each Executive Committee member.

d) Maintaining up-to-date lists for Regional Committees of the OLRNC, which will include the: region, name, residential address, postal code, telephone number and email address of each Regional Committee member.

e) In consultation with OLP's Chief Financial Officer or their designated agents, account for all OLRNC expenses and provide all receipts for audit purposes and compliance with applicable provincial legislation.

f) In consultation with OLP's Chief Financial Officer or their designated agents, provide a report on the financial status of the OLRNC at Executive Committee meetings and the Annual General Meeting.

4.6 The Vice-President Policy and Constitutional Affairs shall be responsible for:

(a) Coordinating policy formation on behalf of the OLRNC and transmitting these policies to the OLP.

(b) Maintaining active participation and attendance on the OLP Policy Committee.

(c) Ensuring that the OLRNC Constitution is consistent with the Constitution of the OLP.

(d) Receiving proposed amendments to this Constitution in accordance with Article 12, and for preparing such amendments to this Constitution as they consider appropriate to recommend for adoption in accordance with Article 12.

4.7 The Vice-President Communications shall coordinate the communication activities of the OLRNC to the membership and with the OLP.

4.8 There shall be one Regional Vice-President for each Regional Committee, as defined in "Schedule A – Regions" of this Constitution, who shall be responsible for chairing and reporting the activities of their Regional Committee.

4.9 The Vice-President Fundraising shall be responsible for raising funds for the Ontario Liberal Party through a Rural and Northern Fund in compliance with all governing Constitutions and laws and assist the OLRNC member PLAs with fundraising activities.

4.10: The Vice President of Francophone Affairs shall be responsible for:

a. Representing and advocating for the Franco-Ontarian community within the OLRNC
b. Assisting the VP Communications with the French branding of the OLRNC, including but not limited to French posts on social media
c. Maximizing the number of bilingual offerings
d. Advising the OLRNC President on major Francophone issues and events, along with other members of the OLRNC Executive

4.11 The Youth Representative shall represent the interests of youth members.

4.12 The Indigenous Representative shall represent the interests of indigenous members.

4.13 The Women's Representative shall represent the interests of women members.

4.14 The Seniors' Representative shall represent the interests of senior members.

ARTICLE 5

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

5.1 There shall be an Executive Committee of the OLRNC comprised of the officers as defined in Articles 4.1.1 and 4.1.2.

5.2 It is the role of the Executive Committee to administer the OLRNC, subject to any direction arising out of any AGM or general meeting.

5.3 The Executive Committee shall disburse funds only in accordance with the adopted resolutions of the Executive Committee and subject to such oversight by the OLP Chief Financial Officer as they may consider necessary or appropriate to comply with the requirements of applicable legislation.

5.4 The Executive Committee shall meet at least eight times during a calendar year (an "Executive Meeting").

5.5 An Executive Meeting requires seven (7) days written notice including a draft agenda.

5.6 Notice may be given by the Secretary-Treasurer following a call for a meeting by:

(a) the President; or

(b) any three (3) Members of the Executive Committee if said direction is received in writing and each of the three (3) members have affixed their written or electronic signatures on the written direction.

5.7 Written Notice shall be deemed to be given on the day which is the earlier of:

(a) The day of actual receipt;

(b) The day of actual delivery to the usual resident of the intended recipient; or

(c) The second day following the day of mailing by prepaid post or email.

5.8 A quorum for the Executive Meeting shall be a minimum of six (6) members, by phone, by online video conference, and or in person.

5.9 An elected or appointed member of the Executive Committee shall not be absent from three (3) consecutive regular meetings of the Executive Committee without the authorization of the Executive Committee.

5.10 If an elected or appointed member of the Executive Committee is absent from three (3) consecutive regular meetings without such authorization, the office held by that member shall become vacant at the conclusion of the third meeting.

5.11 The Executive Committee may appoint ad hoc committees of the Executive Committee and, subject to the provisions of this Constitution, may delegate and assign such responsibilities as it sees fit to these committees for the purpose of furthering the work thereof.

5.12 Subject to the provisions of the Constitution of the OLP, the Executive Committee may appoint a member of the OLRNC to each OLP Committee.

ARTICLE 6

TABLE OFFICERS

6.1 The table officers of the OLRNC shall be the following individuals:

(a) President;

(b) Executive Vice-President;

(c) Secretary-Treasurer;

(d) Immediate Past-President; and
(e) Vice-President, Policy and Constitutional Affairs

ARTICLE 7

MEETINGS OF THE OLRNC

7.1 An Annual General Meeting (AGM) shall be held in conjunction with every OLP AGM.

7.2 Written Notice of the AGM shall be sent by the OLP at least forty-five (45) days in advance of the day the meeting is to be held.

7.3 Written Notice of the AGM shall include:

(a) the contact information for the OLP Returning Officer;

(b) a list of OLRNC officer positions up for election;

(c) the deadline to submit intent to seek election; and

(d) the date, time, location, and applicable registration fees.

7.4 Every member of the OLRNC registered as delegates of the OLP AGM are automatically delegates to the OLRNC AGM.

7.5 Quorum for the AGM shall be thirty (30) delegates.

7.6 All members of the ORLNC registered as delegates to the OLP AGM shall be entitled to vote at the OLRNC AGM.

7.7 All meetings of the OLRNC may be conducted in-person, online through digital video conferencing technologies, or as hybrid in-person/online gatherings.

ARTICLE 8

ELECTIONS

8.1 All Elected Officers set out in Article 4.1 shall be elected at an AGM on the expiration of their terms.

8.2 All elections shall be conducted by preferential ballot.

8.3 The term of office of an Elected Officer shall expire upon the election or appointment of a successor to the office.

8.4 No person who is an Elected Officer shall hold the same office for more than three (3) consecutive terms.

8.5 Nominations for the Elected Officer positions of President, Executive Vice-President, Secretary-Treasurer, Vice President Policy and Constitutional Affairs, Vice President Communications, Vice President Fundraising, and Regional Vice President for each region as defined in "Schedule A – Regions" herein shall be accepted by the OLP as set out in section 8.17 of the OLP Constitution.

8.6 Any person who wishes to seek election to an Elected Officer position must deliver written notice by the deadline set out in section 8.17 of the OLP Constitution, in the manner set out in section 8.17 of the OLP Constitution.

8.7 The OLP Returning Officer shall provide the OLRNC Executive Committee with the list of individuals seeking election to an Elected Officer position immediately following the deadline to submit written notice set out in section 8.17 of the OLP Constitution.

8.8 Prior to the AGM and immediately following the deadline to submit written notice set out in section 8.17 of the OLP Constitution, the OLRNC Executive Committee shall ensure there is at least one nominated candidate for each Elected Officer position.

8.9 Should there be more than one nominated candidate for an Elected Officer position, each candidate, in alphabetical order by last name, shall be granted two (2) minutes to make a speech in support of their candidacy during the AGM.

8.10 The Executive Committee shall appoint individuals to Elected Officer positions remaining vacant after the AGM as per section 4.2 herein.

ARTICLE 9

REGIONS AND REGIONAL COMMITTEES

9.1 The Regions of the OLRNC shall be comprised of the provincial electoral districts with a significant rural and/or northern populace as defined in "Schedule A – Regions" to this Constitution.

9.2 The boundaries of the Regions shall align with the boundaries of provincial electoral districts and the OLP Regions.

9.3 There shall be a Regional Committee for each OLRNC Region as defined in "Schedule A – Regions" of this Constitution comprised of:

(a) the Regional VP;

(b) one representative from each Provincial Liberal Association (PLA) in the Region;

(c) any OLP member (non-voting) from the provincial electoral districts in said region specified in 'Schedule A – Regions' herein in good standing that wants to participate.

9.4 The Regional Committee shall be a mechanism for local input, as follows:

(a) liaise with PLAs on rural/northern issues and policy;

(b) support the policy process of the OLP;

(c) assist with fundraising for the OLP through the Rural and Northern Fund; and

(d) support election readiness in the region.

9.5 Each Provincial Liberal Association specified in "Schedule A – Regions" herein may appoint one representative to sit on the OLRNC Regional Committee:

(a) The representative can be a member of the PLA or an Executive Committee member of the PLA.
(b) The representative will serve for a term of one (1) year with the option of renewal by the PLA.
(c) This representative's membership must be in good standing with the OLP.

9.6 The Secretary shall be appointed by the Regional VP from within the committee.

9.7 The Secretary shall be responsible for:

(a) In consultation with the VP, preparing and sending all notices of meetings to the Regional Committee.

(b) taking minutes during all meetings and circulating all minutes of meetings to:

i. Regional Committee members; and

ii. the OLRNC Secretary-Treasurer.

(c) In consultation with the OLRNC Secretary-Treasurer, maintain an up-to-date Regional Committee list with the following information:

i. name;

ii. residential address;

iii. postal code;

iv. telephone; and

v. email address of each member.

ARTICLE 10

MEETINGS OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEES

10.1 The Regional Committee shall meet at least four (4) times per year.

10.2 Meetings shall be called and chaired by the Regional VP.

10.2 Meeting notices shall be given by the Secretary with a minimum notice of ten (10) days.

10.3 The attendance of five (5) committee members in good standing shall constitute quorum for meetings.

10.4 All regional committee meetings of the OLRNC may be conducted in-person, online through digital video conferencing technologies, or as hybrid in-person/online gatherings.

ARTICLE 11

REPRESENTATION AT CONVENTIONS AND MEETINGS OF THE ONTARIO LIBERAL PARTY

11.1 OLRNC representation and accreditation to conventions and meetings of the Ontario Liberal Party shall be as set out in the Constitution of the OLP.

ARTICLE 12

THE CONSTITUTION

12.1 This Constitution shall replace and supersede any previous Constitutions of the OLRNC and amendments thereto.

12.2 This Constitution may be amended by a two-third (2/3) majority vote of those present and voting at any AGM of the OLRNC or any General Meeting of the OLRNC called specifically for that purpose.

12.3 Notice of any proposed amendment to this Constitution shall be delivered to the Vice President Policy and Constitutional Affairs at least thirty (30) days prior to the relevant meeting.

12.4 The Vice-President Policy and Constitutional Affairs shall, at least fourteen (14) days prior to the relevant meeting, submit to the Executive Committee all proposed amendments received in accordance with Article 13.3, above, and any additional amendments that they consider appropriate to recommend for adoption.

12.5 In the event that provisions of this Constitution are silent in respect of a matter, such matter shall be determined in accordance with any regulations passed in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution and, in the event such regulations are also silent, in accordance with the provisions of the constitution of the OLP.

ARTICLE 13

OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

13.1. The official languages of the Ontario Liberal Rural and Northern Commission are English and French.

13.2. Any member may address meetings of the organization in either official language.

13.3. The constitution is to be available and distributed in both official languages and both versions shall be binding

Schedule A

REGIONS

North Region (12 Ridings) ● Algoma–Manitoulin ● Kenora–Rainy River ● Kiiwetinoong ● Mushkegowuk–James Bay ● Nickel Belt ● Nipissing ● Sault Ste. Marie ● Sudbury ● Thunder Bay–Atikokan ● Thunder Bay–Superior North ● Timiskaming–Cochrane ● Timmins	**East Region (7 Ridings)** ● Carleton ● Glengarry–Prescott–Russell ● Kingston and the Islands ● Lanark–Frontenac–Kingston ● Leeds–Grenville–Thousand Islands and Rideau Lakes ● Renfrew–Nipissing–Pembroke ● Stormont–Dundas–South Glengarry
Central North Region (9 Ridings) ● Barrie–Innisfil ● Barrie–Springwater–Oro-Medonte ● Dufferin–Caledon ● King–Vaughan ● Markham–Stouffville ● Parry Sound–Muskoka ● Simcoe–Grey ● Simcoe North ● York–Simcoe	**Central East Region (8 Ridings)** ● Bay of Quinte ● Durham ● Haliburton–Kawartha Lakes–Brock ● Hastings–Lennox and Addington ● Northumberland–Peterborough South ● Peterborough–Kawartha ● Pickering–Uxbridge ● Whitby
South West Region (11 Ridings) ● Bruce–Grey–Owen Sound ● Chatham-Kent–Leamington ● Elgin–Middlesex–London ● Essex ● Haldimand–Norfolk ● Huron–Bruce ● Lambton–Kent–Middlesex ● Oxford ● Perth–Wellington ● Sarnia–Lambton ● Windsor–Tecumseh	**South Central Region (9 Ridings)** ● Brantford–Brant ● Cambridge ● Flamborough–Glanbrook ● Kitchener–Conestoga ● Niagara Centre ● Niagara Falls ● Niagara West ● Milton ● Wellington–Halton Hills