

**TOGETHER
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RESOLUTIONS GUIDE



Introduction to Resolutions

What is a Resolution?

A resolution is a formal proposal asking the Convention to decide what the NL NDP should believe, support, oppose, act on, advocate, investigate, work with others on, or do.

Why do Resolutions matter?

The Convention is the NL NDP's governing body. It's the true democracy where members get to vote on and to help organizational and policy direction.

If passed, a carried resolution becomes an official decision of the convention, recorded in the resolution report made available to members.

Resolutions turn an issue/position/action into a clear mandate for the NL NDP – who should act, what they should do, and – where useful – when, how and/or with whom.

Types of Resolutions (*found in Article 8 of the NLNDP Constitution*)

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| Policy: | Policy resolutions state the Party's position or desired public policy. (<i>e.g. The NL NDP will support.....</i>) |
| Action: | These types of resolutions direct action, advocacy, campaigning, lobbying, organizing, work with another organization or level of government, or some other concrete step. (<i>e.g. The NL NDP will....</i>) |
| Organization: | These resolutions change or develop how the Party works, subject to the Constitution. (<i>e.g. The Provincial Executive will....</i>) |

Constitutional Amendments: (*found in Article 17 of the NL NDP Constitution*)

Constitutional Amendments are different than Resolutions. They recommend amendments (changes) to the NL NDP Constitution. They are presented and debated on the floor of convention like Resolutions, but they require a **two-thirds** (2/3) majority vote to be adopted.

Prior to Convention, a Constitutional Amendment Committee is appointed by the Provincial Executive to review all Constitutional Amendments that are submitted to



ensure they meet the criteria of a Constitutional Amendment. They may also be directed to review the current Constitution.

A Resolution is not:

- A speech, or background paper – It should lead to a decision.
- An Emergency Resolution: These resolutions deal with something very serious that has usually occurred after the deadline to submit regular resolutions. They may be presented by the Resolutions Committee only with Convention's consent.
- A Late Resolution that is submitted after the deadline will not be accepted for consideration.

How are Resolutions presented?

Resolutions are presented, debated and voted upon by delegates., at the NL NDP Convention. They are a formal part of the agenda (order of the day).

The debate allows delegates to test the idea, hear different experiences, and make a democratic decision by voting to support or oppose the resolution.

Resolutions require a **simple majority** vote (50% + 1) to be adopted.

Prior to Convention, a Resolutions Committee is appointed by the Provincial Executive to review all resolutions that are submitted to ensure they meet the criteria of a resolution.

The Committee then presents the Resolution to the convention for debate. They may recommend concurrence (acceptance) or non-concurrence (non-acceptance) of the Resolution to help guide the debate.

How does a Resolution get to the NL NDP Convention? *(as explained in the NL NDP Constitution)*

- Develop the idea and check whether it is a policy resolution, an organizational resolution, or a proposed constitutional amendment.
- Have an authorized body consider and approve the submission (see next section for a list of these bodies).
- Send it to the Provincial Secretary at least thirty (30) days before the Convention date, unless it is submitted by the Provincial Executive or qualifies as an



emergency resolution. This year, the deadline for receiving resolutions is August 26. Authorized bodies must send all approved resolutions to info@nlndp.ca by the deadline.

- The Resolutions Committee organizes the resolutions for Convention and presents its report.
- Delegates debate and vote. A resolution passes by a majority vote.
- All accepted resolutions that do not make it to the Convention floor, are passed on to a committee of the Provincial Executive to review. Adopted resolutions must be recorded and made available to members within six (6) months.

Who may submit a Resolution?

- | | |
|---|----------------------|
| • A Provincial District Association | Article 8; 4 (a)(i) |
| • The Provincial Executive | Article 8; 4 (a)(ii) |
| • Each active Caucus | Article 8; 4(a)(iii) |
| • An entitled affiliated group/organization | Article 8;4(a)(iv) |
| • The NL Federation of Labour | Article 8;4(a)(v) |
| • A Regional Representative | Article 8;4(a)(vi) |
| • (NB: for a member where no District Association exists, and the member does not belong to another listed group. | |

Important Timing Note:

Regular resolutions must be received **no less than 30 days before Convention**. At a specially called Convention, the Provincial Executive may shorten the submission period. Always follow the official Convention call for the exact date, address and submission instructions.

This year, the deadline for receiving resolutions is August 26. Authorized bodies must send all approved resolutions to info@nlndp.ca by the deadline.



How to Write a Resolution

The Basics:

The NL NDP encourages a Plain-Language Format.

Resolutions begin with the “decision” (resolve) – “The NL NDP will....” Followed by the “because....” (lays out why it’s an issue).

Recommended Four-Part Structure

1. Title

Use a short title that immediately names the subject.

2. Direction

The NL NDP will.....

State the complete action or position. This is the party that will be read out to Convention – the part the delegates will be asked to adopt (accept).

3. Reasons

Because....

Give the strongest reasons delegates need to make the decision. Use one short “Because” clause per reason.

4. Authorship

Name the District Association, caucus, affiliate, Provincial Executive, NL Federation of Labour, or Regional Representative submitting the resolution.

Why put the action first?

- Delegates can immediately see what they are being asked to decide.
- The action is easier to debate, implement, and report on.
- It replaces older formulas such as “WHEREAS”, and “BE IT RESOLVED”, with direct, everyday language.

A strong action clause answers:

WHO?

The NL NDP Provincial Executive, or another clearly authorized Party body

WILL DO WHAT?

Support, oppose, advocate, lobby, campaign, establish,



review, develop, report, etc.

ABOUT WHAT?

Name the policy, law, practice, program, or organizational change.

WITH WHAT RESULT?

State the intended outcome, add a realistic deadline only if it matters.

Use “will” for a commitment. Avoid vague verbs such as consider, look at, deal with, or encourage unless that limited action is genuinely intended.

Aim for one main idea, about 150 words and no more than three (3) “Because” clauses. These are recommended plain-language targets, not limits stated in the NL NDP Constitution.

Write a Strong Resolution in Six (6) Steps

- Research the issue. Check existing NL NDP policy and past resolutions (see examples in List of Past Resolutions document) and speak with people who have relevant knowledge or lived experience.
- Name the problem in one sentence. What needs to change?
- Choose the decision you want Convention to make. Start with “The NL NDP will...”
- Use a precise action verb and identify the responsible Party body when the NL NDP as a whole is too broad.
- Add only the necessary detail: the desired result, target government or institution, and any meaningful timeline.
- Write two to four short “Because” clauses using the strongest facts, values, or member experiences.

THEN: Test and edit – can a delegate understand the ask on the first reading, and could the Party later tell whether it acted on it?

Drafting checklist

- The action begins with the decision, not the history.
- The resolution deals with one main issue.
- The responsible actor has the authority or ability to carry it out.
- The wording says what success looks like.
- Each “Because” clause adds a distinct reason.



- Claims, numbers, and quotations are accurate and sourced where needed.
- Existing Party policy and related Convention resolutions were checked.
- Acronyms and specialized terms are explained.
- Unnecessary legalistic phrases and repetition are removed.
- The proposal does not conflict with the Constitution; if it changes the Constitution, it is submitted under Article 17.
- The authorized submitting body approved it, and the deadline will be met.



Resolution Writing Worksheet

1. The issue

What is happening now, and what needs to change?

2. The action

The NL NDP will

If a specific Party body should act, replace "The NL NDP" with:

3. The reasons

Because

Because

Because

4. Final check

☐ One main idea ☐ Clear actor and action ☐ Realistic result ☐ Short, distinct reasons

Submitting body: _____

Approval date: _____



Contact name and position:

Email / phone:

Resolution title:

Sample Resolution in the New Format

Title: “Artificial Intelligence Regulation and Governance”

Canada’s NDP will fight for compensation for creators whose creative work was used without consent or compensation.

Canada’s NDP also believes in and will strongly advocate for responsible, democratically developed AI regulation and governance in Canada that follows best practices such as the EU AI Act; Such regulation and governance will consider global labour practices, environmental impacts, and privacy and affordability concerns

BECAUSE the control of artificial intelligence development is concentrated in a handful of Silicon Valley firms and the oligarchs who own them;

BECAUSE the Liberal and Conservative approach to AI in Canada is to rely on the goodwill of AI firms to do no harm;

BECAUSE data centres required to train and maintain AI are known to consume massive amounts of water and energy; and

BECAUSE the AI models of today are often trained, without consent or compensation, in part on the work of Canadian creators.

Submitted by the _____ District Association.



Resolutions on the Convention Floor

Which rules apply?

The Constitution and Appendix A govern first. Bourinot's Rules of Order apply only where the NL NDP Convention Rules do not provide an answer.

When you speak:

- Go to the designated area and wait to be recognized by the Chair.
- Give your name and the Electoral District or affiliate organization you represent.
- Keep your remarks to the resolution or question before Convention.
- Speakers on motions and resolutions are limited to three minutes.
- A delegate may speak only once on a motion. The person introducing a committee report may close debate.

A resolution passes (is adopted) by majority vote. 50% + 1

Constitutional Amendments require a 2/3 majority vote: 66 2/3%

Friendly amendments

The Constitution specifically authorizes the Provincial Executive, for clarity and brevity, to make friendly amendments to resolutions not discussed at Convention, provided the content and intent do not change.

Further questions about resolutions?

Please contact us at info@nlndp.ca if you have any questions about drafting resolutions or the process through which they are approved.

