

GUIDE TO WRITING CONVENTION RESOLUTIONS

The Ontario New Democratic Party is proud to be a membership-driven organization, and at the heart of that commitment is our highest governing body the convention. Every two years (or so), New Democrats from all over Ontario come together to chart the future of our movement. Riding associations from Lanark—Frontenac—Kingston to Kenora—Rainy River submit resolutions for consideration. These resolutions can establish the Party specific policies, alter the party constitution, and make statements on behalf of the party with the loudest possible voice: that of the membership. In the last election, our policy was the clearest expression of what makes us different from the other parties, and that policy is rooted in the values, ideas, and declarations made at convention.

Resolutions matter. Here's how to write, approve, and submit them.

A resolution to convention must be adopted according to a specific process and follow a particular format in order to be valid.

Format

A resolution can either be declarative or directive.

A **declarative** resolution expresses the views of the assembly that adopts it. An example might be a resolution condemning bigotry. Such a resolution would make clear the distaste that the delegates assembled, as a collective, feel towards bigotry.

A **directive** resolution directs that the party take some specific action. Most commonly, this takes the form of directing that the policy

book be amended to add, remove, or alter some policy. A directive resolution could also modify the Party constitution, or it could require the party to undertake some specific action, like (hypothetically) serving muffins at all future meetings of provincial council.

In order to write informed policy and constitutional resolutions, it is helpful to have a copy of the policy book and party constitution handy so you can refer to them. The constitution is available on the party website at www.ontariondp.ca/governance. The policy book is available at www.ontariondp.ca/convention/policybook.

If a resolution is intended to modify the policy book, it should state this explicitly and list any resolutions it replaces or modifies.

All resolutions must be of the following form:

1. A header with the title, word count, and category. Resolutions may not exceed 200 words in length, and the categories are as follows:

- ▶ Agriculture & Food
- ▶ Arts, Culture, Information & Communications
- ▶ Economy
- ▶ Education
- ▶ Energy & Environment
- ▶ Healthcare
- ▶ Governmental Affairs
- ▶ Housing
- ▶ Human Rights & Equity
- ▶ Indigenous Affairs
- ▶ Municipal Affairs
- ▶ Labour & Employment
- ▶ Law Enforcement & the Justice System
- ▶ Social Services & Benefits
- ▶ Transportation
- ▶ Internal Affairs & Constitutional Amendments

2. One or more “Whereas” clauses explaining the motivation for the resolution.

3. One or more “Be It Resolved That” clauses that dictates the specific statement to be made or action to be taken.

After a resolution is adopted by a Riding Association, the name of the riding association and the date of the meeting at which it was adopted should be appended.

At the conclusion of the GMM, the passed resolutions should be submitted using this form ontariondp.ca/resolution-submission.

Example

Defending Ontario’s Heritage –
Protecting the Peterborough Lift Lock

Word Count: 115

Area: Arts, Culture, Information &
Communications

WHEREAS the people of Ontario are deeply committed to the preservation of our heritage and culture; and

WHEREAS the history of Ontario has been shaped in critical ways by our lakes, rivers, and canals; and

WHEREAS the Peterborough Lift Lock is the tallest lift lock in North America and was, at one time, the largest unreinforced concrete structure in the world;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Ontario NDP would seek to preserve the distinctiveness of this historic structure by banning the building of any taller lift lock in the province of Ontario, and seeking to prevent, by hook or by crook, the construction of any larger lift lock anywhere on the North American mainland.

Adopted by the Everytown North Ontario NDP Riding Association on February 30th, 2026.

Submitted by the CFO of the Riding Association, Agnes Macphail.

Previously Submitted Resolutions

If the riding association held a GMM in 2024 to pass resolutions for convention, the riding may decide that it wants to submit those same resolutions again. Those resolutions require reaffirmation by a new GMM in order to be submitted for consideration. At the new GMM, the resolutions should be explicitly presented as having previously been approved by the riding association, and then voted on again.

The riding association may decide how to conduct this process. An omnibus motion (a collection of resolutions presented as one motion) could be adopted at the GMM reaffirming the previous meeting's resolutions; a committee of the executive could be struck to make recommendations to the GMM on continued relevance; or the resolutions could be voted on one by one as they were in the previous meeting. In all cases, the text of each resolution must be made available to members attending the meeting for review and discussion.

Prioritization Process

After the July 25th resolution submission deadline, the General Policy Statements and Resolutions Committee (GPSRC), a committee of Provincial Council, will meet to review all submitted resolutions. The GPSRC will consider the number of bodies who have co-signed each resolution as the greatest indicator of priority, also considering whether the resolution addresses a gap in the policy book or is redundant or contradictory to existing policy. They will create a priority order for each resolution block (group of policy categories).

Then, there will be a period during which all convention delegates will be able to vote online to either support the GPSRC recommended prioritization, or to re-order the resolutions in each block according to their own priorities ("open prioritization"). Instructions on where, when, and how to do this will be distributed to delegates a few weeks in advance of Convention.

After open prioritization concludes, the results will dictate the final prioritized order in which resolutions will be brought to the floor in policy blocks at Convention. The resolutions book will be available digitally to delegates in advance, and available in paper form on request at Convention.

Questions? Visit ontariondp.ca/convention for updates and information on attending convention and programming. Questions can also be emailed to organize@ontariondp.ca