



## **Agreement-in-principle on the establishment of the Conservative Party of Canada**

Stephen Harper, Leader of the Canadian Alliance  
Peter MacKay, Leader of the Progressive Conservative Party  
Wednesday, October 15, 2003

# Agreement-in-principle on the establishment of the Conservative Party of Canada

We agree to place the following recommendations before our respective caucuses and party membership for consideration:

1. Name of the party

The name of the new party will be the “Conservative Party of Canada”.

2. Principles governing the relationship between the Progressive Conservative Party of Canada and the Canadian Alliance

- a. The Canadian Alliance and Progressive Conservative Party will treat each other as equal partners;
- b. The Conservative Party of Canada will promote and maintain relationships with existing provincial Progressive Conservative parties and will not establish provincial parties;
- c. We will create a national force that reaches out to all Canadians, not just like-minded conservatives.

3. Founding principles

The Conservative Party of Canada will be guided in its constitutional framework and its policy basis by the following principles:

- A balance between fiscal accountability, progressive social policy and individual rights and responsibilities;
- Build a national coalition of people who share these beliefs and who reflect the regional, cultural and socio-economic diversity of Canada;
- Develop this coalition, embracing our differences and respecting our traditions, yet honoring a concept of Canada as the greater sum of strong parts;
- The Conservative Party of Canada will operate in a manner accountable and responsive to its members;
- A belief in loyalty to a sovereign and united Canada governed in accordance with the Constitution of Canada, the supremacy of democratic parliamentary institutions and the rule of law;

- A belief in the equality of all Canadians;
- A belief in the freedom of the individual, including freedom of speech, worship and assembly;
- A belief in our constitutional monarchy, the institutions of Parliament and the democratic process;
- A belief in the federal system of government as the best expression of the diversity of our country, and in the desirability of strong provincial and territorial governments;
- A belief that English and French have equality of status, and equal rights and privileges as to their use in all institutions of the Parliament and Government of Canada;
- A belief that the best guarantors of the prosperity and well-being of the people of Canada are:
  - The freedom of individual Canadians to pursue their enlightened and legitimate self-interest within a competitive economy;
  - The freedom of individual Canadians to enjoy the fruits of their labour to the greatest possible extent; and
  - The right to own property;
- A belief that a responsible government must be fiscally prudent and should be limited to those responsibilities which cannot be discharged reasonably by the individual or others;
- A belief that it is the responsibility of individuals to provide for themselves, their families and their dependents, while recognizing that government must respond to those who require assistance and compassion;
- A belief that the purpose of Canada as a nation state and its government, guided by reflective and prudent leadership, is to create a climate wherein individual initiative is rewarded, excellence is pursued, security and privacy of the individual is provided and prosperity is guaranteed by a free competitive market economy;
- A belief that the quality of the environment is a vital part of our heritage to be protected by each generation for the next;
- A belief that Canada should accept its obligations among the nations of the world;

- A belief that good and responsible government is attentive to the people it represents and has representatives who at all times conduct themselves in an ethical manner and display integrity, honesty and concern for the best interest of all;
- A belief that all Canadians should have reasonable access to quality health care regardless of their ability to pay; and
- A belief that the greatest potential for achieving social and economic objectives is under a global trading regime that is free and fair.

#### 4. Leadership Election Organizing Committee

The PC Party and the Alliance will each appoint between two and four individuals to the Leadership Election Organizing Committee with a Chair or Co-chairs mutually agreed upon by the members of the Committee, no later than December 15, 2003. The committee shall retain such auditors as are necessary to ensure fair and effective conduct of the process, including verification of membership.

#### 5. Leadership selection

The leadership will be decided on March 19-21, 2004.

The Leadership will be conducted on a One-Member, One-Vote Point System:

- It is very similar to one-member, one-vote, but allows for each riding to be weighted equally, thus giving each riding access and importance in the process.
- Each riding is worth 100 points (i.e., 100%). Leadership candidates are assigned a point total based on their percentage of the vote in each riding. For example, if Candidate A received 50% of the vote, he or she gets 50 points. If Candidate B received 20% of the vote, he or she gets 20 points.
- To win, a candidate must obtain a majority of points from across the country
- Preferential ballot (single transferable vote) will be used
- To be eligible to vote, a person must be a member in good standing of the Conservative Party of Canada by February 29, 2004.

- The leadership election organizing committee will be responsible for the conduct of the leadership race and determining the method of voting, with a preference to voting in person at polling stations.

At a minimum a leadership review vote will be conducted at a convention after a federal election where the Conservative Party does not form the government, and otherwise as may be specified in the constitution.

#### 6. One-time process for leadership selection

The system used to elect the first Leader need not be used for later leadership elections and the membership of the Conservative Party of Canada could select an alternative method of electing future leaders.

#### 7. Membership

Membership sales in the Conservative Party of Canada will begin no later than ten (10) days after completion of ratification by each of the PC Party and the Alliance.

Membership in the Conservative Party will be open to anyone who, i) meets the criteria established by the Interim Joint Council, ii) signifies their intention to join the Party, and iii) pays the required membership fee. Upon fulfillment of these requirements, an individual's name will be entered on the membership list which will be subject to periodic verification by independent auditors.

Until membership sales in the Conservative Party commence, members who join or renew their membership in either the PC Party or the Alliance after October 15, 2003 will automatically become members of the Conservative Party.

#### 8. Interim Joint Council

The PC Party and the Alliance will each appoint six individuals to an Interim Joint Council, with a Chair or Co-chairs mutually agreed upon by the members of the Council. In general that body will be responsible for:

- a. Carrying out such actions as are necessary to give effect to this agreement;
- b. Drafting and adopting a first constitution consistent with this agreement, which shall be subject to amendment at the first convention of the Conservative Party of Canada;
- c. Establishing riding associations, including processes for the conduct of founding meetings, recognition of associations, and transfer of assets from the PC Party and Alliance riding associations to new Conservative Party riding associations. Riding associations should be founded no later than January 24, 2004;
- d. Overseeing the development and implementation of rules and procedures to ensure fair and effective candidate recruitment, selection and training, according to the following principles:

- (i) candidate selection is the right of the members resident in a riding who have been members for at least 21 days
  - (ii) candidate selection will be carried out at a meeting of those members with appropriate notice
  - (iii) the candidate must receive the support of greater than 50% of members who participate in the nomination procedure
- e. Filings with Elections Canada (as necessary to give effect to this agreement);
- f. Encouraging the participation and recruitment of youth in the Conservative Party of Canada; and,
- g. Other responsibilities as assigned by the Leaders.

In the event that a member of the Interim Joint Council becomes unable or unwilling to continue, then the Interim Joint Council may replace that individual. A replacement candidate must achieve the support of a majority of the nominees of each party, or their successors.

9. Conservative Fund Trust

The Conservative Fund Trust will be immediately established for the purposes of raising money, retiring the debt of either party, and funding activities related to the establishment and ratification of the Conservative Party. As soon as possible after ratification, the Conservative Fund Trust will be liquidated and proceeds will be turned over to the Conservative Fund Canada, which will be the fundraising arm of the Conservative Party.

10. Transfer of assets and liabilities and exchange of financial statements

The Conservative Party of Canada will assume all the rights, obligations, assets and liabilities of the PC Party and the Alliance. The parties will exchange current financial statements. Pending ratification, neither party shall incur significant new obligations.

Upon ratification, the parties will provide the Interim Joint Council with up to date financial statements on an ongoing basis concerning the present financial condition of each party. The parties agree that the transfer of rights, obligations, assets and liabilities will be carried out on timelines and procedures established by the Interim Joint Council.

11. Completion of ratification

The leaders of the PC Party and the Alliance agree to take the required steps to achieve the support of their respective parties for this agreement as expeditiously as possible. This process is to be completed by December 12, 2003.

12. Critical path

The schedule of key milestones is annexed.

13. First convention

A first convention will be responsible for, (i) review and amendment of the constitution including the statement of principles; (ii) proposal and development of policies consistent with the statement of principles; (iii) election of a permanent governing body.

The date and location will be determined at a later time by the Interim Joint Council, taking into account the resources required for the conduct of the leadership selection process, implementation of this agreement, re-distribution, and Bill C-24, as well as election timelines, all of which may make the holding of the first convention prior to the next election unachievable. It is noted that the Liberal government currently has legislation in the House to move up the effective date of riding re-distribution to April 1, 2004, in order to facilitate a snap spring election.

Participation in the first convention will be based on equality of ridings, with each recognized riding association eligible to send an equal number of delegates (to be determined by the Interim Joint Council, but in any event no more than 12). Categories of ex-officio delegates will be designated by the Interim Joint Council through a double-majority of the members named by the PC Party and the Alliance.

The constitution, statement of principles and policies may be amended at the first convention by a double majority vote (majority of the votes cast by delegates, and a majority of the votes cast by delegates from a majority of individual provinces). All others matters of business may be conducted by simple majority.

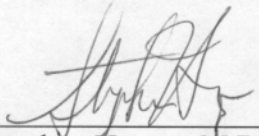
14. Standstill on nominations

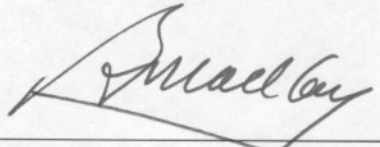
Pending ratification of this agreement, nomination meetings of the PC Party and the Alliance scheduled for after October 18, 2003 will be cancelled, and further nominations will be frozen.

15. Schedule for key milestones

Event	Start	End
Freeze of nomination races in both CA and PC parties	Oct 18/03	TBD
Ratification date		Dec 12/03
Membership sales for the new party	10 days after ratification	
Appointment of Interim Governing Body of Conservative Party of Canada by CA and PC parties	Post-ratification	
Hold meetings to found Conservative Party of Canada constituency associations	Post Jan 01/04	
Appointment of Leadership Election Organizing Committee by PC and CA parties	By Dec 15/03	
Complete filings with Elections Canada with respect to the founding of the Conservative Party of Canada		Dec 31/03
Establish Conservative Fund of Canada	Post-ratification	
Target date for founding of Conservative Party of Canada Constituency Associations	January 24, 2004	
Membership sales cut-off date for leadership vote	Feb 29/04	
Leadership vote	Mar 19/04	Mar 21/04
Founding Convention	TBD	

Dated at Ottawa, Ontario Wednesday this 15<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2003

  
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 Stephen Harper, M.P.  
 Leader of the Canadian Reform  
 Conservative Alliance

  
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 Peter MacKay, M.P.  
 Leader of the Progressive Conservative  
 Party of Canada