

***Democrats***  
**for social credit**

# Constitution

***Democrats for Social Credit***  
42 Reyburn House Lane  
Whangarei  
New Zealand



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# NEW ZEALAND DEMOCRATIC PARTY FOR SOCIAL CREDIT (INC.)

## CONSTITUTION

### GENERAL

#### 1. **NAME:**

The name of the Society shall be **NEW ZEALAND DEMOCRATIC PARTY FOR SOCIAL CREDIT INCORPORATED**, hereinafter called either **THE PARTY** or **DEMOCRATS FOR SOCIAL CREDIT**.

#### 2. **TENETS:**

The fundamental beliefs of the Party:

- a. The economic, political and social system should be established and built on the foundations of loving care, truth, justice and honest endeavour.
- b. What is physically possible and desirable for the happiness of humanity can always be financially possible.
- c. Systems should be made for people, not people for systems; any that fail to serve people should be reformed or discarded.
- d. The individual is more important than the state. Communism, fascism, and political authoritarianism in any form should be opposed.
- e. Individual and co-operative enterprise should be the basis of economic organisation. Where state-owned enterprises are necessary or desirable, they should conform to the same conditions and rules as privately owned concerns.
- f. The proper purpose of industry is the production of goods and not the provision of employment. The proper purpose of production is consumption. The opportunity for self-development and the enjoyment of leisure is the true purpose of labour-saving inventions.
- g. The only way our principles can be implemented is by the reform of the present monetary system, which is the major cause of war, poverty, inflation and many other social problems.

#### 3. **OBJECTS:**

The objects of the Party shall be:

- a. to maintain, uphold, advance and pursue the Tenets and Purposes declared in Rules 2 and 4, together with the other objects stated in this rule;
- b. to elect, form and maintain, by Constitutional means, a *Democrats for social credit* Government pledged to adapt the financial system in New Zealand so that the fulfilment of the reasonable wants of individuals, singly or in association, shall not be limited except by lack of natural resources or the unwillingness of anyone in the community to provide for those wants;
- c. to vest in the people of New Zealand as a whole, the ownership of credit and currency. To ensure that the Reserve Bank, which shall control the financial system on behalf of the people, shall be accountable to them. To secure the beneficial use of credit and currency to each citizen.
- d. to make the people of New Zealand aware of the faults in the financial system, as demonstrated by C.H. Douglas, in particular;
  - (a) The misuse of credit creation for profit and the debt-filled shortfall between incomes and prices; and to make known his proposals to overcome these faults, and so, in particular, to remove the interest charge on created credit and to introduce, as soon as possible, methods of closing the shortfall, which shall include a National Dividend for all citizens
  - (b) To move progressively from a debt to a credit-based economy, with credits for production being cancelled upon the purchase of goods for consumption.

#### 4. **PURPOSES:**

- a. To recover effective control of New Zealand's economic affairs and establish greater political independence.
- b. To ensure a property owning democracy, in which the ownership of assets is spread as widely as possible amongst individuals.
- c. To establish a social credit economy where people will be able to use the country's resources without mortgaging their own and their children's future.
- d. To protect and enhance our world's life support systems – air, water and soil – and preserve the richness and beauty of natural, biological ecosystems.
- e. Within the limits of resources available, to encourage the introduction of all forms of labour-saving technology, thereby increasing output, the standard of living and the quality of life.
- f. To ensure that, in an age of increasing automation, with machines taking over the work of more and more people, incomes will nevertheless be maintained so that we all may share the benefits.

- g. To restore and stabilise the purchasing power of money, thereby enhancing and protecting the value of incomes and savings.
- h. To encourage skill in all fields of endeavour by ensuring that ability is justly rewarded.
- i. To reduce the working week progressively, without loss of income or increased costs to employers, and without endangering either the employers or employees right to chose, so that all may have the opportunity to share equitably in the work and leisure available.
- j. To provide more educational, cultural and recreational facilities and encourage their use.
- k. To promote religious and racial tolerance, understanding and respect, accepting all cultures for mutual enrichment.
- l. To promote a stable community through protection of the family as a basic unit.
- m. To provide a democratic Parliamentary representation in which the members have regard to the expressed wishes of the Electorate.

**5. POWERS:**

The Party shall be empowered:

- a. to provide and maintain a New Zealand Headquarters of the Party and such other places of meeting, instruction or business as may be required;
- b. to receive membership subscriptions, donations, bequests and endowments in money or any form of property whether real or personal for use in attaining and furthering the objects of the Party;
- c. to purchase, take on lease or in exchange, hire or otherwise acquire any real or personal property, which may be deemed necessary for any object of the Party;
- d. to construct, maintain or alter any buildings or works necessary for the objects of the Party;
- e. to publish, print, distribute or retail such newspapers, periodicals, books, pamphlets or other literature or to engage in such other business enterprises as may seem calculated to promote the objects and purposes of the Party;
- f. to engage and dismiss all paid officers and servants of the Party and to fix their remuneration and conditions of employment;
- g. to invest any monies of the Party not immediately required for the Objects and Purposes of the Party in such manner as may be from time to time determined;
- h. to perform all such acts and do such things as are or may be incidental or conducive to the attainment or furtherance of the Tenets, Objects and Purposes of the Party and to perform such acts and do such things as may be considered to be in the best interests of New Zealand and the Party;
- i. to educate the public of New Zealand on economic and financial matters.

**6. ELIGIBILITY FOR MEMBERSHIP:**

Any person may apply for membership of the Party who:

- a. is a New Zealand resident or is eligible to vote in New Zealand Parliamentary elections, and
- b. is ten (10) years of age or over, and
- c. is not a member, associate or active supporter of any alternative political movement or organisation promoting a general political philosophy, principles and policies in conflict with the philosophy, principles and policies of the Party tenets, objects and purposes as set out in Rules 2, 3 and 4, the identification of each such alternative political movement or organisation being a matter for resolution of New Zealand Executive Council, **PROVIDED ALWAYS THAT** such resolution may be overturned by any subsequent New Zealand Conference, **PROVIDED ALWAYS THAT** a Regional Council may direct the Branches in its Region and the New Zealand Executive Council may direct all Branches to first obtain the approval of New Zealand Executive Council before granting membership of the Party to any named person. If the same person is named by both a Regional Council and the New Zealand Executive Council the approval of both must be obtained **PROVIDED FURTHER THAT** a person who has previously been expelled from membership of the Party shall not be re-admitted to membership except with the approval of New Zealand Executive Council which may attach such terms and conditions to its approval as it deems fit.

**7. DURATION OF MEMBERSHIP:**

Subject to Rule 15 a person who is eligible to be a member of the Party shall be deemed to be a member from the time of his payment of the membership subscription until the subscription expires pursuant to Rule 10.

**8. RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF MEMBERSHIP:**

- a. Any member of the Party may, subject to the Rules and Bylaws:
  - i. be appointed to any position in the Party;
  - ii. attend and be heard at all general, Council and Committee meetings of the Branch and Electorate of which he or she is a member;



- iii. vote at all general meetings of the Branch and Electorate referred to in Paragraph (a) (ii) of this rule;
  - iv. attend, be heard and vote on all Committees, Councils, Executives and other Party units to which he/she has been appointed under these Rules and Bylaws;
  - v. attend and speak to any Party meeting when invited to do so by the meeting concerned.
- b. A copy of the official journal of the Party shall be forwarded to each household from which one or more subscriptions have been paid.
  - c. No person other than a member as defined in Rule 7 may exercise any of the rights of membership as defined in Paragraph (a) in this Rule, **PROVIDED THAT** any person may attend and speak to any Party meeting when invited to do so by the meeting concerned.
  - d. All members of the Party are deemed to be bound by the Rules and Bylaws of the Party.

**9. ELIGIBILITY FOR OFFICE:**

No member of the Party shall be eligible to hold any office in the Party unless he/she has held continuous membership for the preceding twelve (12) months except with the consent either before or after provisional election from New Zealand Council, or in respect of a Branch or Electorate Officer, from either New Zealand Executive Council or the appropriate Regional Council **PROVIDED THAT** in the case of a Parliamentary Candidate such consent must be obtained from New Zealand Executive Council before it undertakes its role in the Endorsement procedure pursuant to Rule 84. For the purpose of this rule – in the case of a person who has been a member of the Party within the previous preceding financial year and who renews his/her membership, that membership shall be deemed to have been continuous.

**10. MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION:**

- a. The membership subscription shall be for one, two or three years at the option of the proposed member/s and the amount shall be defined by Bylaw 8.
- b. The membership subscription shall be due on the first day following the expiry of the member's current subscription.
- c. A member who has been a member for at least one year may be granted a patron membership for life on the payment of an amount as defined in Bylaw 8.
- d. In cases of known hardship the above membership subscription may be reduced or waived entirely by a Branch, Regional Council or the New Zealand Executive Council, and where this procedure is followed the membership shall be deemed to be paid.
- e. No membership subscription shall be due from any President Emeritus or any Life Members, whose membership subscription shall be deemed to have been paid.

**11. ASSOCIATE MEMBERS:**

- a. An Associate Member of the Party is any person who:
  - i. has not qualified for membership under Rule 10; and
  - ii. has complied with the requirements of Bylaw 9 to become an Associate Member.
- b. Any Associate Member who is eligible for membership under Rule 6 shall be entitled to attend Branch meetings as an observer, but shall not be entitled to any other Member's Rights as set out in Rule 8.

**12. COLLECTION AND PROCESSING OF MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION AND INFORMATION:**

- a. Any Branch, Regional Council, New Zealand organisation or any person acting on behalf of those bodies shall be empowered to accept the membership subscription of any person eligible to be a member of the Party irrespective of where such person is resident **PROVIDED ALWAYS THAT** any person or body may refuse a membership subscription without reason. This proviso shall not apply to any person who has been a member of the Party within the previous twelve (12) months.
- b. Where a membership subscription is collected on behalf of or by a Branch or Regional Council, that Branch or Regional Council shall forward to New Zealand Headquarters:
  - i. an amount as from time to time determined by New Zealand Executive Council (whether or not all or any of that sum has been collected from that member), and
  - ii. the names and addresses of all persons who are admitted as members of the Party.
- b. Where a person is admitted as a member of the Party on behalf of or by New Zealand Executive Council, New Zealand Headquarters shall:
  - i. either retain the amount specified in Paragraph (b), or
  - ii. obtain from the relevant Branch any amount up to the amount specified in Paragraph (b).
- c. The New Zealand Executive Council may from time to time adopt such procedures with respect to forms, invoicing receipting and processing of membership subscriptions as are not inconsistent with these Rules.

**13. PLACE OF MEMBERSHIP:**

- a. A person may be a member of only one Branch at any one time.

- b. Where a person has been a member of the Party within the preceding twelve (12) months he/she shall be deemed to apply for membership of the Branch of which he/she was a member at the expiry of his/her immediate preceding term of membership.
- c. Where a person has not been a member of the Party within the previous twelve (12) months he/she shall be deemed to apply for membership of the Branch which is responsible for the geographic community of his/her residence unless otherwise stipulated at the time of payment of his/her subscription.
- d. A President Emeritus and Life Members of the Party shall be deemed to be members of the Branch of which they were members prior to their appointment as President Emeritus or Life members unless they transfer to another Branch in accordance with Rule 14.

**14. TRANSFER OF MEMBERSHIP:**

- a. A member who wishes to transfer his/her place of membership as defined in Rule 13 shall apply in writing to the New Zealand Secretary. The New Zealand Secretary shall advise the Secretary of the Branch to which the member proposes to transfer.
- b. The proposed transfer shall be considered by the Branch to which the member is proposing to transfer. If the Branch Council agrees with the proposed transfer it shall notify the New Zealand Secretary who shall notify the member concerned and the Branch from which the member is transferring.
- c. At its discretion any Branch may refuse to accept a member who wishes to transfer to its Branch without giving any reason for so refusing. The Branch shall notify the New Zealand Secretary who shall notify the member concerned.
- d. Any person who is refused transfer under Paragraph (c) of this rule shall have the right of appeal to the appropriate Regional Council. The decision of the Regional Council shall be binding on the Branch and the member **PROVIDED THAT** either the Branch or the member may appeal against the decision of the Regional Council to the New Zealand Executive Council.

**15. TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP:**

A member of the Party shall cease to be a member:

- a. if his/her membership has expired pursuant to Rule 10.
- b. by voluntary resignation either orally at a Branch meeting recorded in the Minutes, or in writing.
- c. by becoming a member, associate or active supporter of any alternative political movement or organisation promoting a general political philosophy, principles, and policies in conflict with the philosophy, principles and policies of the Party Tenets, Objects and Purposes as set out in Rules 2, 3 and 4, with identification of each such alternative political movement or organisation being a matter for resolution of New Zealand Executive Council, **PROVIDED ALWAYS THAT** such resolution may be overturned by any subsequent New Zealand Conference.
- d. if he/she is nominated under the Electoral Act to stand for election to Parliament and has not been selected as a New Zealand Democratic Party Candidate under these rules.
- e. if within 60 days of receipt of the membership subscriptions any relevant Branch, relevant Regional Council or New Zealand Executive Council shall terminate the membership **PROVIDED ALWAYS THAT** this Rule shall not apply to any person who has been a member of the Party within the previous preceding twelve (12) months and **PROVIDED FURTHER THAT** if the clause is invoked the full subscription paid shall be refunded.
- f. on being expelled from the Party in accordance with Rule 116.

**BRANCH ORGANISATION**

**16. BRANCH NAME:**

- a. One or more Branches of the Party shall be established in each Parliamentary Electorate in New Zealand.
- b. When an Electorate consists of one Branch only, its name and boundaries shall coincide with those of the relevant Electorate.
- c. When an Electorate consists of two or more Branches, the name of each shall be derived from the local community but shall not be identical with the name of the Electorate. The boundaries of each shall be clearly defined and noted in the records of the Regional Council to which the Electorate belongs in accordance with Rule 30.

**17. MINIMUM MEMBERSHIP:**

A Branch shall have no authority to operate when that Branch does not have a minimum of 15 members as at the last day of the preceding financial year unless a dispensation has been granted by New Zealand Executive Council. Such dispensation shall apply for the financial year in respect of what is granted. Where such dispensation is not granted in respect of any financial year, the Branch shall be deemed to have ceased to exist and the Regional Council shall determine to which other Branch or Branches the assets and territories shall be assigned.

**18. BRANCH CONSTITUTION:**

Every Branch is a constituent organ of the Party bound by and acting under the Constitution of the Party.

**19. BRANCH OFFICERS:**

A Branch shall elect at each Annual General Meeting a President, one or more Vice-Presidents and a Secretary and a Treasurer or a Secretary/Treasurer who shall be Officers of the Branch and members of the Branch Council. The Chairman of the Electorate

Coordinating Committee together with the Parliamentary Candidate shall be ex-officio a member of all Branch Councils within the Electorate.

**20. BRANCH COUNCILS:**

Each Branch shall elect annually at its Annual General Meeting a Branch Council which shall have full responsibility for the management and organisation of the Branch subject to the Constitution and Bylaws of the Party and subject to such decisions and directions as may be made or given from time to time by a general meeting of the Branch. Unless otherwise directed by a general meeting of the Branch, Branch Councils shall have the power to co-opt other members of the Branch.

**21. VACANCIES:**

Vacancies occurring in the membership of a Branch Council, including the Branch Officers during its term of office may be filled by resolution of the Branch Council.

**22. POWERS AND DUTIES:**

In addition to the powers and duties reposing in the Branches under the Constitution and Bylaws of the Party, the powers and duties of a Branch shall include:

- a. advocating and safeguarding the Tenets, Objects, Purposes and policy of the Party **PROVIDED THAT** no Branch shall have power to make any public statement on behalf of the Party without first obtaining authority from the New Zealand Executive Council;
- b. extending the membership of the Party, and doing everything in its power to stimulate the progress of Social Credit within New Zealand;
- c. ensuring that in accordance with Rules 77 and 82 all Branch members have the opportunity to take part in the selection of a *Democrats for social credit* Candidate for its Parliamentary Electorate for each and every General Election and By-Election and working for the election of such Candidate;
- d. soliciting and collecting donations towards the funds of the Party;
- e. making the Party as a whole aware of local conditions and needs with regard to the policy of the Party and recommending and giving advice on Party policy on local matters;
- f. the formation of women's auxiliaries and youth sections within its area and the co-ordination of the activities of such bodies;
- g. acting upon and giving effect to resolutions and decisions of the New Zealand Conference of the Party and the New Zealand Executive Council;
- h. appointing by resolution or election such Conference delegates as the Branch is entitled to under Rule 63c and facilitating their registration and attendance at Annual Conference.

**23. LIABILITIES:**

If a Branch contracts or in any way assumes liabilities in excess of monies actually in hand or reasonably in view then such liabilities shall be the joint responsibility of those members attending the meeting who did not have their abstention or negative votes recorded against the contracting or assuming of such liabilities. The Party may through its New Zealand Executive Council recover from such members any sums, costs and expenses incurred by the Party in the event of the Party being held liable or accepting responsibility for such liabilities incurred by the Branch.

**24. BYLAWS OF BRANCHES:**

Branches are authorised to frame Bylaws for the purposes not covered by the Constitution and Bylaws of the Party **PROVIDED ALWAYS THAT** such Bylaws shall not be in contravention of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Party and do not conflict with directions of the New Zealand Executive Council or Regional Councils.

**25. FORMATION OF NEW BRANCHES:**

- a. At any regular or annual meeting of a Regional Council, the formation of new branches may be initiated either by delegates to the Region of the parent Branch Council(s) or by petition of not less than ten (10) founding members of a proposed new Branch.
- b. The Regional Council shall grant the request and register the resulting Branches with the New Zealand Secretary as soon as it is assured that the following conditions have been met.
  - i. That membership minima in accordance with Rule 17 currently exist in all proposed Branches within any given Electorate **PROVIDED THAT** dispensation may be sought from New Zealand Executive Council in cases where considerable geographic isolation of a community favours a separate Branch.
  - ii. Suitable Branch names and clearly defined boundaries in accordance with Rules 16 and 30, have been adopted **EITHER** by agreement within the parent Branch Council(s) **OR** if no agreement can be reached by arbitration of the relevant Regional Council.
  - iii. The will and capacity is present in each proposed Branch to meet its financial responsibilities.
  - iv. Sufficient personnel are available to enable each proposed Branch to function in accordance with Rules 17 to 24.

**26. ELECTORATE COORDINATING COMMITTEE:**

An Electorate Coordinating Committee shall be established in each Parliamentary Electorate.

a. **Composition of Electorate Coordinating Committee.**

The Electorate Coordinating Committee shall consist of a Chairman, the Candidate and equal representation from each constituent Branch.

b. **Mode of Election:**

- i. Election shall take place **EITHER** at the Candidate selection meeting pursuant to Rule 82 b (i) **OR** Rule 82c **OR** following selection of Candidate by Rule 82 b (ii) at an Electorate general meeting convened for the purpose.
- ii. The Electorate Chairman shall be elected by all members of the Electorate present and eligible to vote.
- iii. The number of Electorate Coordinating Committee members per constituent Branch shall be resolved by all members of the Electorate present and eligible to vote.
- iv. The Branch representatives shall be elected from Branch members of each constituent Branch by members of that Branch present and eligible to vote at the Annual General Meeting of the Branch or at a general meeting of the Branch convened for that purpose, or at a Branch Council meeting of that Branch.
- v. The Chairman and members of the Electorate Coordinating Committee shall hold office until the next Annual General Meeting of the Committee.
- vi. Vacancies in the office of Chairman shall be filled by appointment of the Electorate Coordinating Committee; vacancies in the position of Branch representatives shall be filled by appointment of the constituent Branch Councils.

c. **Powers and Duties:**

In addition to the powers and duties reposing in Electorate Coordinating Committees under the Constitution and Bylaws of the Party the powers and duties of an Electorate Coordinating Committee shall include:

- i. doing everything in its power to stimulate the progress of Social Credit;
- ii. ensuring the selection of a Parliamentary Candidate pursuant to Rules 77, 78, 79 and 82;
- iii. securing the election of the Candidate or the re-election of the *Democrats for social credit* Member of Parliament as the case may be;
- iv. co-ordinating Branch activities in so far as they relate to campaign;
- v. soliciting and receiving Electorate campaign funds;
- vi. appointing two trustees who with the Electorate Chairman shall administer the monies received;
- vii. employing consultants, co-opting members, appointing sub-committees and task forces as require for the campaign;
- viii. overseeing Election Day and post-election organisation for the Electorate;
- ix. where there is only one Branch within an Electorate, the Branch Council shall be the Electorate Coordinating Committee and the Branch President shall be the Electorate Chairman for the purposes of Rules 26, 27, 28, 29, 77, and 78;
- x. the Candidate selection meeting which next follows the formation of more than one Branch within an Electorate shall be convened at the request of all constituent Branches, by the Regional President and shall be chaired by him until the Electorate Chairman has been elected in accordance with paragraph (c) of this rule.

**27. RESPONSIBILITIES OF ELECTORATE CHAIRMAN:**

- a. Subject to any limitations, restrictions or directions laid down by these Rules and Bylaws, the powers and duties of an Electorate Chairman shall include:
  - i. being a spokesman on party matters for his/her electorate;.
  - ii. being the Convenor of all public meetings for the Candidate's campaign;
  - iii. being an Ex officio member of all constituent Branch Councils;
  - iv. having the right to attend and be heard at Regional Council meetings;
  - v. deputising for the Candidate in cases of necessity;
  - vi. being the Legal Authority for the publication of approved campaign materials;
  - vii. convening a Candidate selection meeting as required in Rule 78.

**28. CONSTITUTION OF ELECTORATE COORDINATING COMMITTEE:**

Every Electorate Coordinating Committee shall be a constituent organ of the Party bound by and acting under the Constitution of the Party.

**29. LIABILITIES:**

If an Electorate Coordinating Committee contracts or in any way assumes liabilities in excess of monies actually in hand or

reasonably in view then such liabilities shall be the joint responsibility of those members attending the meeting who did not have their abstention or negative votes recorded against the contracting or assuming of such liabilities and the Party may through its New Zealand Executive Council recover from such members any sums, costs and expenses incurred by the Party in the event of the Party being held liable or accepting responsibility for such liabilities incurred by an Electorate Coordinating Committee.

## **REGIONAL ORGANISATION**

### **30. REGIONAL BOUNDARIES:**

- a. The New Zealand Executive Council shall divide the realm of New Zealand into Regions of the Party and shall define the area of each Region **PROVIDED ALWAYS THAT** each Region shall consist of three or more Parliamentary Electorates and that a Parliamentary Electorate shall not be divided or included in more than one Region, with the exception of the Tangata Whenua Region, when extant, which will include all Maori Electorates currently existing and any Maori member of the party who so wishes.
- b. No member of the party shall be entitled to vote at more than one Regional Conference in any one year.
- c. The number of Regions may be increased or decreased and the area of each Region may be altered from time to time by the New Zealand Executive Council.

### **31. REGIONAL COUNCIL COMPOSITION:**

- a. There shall be a ruling body in each Region, which shall consist of:
  - i. a Regional President and Vice-President, who shall be elected annually by the Regional Conference, and shall not be drawn from the Parliamentary Section;
  - ii. two Regional Candidates elected annually by the Regional Conference, and who shall be Candidates of the Region;
  - iii. the Branch Chairperson of each Branch within each Electorate in the Region;
  - iv. one Youth Section representative elected annually at each Regional Conference from and by the Youth Section members in the Region.

### **32. NOMINATIONS:**

- a. Nominations for Regional President, Regional Vice-President and the two Regional Candidates shall be invited from Branches within the Region and from Conference Delegates attending the Regional Conference, and shall close with the Regional Secretary at 12 noon on the first day of the Regional Conference.
- b. Nominations for the positions of Youth Section representative shall be called from members of the Youth Section within the Region, and shall close with the Regional Secretary at 12 noon on the first day of the Regional Conference.

### **33. REGIONAL OFFICERS:**

The Regional Council may appoint its own Regional Secretary and, if it wishes, a Regional Treasurer. Any such person shall be entitled to be heard at any Regional meeting, but shall not be entitled to vote, unless also a member of the Council as provided in Rule 31.

### **34. VACANCIES:**

Vacancies occurring among the Regional Officers during their term of office shall be filled by the Regional Council.

### **35. POWERS AND DUTIES:**

In addition to the powers and duties reposing in Regional Councils under the Constitution and Bylaws of the Party, the powers and duties of Regional Councils within their respective Regions shall include:

- a. responsibility for the establishment of Branches of the Party in the Parliamentary Electorates included in their respective Regions;
- b. doing everything for the establishment of Branches of the Party in the Parliamentary Electorates included in their respective Regions;
- c. Co-ordinating the activities of the Branches in their Regions in relation to Regional matters and in co-operation with the Branches and Electorate Coordinating Committees strengthening the Party organization;
- d. maintaining a Regional Headquarters in each Region;
- e. assisting the New Zealand Executive Council in the administration of such trading organisations as the Party may legally set up or be interested in;
- f. acting upon and giving effect to resolutions and decisions of the New Zealand Conference of the Party and of the New Zealand Executive Council;
- g. advocating and safeguarding the Tenets, Objects, Purposes, and policy of the Party **PROVIDED THAT** no Regional Council shall have the power to make any public statement on behalf of the Party without first obtaining authority from the New Zealand Executive Council;
- h. selecting Candidates under the provisions of Rule 83;

- i. assisting the work of New Zealand Headquarters and departments thereof whenever possible;
- j. making the Party as a whole aware of Regional conditions and needs with regard to the policy of the Party and recommending and giving advice on Party policy on Regional matters;
- k. in the case of a dispute within a Branch or Electorate Coordinating Committee the appropriate Regional Council shall intervene on petition of three members of the affected Branch or Electorate Coordinating Committee and arbitrate thereon. Immediately on completion of its enquiry the Regional Council shall report to the New Zealand President and the New Zealand Executive Council its findings and recommendations.
- l. engaging and dismissing all paid servants of the Party being members of the staff of their respective Regional Headquarters and to determine the remuneration and conditions of employment of such paid servants **PROVIDED ALWAYS THAT** a Regional Council may delegate any powers under this Rule to its Executive Committee subject to any limitations or restrictions which the Regional Council may impose;
- m. the power to control and supervise all fundraising schemes, political organisation, publicity and propaganda undertaken or engaged in by the Branches and Electorate Coordinating Committees in their respective Regions and for this purpose shall have access to the books and financial records of such Branches and Electorate Coordinating Committees.

**36. BYLAWS OF REGIONS:**

Regional Councils are authorised to frame their own Bylaws for the purposes not covered by the Constitution and Bylaws of the Party **PROVIDED ALWAYS THAT** such Bylaws shall not be in contravention of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Party and do not conflict with directions of New Zealand Executive Council.

**37. CONSTITUTION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS:**

Every Regional Council shall be a constituent organ of the Party bound by and acting under the Constitution of the Party.

**38. LIABILITIES:**

If a Regional Council contracts or in any way assumes liabilities in excess of monies actually in hand or reasonably in view then such liabilities shall be the joint responsibility of those members attending the meeting who did not have their abstention or negative votes recorded against the contracting or assuming of such liabilities and the Party may through its New Zealand Executive Council recover from such members any sums, costs and expenses incurred by the Party in the event of the Party being held liable or accepting responsibility for such liabilities incurred by a Regional Council.

**REGIONAL CONFERENCES**

**39. REGIONAL CONFERENCES:**

There shall be a Regional Conference in each Region, which shall be held no later than June in each year.

**40. CONVENING AND SUMMONING REGIONAL CONFERENCES:**

The New Zealand Executive Council, after consulting with the appropriate Regional Council, shall be empowered to convene and determine the exact date or dates and place of each Regional Conference and shall give at least one (1) month's notice in writing to each Branch after the relevant decision of date, time and place.

**41. COMPOSITION:**

Regional Conferences of each Region shall consist of:

- a. all members of the Parliamentary Section representing Electorates within the relevant Region;
- b. voting members of the relevant Regional Council;
- c. delegates from each Branch as defined and determined in Rule 47;
- d. delegates from the Young Democrats as defined in Rule 12 of the First Schedule.

**42. CHAIRMAN:**

Regional Conferences shall be chaired by the Regional President, assisted by a Regional Vice-President, **PROVIDED THAT** in the case of the non-attendance of either of them, the Regional Conference shall elect a Chairman from among those delegates attending.

**43. PROCEDURES AT REGIONAL CONFERENCE:**

The following procedure shall be observed at all Regional Conferences of the Party:

- a. **Procedural Motions:** All procedural motions may be moved without notice and shall be put without debate.
- b. **Motions in respect of Policy, Constitution and Bylaws:** All motions altering, adding to, or rescinding any Party policy, its Constitution and Bylaws shall be submitted in the form of remits and shall follow the procedures laid down for the presentation of remits by Rule 44.
- c. **All Other Motions:** All motions not covered by paragraphs (a) and (b) above shall require notice of at least 30 days prior to the relevant Regional Conference **PROVIDED ALWAYS THAT** Regional Conference shall have the power by means of a resolution

passed by a simple majority of those present and voting to accept a motion of which notice has been given in writing prior to the commencement of a session. The question as to whether a motion should be accepted for debate must be put without discussion.

**44. REMITTS TO REGIONAL CONFERENCE:**

- a. Remits for consideration by Regional Conference may originate from any Branch or Regional Council within the relevant Region or Committee or NZ Executive Council or from the NZ Executive Council as well as from the Young Democrats Executive or a Young Democrats Regional Body, and also from the New Zealand Social Credit Institute.
- b. All remits shall be submitted in the first instance to the appropriate Committee of New Zealand Executive Council through Headquarters.
- c. Where such Committee approves of any such remit, then it shall notify the originating body concerned accordingly and the Convener of such Committee shall submit the remit in question to the next relevant Regional Conference.
- d. Where such Committee disapproves whether wholly or in part of any such remit then it shall notify the originating body concerned accordingly and the Convener of such Committee shall not be obliged to submit the remit in question to the next relevant Regional Conference unless the originating body concerned then insists that it be so submitted **PROVIDED ALWAYS THAT** where a Convener of a Committee is obliged to submit a remit to the next relevant Regional Conference at the insistence of the originating body then such Convener may append a negative recommendation from his Committee to such remit.
- e. Remits originating from any Committee of the New Zealand Executive Council or from New Zealand Executive Council shall be directed to an appropriate Regional Conference by the Committee to which the remit has been referred under Rule 44 (b) above.

**45. CLOSING DATES FOR REMITS:**

Remits for a particular Regional Conference may be submitted at any time during the preceding year **PROVIDED ALWAYS THAT** they reach Headquarters no later than a time set down by the Regional Council who shall give six (6) weeks notice of the closing date.

**46. CIRCULATION OF REMITS:**

All remits for consideration by a Regional Conference shall be circulated by the Regional Council to all Branches in the Region to reach them at least thirty (30) days before the date set down for the Regional Conference.

**47. DELEGATES FROM BRANCHES:**

The number of delegates which each Branch of the Party is entitled to send to Regional Conferences by virtue of Rule 41 (c) is four (4) delegates for the first 25 members and one (1) delegate for each subsequent 25 members or part thereof.

## **NEW ZEALAND ORGANISATION**

**48. NEW ZEALAND OFFICERS:**

There shall be a New Zealand President and New Zealand Vice President who shall be the New Zealand Officers of the Party.

**49. SPOKESMAN:**

The New Zealand President shall be the Spokesman for the Party.

**50. COMPOSITION AND ELECTION OF THE NEW ZEALAND EXECUTIVE COUNCIL:**

There shall be one Executive Council of the Party comprised of:

- a. the President and Vice-President of the Party each of whom shall be elected annually by the New Zealand Conference of the Party, and the President shall not be drawn from the Parliamentary Section;
- b. the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Party each of whom shall be elected annually by the New Zealand Conference of the Party from among the Parliamentary Section of the Party;
- c. the President of each Region;
- d. the President of the Youth Section.

**51. NOMINATIONS:**

- a. Nominations for New Zealand Officers to be elected at New Zealand Conference shall be invited from Regional Councils, Branches and Conference delegates attending Conference and shall close with the New Zealand Secretary at 2.00 pm on the first full day of the New Zealand Conference.
- b. Nominations for the positions of Leader and Deputy Leader shall be made in accordance with Rule 88.

**52. TRANSFER OF EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES:**

- a. Newly elected Regional Presidents shall, from the date of their election, be entitled to attend Executive Council meetings and be heard but not vote, until the day following the last Regional Conference in the year, at which time they will become the new

Executive Council.

- b. Each Regional President may remain a member of the Executive Council until the day following the last Regional Conference of the year in which his or her term of office expires, except as provided in Rule c below.
- c. Individual Regional Presidents may, by mutual agreement, effect the transfer of responsibilities earlier if they so wish, by jointly advising the New Zealand President in writing at least seven days prior to such change taking effect.

**53. VACANCIES:**

- a. Vacancies occurring among New Zealand officers may be filled as deemed necessary by New Zealand Executive Council to hold office until the next New Zealand Conference.
- b. Vacancies occurring in the position of Leader or Deputy Leader shall be dealt with in accordance with Rule 88.

**54. NEW ZEALAND SECRETARY:**

The position of New Zealand Secretary shall be a salaried one and the New Zealand Secretary shall be appointed and may be dismissed at any time by the New Zealand Executive Council which shall also fix the remuneration and conditions of employment attached to the position. The New Zealand Secretary shall not as such be a Member of the New Zealand Executive Council.

**55. PRESIDENT EMERITUS:**

New Zealand Conference shall be empowered by means of a resolution carried by at least two-thirds (2/3) majority of delegates present and voting to confer upon any past President of the Party on nomination by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of New Zealand Executive Council of those entitled to be present and voting, the title and position of President Emeritus of the Party in consideration of outstanding services to the Party while holding the office of New Zealand President. The said title and position shall be conferred for life. The President Emeritus shall have full voting membership at Annual Conference.

**56. LIFE MEMBERS:**

New Zealand Conference shall be empowered by means of a resolution carried by at least two-thirds (2/3) majority of delegates present and voting to confer upon any member of the Party in consideration of outstanding services to the Party the privilege of becoming a member of the Party for life on nomination by a majority vote of a Branch Council or the New Zealand Executive Council and approved by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Regional Council and endorsed by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the New Zealand Executive Council of those entitled to be present and voting. The Branch must be given ten (10) days notice of any motion for nomination and the same period must be given to a Regional Council for a motion of approval by Regional Council.

**57. POWER TO ACT:**

The New Zealand Executive Council shall have power to act notwithstanding any vacancies in its membership.

**58. AUTHORITY:**

Subject to the provisions of the Rules and Bylaws of the Party the New Zealand Executive Council shall be the supreme authority in the Party between New Zealand Conferences.

**59. POWERS AND DUTIES:**

In addition to the powers and duties reposing in the New Zealand Executive Council under the Constitution and Bylaws of the Party the powers and duties of the New Zealand Executive Council shall include:

- a. doing everything in its power to stimulate the progress of Social Credit in New Zealand;
- b. maintaining liaison with Social Credit movements overseas;
- c. co-ordinating the activities of the various Regional Councils in relation to matters of National significance and importance and in cooperation with Regional Councils and Electorate Coordinating Committees strengthening the Party organisation generally throughout New Zealand;
- d. expressing the views of the Party to the electors of New Zealand;
- e. presenting the policy of the Party to the electors of New Zealand;
- f. raising, administering and investing the funds of the Party and administering the property and investments of the Party;
- g. maintaining a New Zealand Headquarters;
- h. administering in co-operation with Regional Councils such trading organisations as the Party may legally set up or be interested in;
- i. acting upon and giving effect to resolutions and decisions of New Zealand Conference;
- j. formulating specific directives to Branches, Regional Councils and Electorate Coordinating Committees to give effect to resolutions and decisions of New Zealand Conference;
- k. providing leadership, motivation and co-ordination in all matters affecting the organisation of the Party, politically and administratively;
- l. devising and implementing the general political strategy and tactics to be employed by the Party;



- m. establishing relative departmental priorities, co-ordinating departments and units to the maximum effectiveness and keeping all units functioning harmoniously;
- n. enacting and implementing the day-to-day decisions relating to the function and operation of the Party.

**60. NEW ZEALAND EXECUTIVE COUNCIL COMMITTEES:**

New Zealand Executive Council may from time to time appoint such standing or other Committees as it deems necessary and may lay down the terms of reference of any such Committees. There will be a Finance Committee of at least three members, one of whom must be a member of the Executive.

**NEW ZEALAND CONFERENCE**

**61. NEW ZEALAND CONFERENCE:**

There shall be a New Zealand Conference of the Party, which shall be held not later than September in each and every year.

**62. CONVENING AND SUMMONING NEW ZEALAND CONFERENCE:**

The New Zealand Executive Council shall be empowered to convene and determine the exact date or dates and place of New Zealand Conference and shall give at least three months' notice in writing to Branches of the date, time and place.

**63. COMPOSITION:**

New Zealand Conferences of the Party shall consist of delegates as follows:

- a. all members of the New Zealand Executive Council;
- b. the members of the Parliamentary section;
- c. delegates from each Branch as defined and determined in Rule 64;
- d. delegates from the Young Democrats as defined and determined by Rule 12 of the First Schedule (YOUNG DEMOCRATS).

**64. DELEGATES FROM BRANCHES:**

The number of delegates which each Branch of the Party is entitled to send to New Zealand Conference by virtue of Rule 63 c shall be two (2) delegates for every fifty members and one (1) for each subsequent twenty-five (25) or part thereof.

**65. ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION:**

New Zealand Conference or New Zealand Executive Council may fix from time to time by majority resolution a Monetary Contribution to be requested each year from each Branch or Region.

**66. SUPREME AUTHORITY:**

New Zealand Conference shall be the supreme authority in the Party and its resolutions and other decisions shall be binding on the Party. New Zealand Conference may by a majority resolution exercise all or any of the Powers reposing in the New Zealand Executive Council under the Constitution and Bylaws of the Party. Motions presented under this Rule shall be subject to the provisions of Rule 68.

**67. CHAIRMAN:**

The New Zealand President when attending Conference shall be Chairman of all New Zealand Conferences or shall appoint the Vice-President to be Chairman of the Conference. In the case of the non-attendance of the New Zealand President, the Vice-President or his nominee shall be Chairman of the Conference.

**68. PROCEDURE AT NEW ZEALAND CONFERENCE:**

The following procedure shall be observed at all New Zealand Conferences of the Party:

a. **PROCEDURAL MOTIONS:**

All procedural motions may be moved without notice and shall be put without debate.

**MOTIONS IN RESPECT OF POLICY, CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS:**

All motions altering, adding to, or rescinding any of Party policy, its Constitution and Bylaws shall be submitted in the form of remits and shall follow the procedures laid down for the presentation of remits by Rules 69 to 71 inclusive.

**MOTIONS FROM CHAIRMEN OF COMMITTEES:**

Motions arising out of reports to Conference may be moved without notice by any Chairman of a Committee excepting motions under paragraph (b) of this Rule.

**ALL OTHER MOTIONS:**

All other motions not covered by (a), (b) or (c) above shall require notice of at least 30 (thirty) days prior to New Zealand Conference **PROVIDED ALWAYS THAT** New Zealand Conference shall have the power by means of a resolution passed by a simple majority of those present and voting to accept a motion of which notice has been given in writing prior to the commencement of a session. The question as to whether a motion should be accepted for debate must be put without

discussion.

**69. REMITTS TO NEW ZEALAND CONFERENCE:**

Remits to New Zealand Conference shall be forwarded with the approval of three or more Regional Conferences. Notwithstanding the above procedure, the appropriate New Zealand Executive Council committee dealing with Policy and Constitution Remits shall have the power to collate regional remits of similar content or to originate consequential remits or (as directed by the New Zealand Executive Council) to introduce urgent material arising between the time of the closing date of remits to the last Regional Conference of the year and the circulation of remits to New Zealand Conference as per Rule 70.

**70. CIRCULATION OF REMITS AND REPORTS OF CONVENORS OF COMMITTEES:**

All remits for consideration by a New Zealand Conference and all reports to New Zealand Conference from Convenors of Committees shall be circulated by the New Zealand Secretary to all Branches and Regional Councils to reach them at least thirty (30) days before the date set down for the Conference. However, reports that are to be taken in committee need only be circulated on the day of their presentation.

**71. PRESENTATION OF REMITS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS TO NEW ZEALAND CONFERENCE:**

The Convenor of each Committee shall submit to New Zealand Conference as one item, the Convenor's report and all remits which have come before the Committee and have to be presented to Conference for decision.

**72. ALTERATIONS TO CONSTITUTION:**

Subject to the provisions of Sections 6, 4 and 21 of the Incorporated Societies Act 1908, and any amendments thereto, alterations or additions to or rescissions of any of these Rules or any schedule to these Rules may be made by a resolution passed by at least a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the delegates present and voting at New Zealand Conference **PROVIDED ALWAYS THAT** no motion to alter or add to or rescind any Rule shall be put before New Zealand Conference otherwise than by way of procedure laid down for the presentation of remits to New Zealand Conference by Rules, 43, 44, 45, 46, 68, 69, 70 and 71.

**73. ALTERATIONS TO BYLAWS:**

- a. New Zealand Conference shall be empowered to frame, by a majority resolution of the delegates present and voting, Bylaws for the Party for the purposes not covered by the Constitution of the Party and may add to or rescind such Bylaws by a like resolution **PROVIDED ALWAYS THAT** no motion to alter or add to or rescind any Bylaw shall be put before New Zealand Conference otherwise than the procedure laid down for the presentation of remits to New Zealand Conference by Rules 43, 44, 45, 46, 68, 69, 70 and 71.
- b. The New Zealand Executive Council may frame, alter, add to or rescind Bylaws of the Party by a resolution passed by a two-thirds (2/3) majority on a motion of which at least twenty-eight (28) days notice to Regional Councils and all Branches has been given. All proceedings under this resolution shall take effect immediately but shall be subject to confirmation by the majority resolution of the following New Zealand Conference if required to remain operative beyond the last day of New Zealand Conference. Such confirmation shall follow the procedures laid down for the presentation of remits by Rules 69 to 71 inclusive.

**74. ALTERATIONS TO POLICY:**

- a. New Zealand Conference shall determine, add to or rescind the Policy of the Party **PROVIDED ALWAYS THAT** no motion to alter or add to or rescind any item of Policy shall be put before New Zealand Conference otherwise than by way of procedure laid down for the presentation of remits to New Zealand Conference by Rules, 43, 44, 45, 46, 68, 69, 70, and 71.
- b. The New Zealand Executive Council shall be empowered to determine the Policy of the Party by simple majority and without notice where specific remits have been referred to it by New Zealand Conference.
- c. The New Zealand Executive Council may determine, add to or rescind Policies of the Party by a resolution passed by a two-thirds (2/3) majority on a motion of which at least twenty-eight (28) days notice to Regional Councils and all Branches has been given **PROVIDED** that the resulting policies are in harmony with those adopted by the New Zealand Conference and in accordance with the Tenets, Objects and Purposes of the Party as set out in the Constitution of the Party. Before putting such a resolution to the vote, the New Zealand Executive Council shall have given consideration to any written or verbal submissions made by Regional Councils or Branches on the proposal. All proceedings under this resolution shall take effect immediately but shall be subject to confirmation by the majority resolution of the following New Zealand Conference if required to remain in operation beyond the last day of New Zealand Conference. Such confirmation shall follow the procedures laid down for the presentation of remits by Rules 69 to 71 inclusive.
- d. Any section or item of the Policy of the Party may be amended by or under authority of the New Zealand President where statutory or other changes have affected what is in the text so as to make it out of date of where a new body, entity, agency or office has come into existence or has replaced one named in the Policy or where a new enactment has replaced one referred to in the Policy, but so as not to change the substance or intention of what is in the Policy.
- e. Any amendment made pursuant to this Rule shall be reported to the next ensuing New Zealand Conference, which may confirm or vary the same.
- f. Every Policy remit adopted pursuant to the Party Constitution shall be deemed to include any necessary change to other sections or items in the Policy of the Party to give effect to that Remit without any need to include consequential amendments in the Remit.

**75. VOTING:**

- a. All delegates attending a New Zealand Conference shall be entitled to one vote and no delegate shall be entitled to more than one vote except the Chairman of the Conference who shall have a deliberative vote as well as a casting vote.
- b. Unless a poll is demanded by two delegates all resolutions shall be decided by a show of hands and a declaration of the result

by the Chairman shall be conclusive. Preferential voting with the single transferable vote shall be used when Conference has to elect one Officer from three or more Candidates for office.

- c. When there is only one nomination for any office, that position shall be filled by the confirmation of two-thirds (2/3) majority vote by Conference.

## **PARLIAMENTARY ORGANISATION**

### **76. COMPOSITION:**

There shall be a Parliamentary Section of the Party, which comprises the following:

- a. *Democrats for Social Credit* members of the House of Representatives.
- b. *Democrats for Social Credit* Candidates qualifying under Rules 77, 78, 79, 82, 83, 84 and 86.

## **SELECTION OF CANDIDATES**

### **77. AUTHORITY FOR THE SELECTION OF CANDIDATE:**

Subject to the Provisions of Rules 83 and 84 hereof the authority in each Parliamentary Electorate for the selection of a *Democrats for Social Credit* Candidate to contest any Parliamentary election shall be all of the members of the Party in that Electorate.

### **78. TIME OF SELECTION:**

*Democrats for Social Credit* Candidates may be selected at a special general meeting of all members in the relevant Electorate, called for the purpose of which at least twenty-eight (28) days clear notice has been given, together with notice that, if only one nomination is received a confirmation of two thirds (2/3) majority in accordance with Rule 82 c will be required.

### **79. NOMINATION FOR SELECTION FOR AN ELECTORATE:**

The Electorate Coordinating Committee shall call from all members of the Electorate for nominations for the *Democrats for Social Credit* Candidate for its Parliamentary Electorate by circular letter addressed and forwarded to all members indicating the closing date for the receipt of such nominations and the address to which such nominations shall be forwarded. Twenty-eight (28) clear days notice of the closing date must be given in the call for nomination, except in the case of a by-election or snap election it shall be fourteen (14) days.

Such nominations shall be sponsored by at least four financial members of the Electorate concerned and shall be accompanied by the consent in writing of the nominee who must be a financial member of the Party and shall not be one of the nominators. All nominations must be presented on the forms as prescribed in accordance with Bylaw 36.

### **80. ASSESSMENT FOR APPROVAL OF NOMINEES:**

- a. After nominations have closed they shall be considered by an Approvals Committee comprising the New Zealand President, the relevant Regional President and the relevant Electorate Chairman or their nominees.
- b. The relevant Regional President, or his/her nominee, shall be the Convenor.
- c. The Approvals Committee shall have access to all documents and may call upon nominees for interview.
- d. The decision of the Approvals Committee to approve or not to approve the nominee shall be communicated to the selection meeting without giving any reasons. Non-approval of a nominee shall not, per se, be a bar to selection.
- e. Should the Approvals Committee approve the nominee subsequently selected as a Candidate, the announcement of the Candidate may be made immediately upon selection by the Electorate, but the endorsement procedure shall still be required pursuant to Rule 84.
- f. Should the Approvals Committee not approve the person subsequently selected as a Candidate no announcement shall be made until the Candidate is endorsed by the Regional Council and the New Zealand Executive Council.
- g. If a member has applied for and been granted approval for such selection as *Democrats for Social Credit* Candidate for an Electorate but has been unsuccessful in being selected in that Electorate the approval so granted shall be valid not only for selection in that Electorate but in any other Electorate where nominations for a Parliamentary Candidate have been called.
- h. All approvals shall lapse at the next ensuing Parliamentary General Election.

### **81. MODE OF SELECTION:**

- a. The selection of a *Democrats for Social Credit* Candidate for Parliament shall be by a simple majority of a secret ballot of the financial members of the Electorate concerned. Each member so eligible to vote may have a direct vote for a nominee, no member shall have more than one vote and voting shall not be limited to Branch delegates nor shall there be voting by proxy.
- b. The secret ballot shall be either:
  - i. Conducted at a general meeting of the Electorate by those members present and eligible to vote

**OR**

  - ii. By postal vote provided that all votes are returned to the Returning Officer in the sealed envelope sent out with the ballot papers.

- c. When only one person has been nominated for Parliamentary Candidate he/she shall be required to be confirmed by a two-thirds (2/3) majority at an Electorate meeting at which the Candidate is to be selected of which twenty-eight (28) days notice has been given.

**82. ABSENCE OF ELECTORATE CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE OR DEFAULT OF SELECTION:**

Where there is no Electorate Coordinating Committee of the Party in a Parliamentary Electorate or where an Electorate shall have failed to select a Candidate by forty (40) days before the closing date set down by the Returning Officer for the receipt of nominations for a Parliamentary election, then the appropriate Regional Council shall have the power to select a Candidate to contest the Election. Where an Electorate still has no Candidate by twenty (20) days before the said closing date then the appropriate Regional President of his/her nominee in consultation with the Campaign Committee shall endeavour to select a Candidate for the said Electorate. In all such cases the selected Candidate must be a financial member of the Party at the time of his/her selection.

**83. ENDORSEMENT OF CANDIDATES:**

All Candidates selected shall be subject to endorsement by the appropriate Regional Council and by the New Zealand Executive Council. Regional Councils and the New Zealand Executive Council shall be satisfied that the conditions of the relevant Rules and Bylaws governing the selection have been observed.

**84. NOMINATIONS FOR SELECTIONS FOR THE PARTY LIST:**

- a. The Party Executive will call for nominations for candidates for the Party List by a circular letter to all members of the *Democrats for Social Credit*, indicating the closing date for the receipt of such nominations and the address to which such nominations shall be forwarded. Twenty-eight (28) clear days notice of the closing date must be given in the call for the nomination, except in the case of a by-election or snap election it shall be fourteen (14) days. Such nominations shall be sponsored by at least four (4) financial members of the *Democrats for Social Credit* and shall be accompanied by the consent in writing of the nominee who must be a financial member of the Party but shall not be one of the nominators. All nominations must be presented on the form as prescribed in accordance with Bylaw 36.
- b. After nominations have closed they shall be considered by an Approvals Committee comprising the Party President and the Party Vice-President or their nominees and one Regional President.
- c. The Party President shall be the convenor.
- d. The Approvals Committee shall have access to all documents and may call upon the nominees for an interview.
- e. The decision of the Approvals Committee to approve or not to approve the nominee shall be communicated to the Party Executive, which shall make the final decision.
- f. The names of the accepted candidates shall be included in the process for ordering the *Democrats for Social Credit* list.

**85. DECLARATION BY CANDIDATE:**

All Candidates shall be required to sign a declaration of their allegiance to the Crown or Head of State and guarantee to promote the tenets, objects and purposes of the Party, **PROVIDED ALWAYS THAT** any Candidate may express personal views on any matter or matters of conscience.

**86. LEADERSHIP OF THE PARLIAMENTARY SECTION:**

There shall be a Leader and Deputy Leader of the Parliamentary section who shall be elected in the manner provided in Rule 88 hereof from among the members of the Parliamentary section.

**87. MODE OF ELECTION:**

The Leader and Deputy Leader shall be elected according to the circumstances as follows:

- a. the Leader and Deputy Leader shall be members of the Party who, at the time of their election as such, are members of the Parliamentary section pursuant to paragraph (a) or paragraph (b) of Rule 76;
- b. the Leader and Deputy Leader shall be elected annually by New Zealand Conference from among those eligible who have been nominated in accordance with Rule 88.
- c. In the event of the office of Leader or the office of Deputy Leader becoming vacant between one New Zealand Conference and the next, the same shall be filled by the New Zealand Executive Council in **JOINT SESSION WITH ANY DEMOCRATS FOR SOCIAL CREDIT MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT** in accordance with the provisions of this Rule except where, by reason of the date of the next ensuing New Zealand Conference being only a short time away, the New Zealand Executive Council decides that such vacancy shall not be filled prior to the election for that office due to be held at the New Zealand Conference.
- d. Upon any such mid-term vacancy occurring in the office of the Leader or in the office of the Deputy Leader, (but subject to any decision of the New Zealand Executive Council made in accordance with paragraph (c) of this Rule) the New Zealand Secretary as soon as is practicable thereafter shall call for nominations for such vacant office in accordance with Rule 88 save that the time for closing the receipt of nominations shall be at 5.00 pm on the day preceding the next meeting of the New Zealand Executive Council which in **JOINT SESSION WITH ANY DEMOCRATS FOR SOCIAL CREDIT MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT** during that meeting shall elect someone to fill the vacancy from among those eligible who are currently nominated.
- e. In the event of the Deputy Leader being elected to fill any such mid-term vacancy in the office of Leader pursuant to paragraph (d) of this Rule, the office of Deputy Leader shall thereby become consequently vacant and, in any such event, the New Zealand Executive Council may in its discretion decide that such consequential vacancy shall be filled **EITHER** by filling the same by electing someone eligible without any call for nominations OR by filling the same after a call for nominations and an election at a later meeting of the New Zealand Executive Council **IN JOINT SESSION WITH ANY DEMOCRATS FOR SOCIAL CREDIT MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT** in accordance with paragraph (d) of this Rule.

- f. Every Leader and every Deputy Leader elected in accordance with paragraph (b), (c) or (e) of this Rule shall continue to hold their respective office until their successors are elected and the office of Leader or the office of Deputy Leader (as the case may be) then becomes vacant.

**88. NOMINATIONS:**

Where the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Parliamentary Section are to be elected by New Zealand Conference then the provisions of Rule 51 hereof concerning nominations for New Zealand Officers shall apply equally to nominations for Leader and Deputy Leader.

Additionally, subject to the provisions of Rule 88 any four or more members of the Parliamentary Section, not including the nominee, shall be entitled to submit nominations for the positions of Leader or Deputy Leader.

**89. SPOKESMAN:**

The Leader of the Parliamentary Section shall be the spokesman for the Parliamentary Section.

**90. RIGHTS OF LEADER AND DEPUTY LEADER TO ATTEND MEETINGS:**

The Leader and the Deputy Leader of the Parliamentary Section shall be entitled to attend and be heard at all meetings of New Zealand Executive Council Committees, but shall not, unless otherwise entitled to, exercise a vote.

**91. CABINET:**

When *Democrats for Social Credit* members are the Government the Cabinet shall be elected by members of that Government.

**92. WORKING IN CO-OPERATION WITH OTHER PARLIAMENTARY PARTIES:**

- a. The *Democrats for Social Credit* may by a majority of not less than two-thirds (2/3) at New Zealand Conference, under Rule 72, enter into arrangements of co-operation with other parliamentary parties, for candidate selection where Conference or the Executive under its delegated powers (see Rule 73) has entered into a general agreement of cooperation with such parties.
- b. Where the *Democrats for Social Credit* has an agreement of co-operation with other Parliamentary parties, as sanctioned by New Zealand Conference or by the New Zealand Executive under its delegated powers, and has been empowered to participate in the candidate selection process with those parties, a Democrat candidate/nominee shall be selected by due process under the *Democrats for Social Credit* Constitution.

**93. DEFINITION OF A CANDIDATE/NOMINEE:**

- a. A candidate/nominee shall be a person selected by due process under the *Democrats for Social Credit* Constitution, to be a Party candidate nominated to participate in any existing agreement of cooperation with other Parliamentary parties.
- b. Where a person is deemed to be a *Democrats for Social Credit* candidate/nominee, that person will be a member of the Party Parliamentary Section.

**94. THE SELECTION PROCESS:**

- a. The Regional Council shall call for nominations for the *Democrats for Social Credit* candidate/nominees, from all members within the Region, by circular letter addressed and forwarded to all members indicating the closing date for such nominations and the address to which such nominations shall be forwarded. Twenty-eight (28) clear days notice of the closing date must be given in the call for the nomination, except in the case of a by-election or snap election it shall be fourteen (14) days. Such nominations shall be sponsored by at least four (4) financial members of the Region concerned and shall be accompanied by the consent in writing of the nominee who must be a financial member of the Party, but who shall not be one of the nominators. All nominations must be presented on the forms as prescribed in accordance with Bylaw 36.
- b. After nominations have closed they shall be considered by an Approvals Committee comprising the New Zealand President, the relevant Regional President and the relevant Regional Vice-President or their nominees.
- c. The relevant Regional President, or his/her nominee, shall be convenor.
- d. The Approvals Committee shall have access to all the documents and may call upon nominees for an interview.
- e. The decision to approve or not approve the nominees shall be communicated to the relevant Region, then the New Zealand Executive, which shall have the final decision.
- f. The names of the approved candidates/nominees shall be forwarded to the appropriate committee of the cooperating committees.
- g. All approvals shall lapse at the next ensuing Parliamentary election.
- h. All candidate/nominees shall be given the opportunity to be on the *Democrats for Social Credit* Candidate List. All members of the *Democrats for Social Credit* shall be given the opportunity to participate in the ordering of a list of *Democrats for Social Credit* Candidate/nominees. The vote will be by postal ballot.
- i. The result of the postal ballot will be indicative to the Party Executive, which shall have the final decision.
- j. The resultant Party List will be conveyed to the appropriate committee of the co-operating Parliamentary parties to be used in accordance with the process within the agreement of co-operation.

## **OTHER ORGANISATIONS WITHIN THE PARTY**

### **95. MAORI SECTION:**

The New Zealand Executive Council may at any time inaugurate a Maori Section of the Party and shall be empowered to determine all matters affecting the composition, rules, powers, organisation, finance and terms of affiliation of such section until such time as New Zealand Conference shall make provision for such matters by amending the Constitution of the Party.

### **96. ISLAND TERRITORIES:**

The New Zealand Executive Council may at any time encourage and promote the formation of Social Credit Parties in the Island Territories and shall be empowered to accept on behalf of the Party affiliation from such Parties and to determine the terms of such affiliations until such time as New Zealand Conference shall make provision for such affiliations by amending the Constitution of the Party.

### **97. WOMEN'S AUXILIARIES:**

Women's Auxiliaries may be formed under the auspices of Regional Councils or Branches and shall work in co-operation with their respective parent bodies in furthering the progress of the Party.

### **98. BYLAWS OF WOMEN'S AUXILIARIES:**

Women's Auxiliaries are authorised to frame their own Bylaws for purposes not covered by the Constitution and Bylaws of the Party subject to the approval thereof by their respective Regional Councils or Branches as the case may be.

### **99. YOUNG DEMOCRATS:**

The Young Democrats shall be organised on a New Zealand wide basis and shall co-operate with the Party in furthering the Tenets, Objects and Purposes of the Party and by directly being answerable to the New Zealand Executive Council.

### **100. RULES OF THE YOUNG DEMOCRATS:**

The Rules of the Young Democrats are set out in the first schedule to this Constitution and shall be binding on the Young Democrats.

### **101. BYLAWS OF THE YOUNG DEMOCRATS:**

The Young Democrats are authorised to frame their own Bylaws for purposes not covered by the Rules applying to the Young Democrats. They shall not adopt any Bylaws which are incompatible with this constitution.

## **PROPERTY AND INVESTMENTS**

### **102. POWER OF ACQUIRING AND DISPOSING OF PROPERTY:**

The Party shall be at liberty at any time to acquire property both real and personal or any estate or interest therein, shares in companies, building societies and industrial provident societies, life insurance policies as assignee and any other form of assets or securities hereinafter collectively referred to as **ASSETS** and to hold or dispose of such assets as it thinks fit **PROVIDED ALWAYS THAT** the exercise of any power under this Rule shall have been previously authorised by a majority resolution of the New Zealand Executive Council or New Zealand Conference.

### **103. DONATIONS:**

The Party shall have power to receive and take any gift of money or other property for any of the purposes and objects of the Party whether subject to any special trust or not but so that the Party may decline to accept any gifts or donations or to take over any property which has annexed to it a condition or an obligation not approved by the Party.

### **104. OWNERSHIP OF ASSETS:**

All assets of the Party shall be held in the name of the Party and the New Zealand Executive Council shall act on behalf of the Party in administering or disposing of such assets. A Regional Council or Branch or other organisation within the Party forming a constituent part of the Party shall have no power to hold or dispose of property and all property received or held on behalf of the Party by such organisations within the Party shall be held in the name of the Party and the New Zealand Executive Council shall act on behalf of the Party in administering or disposing of such property **PROVIDED THAT** the New Zealand Executive Council may delegate its power to administer such property to the Regional Council or Branch or other organisation concerned and **PROVIDED FURTHER THAT** a Regional Council or Branch may appoint a trustee or trustees to act for or on behalf of the Party in relation to any undertaking or venture promoted by the said Regional Council or Branch in accordance with Rule 110 and **PROVIDED FURTHER THAT** a Branch or Regional Council or other organisation within the Party may operate a bank account or bank accounts in the name of the Branch, Regional Council or other organisations with respect to funds coming into its hands and for the purpose of payment of the expenses and liabilities of the said Branch, Regional Council or other organisation within the Party.

### **105. CUSTODY OF SECURITIES:**

Title deeds, share certificates, life insurance policies, and any other securities held by the Party except where mortgaged or otherwise given in security for money raised under the borrowing powers hereinafter set out shall be placed in the custody of the Party's Solicitor as appointed from time to time by the New Zealand Executive Council.

**106. INVESTMENT OF FUNDS:**

The funds of the Party or of any Regional Council or Branch or other organisation within the Party need not necessarily be invested in trustee securities.

**107. PROXIES:**

It shall be within the competence of the New Zealand Executive Council on behalf of the Party to grant to any person or persons a proxy or proxies for voting purposes on any shares, company shares in provident societies or any life insurance policies held by the Party.

**108. TRUSTS:**

It shall be within the competence of the Party or any Regional Council or Branch or other organisation within the Party to receive monies, assets as hereinbefore described and bequests in trust for the purpose of furthering the objects of the Party and within the competence of the New Zealand Executive Council pursuant to and authorised by the Rules of the Party. The New Zealand Executive Council may thereafter approve the appointment of such trustee or trustees and if so approved such trustee or trustees shall remain in their office until either removed by resolution of the New Zealand Executive Council or by acceptance by the New Zealand Executive Council of the resignation of such trustee or trustees. Any trustee so appointed need not necessarily be a member of the Party and in addition to their ordinary duties such trustees shall:

**109. TRUSTEES:**

A Branch, Region or New Zealand Executive Council may appoint a Trustee or Trustees to act for and on behalf of the said Branch, Region or New Zealand Executive Council in relation to any undertaking or venture promoted by the said Branch, Region or New Zealand Executive Council pursuant to and authorised by the Rules of the Party. The New Zealand Executive Council may thereafter approve the appointment of such trustee or trustees and if so approved such trustee or trustees shall remain in their office until either removed by resolution of the New Zealand Executive Council or by acceptance by the New Zealand Executive Council of the resignation of such trustee or trustees. Any trustee so appointed need not necessarily be a member of the Party and in addition to their ordinary duties such trustees shall:

- a. Supply an audited statement of accounts to the New Zealand Executive Council up to and within three (3) calendar months of the 31st day of December each year and in each and every year of their trusteeship such statement of accounts to be audited by a properly qualified auditor.
- b. Remain liable to the Party during their trusteeship and remain liable to the Party after their discharge in relation to any defaults, acts or omissions occasioned or committed during their trusteeship.
- c. Use their best efforts in promoting and running any undertaking or venture promoted by the Branch or Region or New Zealand Executive Council to the greatest financial benefit of the Party and in furtherance of the Tenets, Objects and Purposes of the Party.
- d. Upon removal as trustees by resolution of the New Zealand Executive Council or on the completion or winding up of the undertaking or venture to forthwith deliver to the New Zealand Executive Council all financial and other records relating to the trustees management and operation of the undertaking or venture and to account to the Party for all cash and assets properly the property of the Party.

**110. BORROWING POWERS:**

The Party may raise money on the security of any of its assets and may give security therefore or make and sign promissory notes, bills of exchange and other negotiable instruments, binds, mortgages, debentures, charges and liens to secure payment of the monies so borrowed **PROVIDED ALWAYS THAT** the exercise of any powers under this Rule shall have been previously authorised by a majority resolution of the New Zealand Executive Council or New Zealand Conference.

**MISCELLANEOUS**

**111. QUORUM:**

- a. **NEW ZEALAND CONFERENCE:** The Quorum for New Zealand Conference shall be not less than 50% of delegates (see Rule 63) duly appointed to attend New Zealand Conference and registered.
- b. **NEW ZEALAND EXECUTIVE COUNCIL:** The quorum for New Zealand Executive Council shall be not less than 50% of members of New Zealand Executive Council.
- c. **REGIONAL CONFERENCES:** The quorum for Regional Conferences shall be not less than 50% of delegates (see Rule 41) duly appointed to attend Regional Conferences and registered.
- d. All other Executive, Councils, Committees and sub-Committees shall from time to time determine their own quorum.

**112. LEGAL PROCEEDINGS:**

The New Zealand Executive Council shall be empowered to institute and defend legal proceedings on behalf of the Party.

**113. FINANCIAL YEAR:**

The financial year shall be from 1st January to 31st December of each year.

**114. COMMON SEAL:**

The Common Seal of the Party shall be placed in the custody of the New Zealand Secretary and shall be affixed in the presence of the New Zealand President or New Zealand Executive Council. The affixing of the Common Seal shall be authorised by majority resolution of the New Zealand Executive Council, or of New Zealand Conference.

**115. DISCIPLINARY ACTION:**

The New Zealand Executive Council shall be empowered by not less than a two-thirds (2/3) majority decision of those entitled to be present and to vote to take such disciplinary action as it decides is fit and proper against any member of the Party **PROVIDED ALWAYS THAT** any member so disciplined shall have a right of appeal to New Zealand Conference.

New Zealand Conference shall not act upon a question of disciplinary action except in accordance with the provisions of Rule 68. The motion to be considered shall be dealt with in the following manner:

The New Zealand Secretary will compile, or have compiled, a list of the New Zealand Executive Councillors attending Conference, and a similar list of Candidates each list being arranged in alphabetical order. The first eight (8) members on each list, provided they are not party to the question, who are willing and able to act shall form a temporary Committee which shall be presided over by a Chairman, also not being party to the question, who shall be nominated from the floor of Conference and elected by a simple majority. The motion will be deliberated upon **IN COMMITTEE** and the majority decision on being reported back to Conference will become the Conference's decision.

**116. SUSPENSION FROM OFFICE:**

If it is considered in the interests of the Party an office-holder in the Party may be suspended from office by the following:

- a. If in a Branch, by the Branch Executive or by the relevant Regional Executive.
- b. If in a Region or Electorate, by the Regional Council.
- c. In all cases by the New Zealand Executive Council.
- d. Notice of suspension shall be in writing and delivered either by registered mail or in the presence of at least another member of the Party as witness. The suspension shall remain in force no later than the following meeting of the New Zealand Executive Council which may **EITHER** remove the suspension, remove from office in accordance with Rule 116, **OR** re-impose the suspension. The re-imposition of the suspension can be for no longer than until the following meeting of the New Zealand Executive Council.

Suspension may be removed by:

- a. New Zealand Executive Council; or
- b. The body imposing the suspension if such removal is approved by the New Zealand Executive Council.

Notice of removal of suspension shall be in writing.

**117. DISSOLUTION OF THE PARTY:**

In the event of the Party being dissolved by the Registrar of Incorporated Societies or being wound up, all surplus assets shall, subject to any trust or trusts affecting such assets, be disposed of in such manner as the New Zealand Executive Council shall decide and in any event so as to comply in all respects with Section 27 of the Incorporated Societies Act, 1908.

**118. CONSTITUTION APPEAL AUTHORITY:**

Where disputes arise regarding the interpretation of the Constitution the question shall be referred to the appropriate New Zealand Executive Council committee dealing with Constitutional matters. Appeal shall lie from this Committee to an Arbitration Committee consisting of the Chairman of the Constitution Committee or his/her nominee by the appellant party **PROVIDED ALWAYS THAT:**

- a. costs of any appeal shall be borne by the party against whom the decision is made, for which the appellant shall be required to enter into a bond of \$300 (Three Hundred Dollars) or such lesser sum as determined by the New Zealand Executive Council;
- b. any submissions made to the relevant Committee shall be made in writing;
- c. decisions made shall be delivered in writing to all parties making submissions as well as to the body later hearing the appeal if this occurs;
- d. notice of an appeal must be lodged with the New Zealand Secretary within one week of receipt of previous decision;
- e. there shall be no further appeal within the Party.

**119. INDEMNITIES AND REIMBURSEMENT:**

- a. The Party shall not be responsible for any debts for goods purchased or services supplied incurred by any Member, Branch, Electorate or Region of the Party without that Member, Branch, Electorate or Region having first obtained the necessary authority by majority resolution of the New Zealand Executive Council or New Zealand Conference.
- b. Branches, Electorates and Regions of the Party shall not be responsible for any debts for goods purchased or services supplied incurred by any member of that Branch, Electorate or Region without that member having first obtained the necessary authority by majority resolution of the relevant Branch, Electorate or Regional Council.
- c. Where the Party or a Region, Electorate or Branch shall have incurred actual expense or where the credit of the Party or Region, Electorate or Branch shall have been pledged by any member without that member having first obtained the necessary



authority as described in sub paragraphs (a) and (b) of this Rule, then the Party may seek indemnity or reimbursement from that member and may if necessary institute legal proceedings for indemnity or reimbursement from that member in accordance with Rule 113.

**120. OFFICER OF THE PARTY:**

An Officer of the Party shall be any person appointed in accordance with the Rules for a specified period to an office in the Party in which he/she is required to exercise a specific political and/or administrative function and shall include:

- a. all Presidents (New Zealand, Regional and Branch);
- b. all Vice-Presidents (New Zealand, Regional and Branch);
- c. all Branch and Electorate Secretaries and Treasurers;
- d. all Electorate Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen;
- e. Parliamentary Candidates and such others as determined from time to time by the New Zealand Executive Council.

**121. EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT FOR LEADER OR OTHER ELECTED OFFICER:**

If it is determined by New Zealand Conference or the New Zealand Executive Council that any elected officer of the Party shall be employed by the Party, and paid a salary or honorarium, then any such payment shall be subject to a Contract between the Party and the employee, setting out conditions of employment, the terms of the contract to be decided by the New Zealand Executive Council.

**122. OFFICER RESPONSIBILITY:**

The New Zealand President may hold no other position in the Party, and other members are encouraged not to hold more than one of the following: New Zealand Vice President; Member of the Parliamentary Section; Convenor of a New Zealand Executive Council Committee; Regional President; Electorate Chair.

**123. LOCAL BODY CANDIDATES:**

- a. Any Regional Council of the Party may endorse Candidates for Local Body Elections within that Region's boundaries, provided that any such Candidate's publicised statements are compatible with the Tenets, Objects and Purposes of the Party as set out in Rules 2, 3 and 4.
- b. An Approvals Committee convened by the Regional President and comprising all Electorate Chairmen within that Electorate such Candidate would be operative, plus three others, shall report its decision to a full meeting of the Regional Council prior to announcing endorsement, and shall also inform, in writing, the New Zealand Secretary.
- c. The Regional Council shall have the power to accept or reject the decision of the Approvals Committee or to withdraw endorsement at any time as it sees fit.
- d. The Approvals Committee shall have the power to request any documents it requires to assist with its deliberations, and may call on the Candidate to attend an interview.

## **FIRST SCHEDULE**

### **RULES OF THE NEW ZEALAND YOUNG DEMOCRATS**

**1. NAME:**

The name of the Youth Section of the Party shall be the **NEW ZEALAND YOUNG DEMOCRATS**, hereinafter referred to as the **YOUNG DEMOCRATS**.

**2. OBJECTS:**

The objects of the Young Democrats shall be:

- a. to bring young people together to enable them to enjoy social functions, to obtain experience in debating, public speaking and the conduct of meetings and to study Social Credit Philosophy particularly as it affects political questions;
- b. to further the Tenets, Objects and Purposes of the Party and to co-operate with the Party in all appropriate ways;
- c. to interest young people in citizenship and to assist them in coming to an understanding of the part they should play in safeguarding the freedom of the individual and in the establishment of good government;
- d. to promote issues that is of concern to young people;
- e. to become the largest political young people's group in New Zealand.

**3. MEMBERSHIP:**

The Bylaws of the Young Democrats shall determine the minimum age at which any person may become a member of the Young Democrats and may determine the maximum age to which any person may be permitted to continue membership.

**3A. DISCIPLINARY ACTION:**

- a. In the interests of the Young Democrats an office holder in the Young Democrats may be suspended from office by the New Zealand Executive Council or by the resolution of a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the Youth Executive.
- b. A suspension may be lifted by the suspending body or in any case by the New Zealand Executive Council.
- c. A person within the age limits may be expelled from the Young Democrats only by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the New Zealand Executive Council, and any person so disciplined shall have a right of appeal to the New Zealand Conference.

**4. SUBSCRIPTION:**

The annual subscription payable by **ALL** members of the Young Democrats shall be determined by the preceding Annual Convention of the Young Democrats.

**5. RESIGNATION FROM MEMBERSHIP:**

A member of the Young Democrats may resign at any time by giving the Secretary written notice of his or her intention to do so.

**6. OFFICERS:**

- a. Each Annual Convention of the Young Democrats shall elect a Youth President, a Youth Vice-President, a Secretary and a Treasurer or a Secretary/Treasurer.
- b. The Youth Executive shall include the Officers elected in accordance with Rule 6a and such other Officers as may from time to time be specified by the Bylaws of the Young Democrats.
- c. If a position on the Youth Executive should become vacant, it shall be filled in accordance with the Bylaws of the Young Democrats. When there are no such Bylaws, the Youth Executive shall act as it sees fit.

**7. REPRESENTATION ON BRANCH OR REGIONAL COUNCILS:**

The Young Democrats shall be entitled to representation on such Branch Councils, Electorate Coordinating Committees, Regional Councils, Committees of any of the above, Committees of the New Zealand Executive Council, Committees of Conference, or Sub-committees of any of the above, as may resolve to have such representatives on them. The number of representatives may be varied from time to time by any such body on which the Young Democrats are represented.

**8. ANNUAL CONVENTION:**

The Young Democrats shall hold an Annual Convention of its members no later than September in each and every year for the purpose of:

- a. the election of Officers;
- b. receiving and considering reports on the activities of the past year and an audited Statement of Accounts;
- c. the adoption of Policies and Strategies;
- d. considering any other matter affecting the Young Democrats.

**9. NOTICE OF ANNUAL CONVENTION:**

At least two (2) months clear notice of an Annual Convention shall be given to all members of the Young Democrats by notice by ordinary post.

**10. BYLAWS:**

- a. The Young Democrats are authorised to frame their own Bylaws for purposes not covered by the Rules applying to the Young Democrats, but shall not adopt any Bylaws which are incompatible with this Constitution, and where no Young Democrats Rules or Bylaws exist shall be bound by the Constitution and Bylaws of the Party.
- b. The Annual Convention of the Young Democrats shall determine, add to, or rescind Bylaws of the Young Democrats provided that all Members of the Young Democrats are sent notice of proposed Bylaws twenty-eight (28) days before the Convention at which they are adopted. This requirement shall not prevent proposed Bylaws from being amended prior to passage.

**11. REPRESENTATION ON NEW ZEALAND EXECUTIVE COUNCIL:**

The Young Democrats shall be represented on the N.Z. Executive Council in accordance with Rule 50 (d).

**12. REPRESENTATION AT NEW ZEALAND CONFERENCE:**

The Young Democrats shall be represented by delegates to Regional Conferences and the N.Z. Conference as allowed in Rule 41 (d) and 63 (d).

The precise number of delegates shall be calculated as follows:

For Regional Conferences:

0 - 19	members in a Division	1 delegate
20 - 99	members in a Division	2 delegates
100 and over	members in a Division	3 delegates

For New Zealand Conference:

0 - 99	members N.Z. wide	2 delegates
100 - 399	members N.Z. wide	4 delegates
400 - 999	members N.Z. wide	6 delegates
1000 and over	members N.Z. wide	8 delegates

# BYLAWS OF THE NEW ZEALAND DEMOCRATIC PARTY FOR SOCIAL CREDIT INC

## NEW ZEALAND HEADQUARTERS

### 1. REGISTERED OFFICE:

The Registered Office of the Party shall be such place as may from time to time be determined by resolution of the New Zealand Executive Council. Nothing in these Bylaws shall preclude the Party from transacting business at any place other than the Registered Office of the Party.

### 2. NEW ZEALAND HEADQUARTERS:

The New Zealand Headquarters of the Party shall be situated at the Registered Office of the Party or at any other place as may from time to time be decided upon by the New Zealand Executive Council.

### 3. MANAGEMENT OF NEW ZEALAND HEADQUARTERS:

The management and control of New Zealand Headquarters and of all departments and staff thereof shall be vested in the New Zealand President subject to any standing orders and other decisions and directions of the New Zealand Executive Council.

### 4. OPERATION OF BANK ACCOUNTS:

The New Zealand President, the convenor of the Finance Committee, the New Zealand Secretary and such other persons as may be designated by resolution of the New Zealand Executive Council shall be authorised to operate the New Zealand Organisation Bank Accounts and all withdrawal slips and cheques drawn upon such accounts shall be signed by at least two persons.

### 5. PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS:

All accounts rendered to the New Zealand Organisation shall be presented to the Party Secretary and Administrative Committee for examination and shall be duly approved for payment by the Finance Committee or Administrative Committee on the Party's behalf.

### 6. NEW ZEALAND AUDITORS:

There shall be one or more New Zealand Auditors whose duty it shall be to audit the Annual Balance Sheet and Statement of Accounts at a date prior to New Zealand Conference. The New Zealand Auditor or Auditors shall be appointed and their remuneration fixed by the New Zealand Executive Council **PROVIDED THAT** only a registered public accountant who is not an Officer of the Party may be appointed to the position of a New Zealand Auditor.

## FINANCE

### 7. ALLOCATION OF FUNDS:

All membership subscriptions, donations, contributions, bequests and other income and revenue to the funds of the Party shall be divided amongst the New Zealand Organisation, Regional Councils and Branches in such manner as may be decided upon from time to time by New Zealand Conference or the New Zealand Executive Council.

### 8. MEMBERS SUBSCRIPTIONS:

The membership subscription shall be fifteen dollars (\$15) per annum for each member. The amount will be inclusive of GST.

### 9. ASSOCIATE MEMBERS:

- a. Subject to Rule 10a, any person may become an Associate member of the Party upon payment of a weekly subscription of a minimum of ten cents (10c).
- b. Subject to Rule 6, any Associate member may become a member of the Party upon payment of the difference between the Associate Member subscription already paid under Bylaw 9a and the Membership Subscription set out in Bylaw 8.

### 10. OFFICIAL RECEIPTS:

All monies received by the Party or any Regional Council or Branch or other organisation within the Party shall be duly acknowledged by means of an official receipt form authorised and approved by the New Zealand Executive Council.

## BRANCH ORGANISATION

### 11. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES:

Each Branch may appoint an Executive Committee from its own number to act and exercise the powers reposing in Branch Councils under the Constitution and Bylaws of the Party in the intervals between meetings of the Branch Council when matters requiring immediate or urgent attention may arise, subject to any limitations, restrictions or directions laid down by the Branch Council. The actions and decisions of the Executive Committee shall be subject to endorsement by the Branch Council at the next meeting.

**12. SPECIAL COMMITTEES:**

In addition to the Executive Committee hereinbefore described each Branch Council may appoint other Special Committees to advise and assist the Branch Council in the exercise of any of its powers and duties. The members of such other Special Committees need not necessarily be members of the Party at the time. The Branch President shall be ex officio a member of all Special Committees.

**13. BRANCH HEADQUARTERS:**

The Branch Headquarters in any Branch shall be situated in such place and in such city, town or borough in the Branch as may from time to time be decided upon by the Branch Council.

**14. MANAGEMENT OF BRANCH HEADQUARTERS:**

The management and control of the Branch Headquarters in any Branch and of the staff thereof shall be vested in the Branch President subject to any Standing Orders and other decisions and directions of the Branch Council.

**15. PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS:**

All accounts rendered to a Branch organisation shall be presented to the Branch Council for examination and shall have been duly passed for payment by the Branch Council before being paid.

**16. BANK ACCOUNTS:**

The Branch President, the Branch Secretary and Branch Treasurer or Secretary/Treasurer and such other members of the Branch Council as may be designated by resolution of the Branch Council shall be authorised to operate the Branch organisation Bank Accounts and withdrawal slips and cheques drawn upon such accounts shall be signed by at least two such persons.

**17. ANNUAL REPORT AND BALANCE SHEET:**

Each Branch Council shall make a report of the activities in the Branch and of the Branch Council during the previous year and shall present a duly audited Balance Sheet and Statement of Accounts for the previous year to the Annual Meeting of the Branch and it shall send certified copies thereof to New Zealand Headquarters and to its Regional Council.

**18. REGIONAL MEETINGS:**

A Regional Council meeting shall be called if requisitioned by any Branch in the Region such a meeting to be held within fourteen days of the requisition and called by notification to Branches giving at least seven (7) days notice.

**19. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES:**

Each Regional Council may appoint an Executive Committee from its own number to act and exercise the powers reposing in Regional Councils under the Constitution and Bylaws of the Party in the intervals between meetings of the Regional Council when matters requiring immediate or urgent attention may arise, subject to any limitations restrictions or directions laid down by the Regional Council. The actions and decisions of the Executive Committee shall be subject to endorsement by the Regional Council at the next meeting.

**20. SPECIAL COMMITTEES:**

In addition to the Executive Committee hereinbefore described each Regional Council may appoint other special Committees to advise and assist the Regional Council in the exercise of any of its powers and duties. The members of such other special committees need not necessarily be members of the Party at the time. The Regional President shall be ex officio a member of all Special Committees.

**21. REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS:**

The Regional Headquarters in any Region shall be situated in such place and in such city, town or borough in the Region as may from time to time be decided upon by the Regional Council.

**22. MANAGEMENT OF REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS:**

The management and control of the Regional Headquarters in any Region and of the staff thereof shall be vested in the Regional President subject to any Standing Orders and other decisions and directions of the Regional Council.

**23. SIGNATORIES TO REGIONAL BANK ACCOUNTS:**

The Regional President, the Regional Secretary and Regional Treasurer or the Regional Secretary/Treasurer and such other members of the Regional Council as may be designated by resolution of the Regional Council shall be authorised to operate the Regional Organisation Bank Accounts and all withdrawal slips and cheques drawn upon such accounts shall be signed by at least two such persons.

**24. REGIONAL BANK ACCOUNTS:**

All monies received at a Regional Headquarters for the Regional Organisation shall be deposited in such Bank or Banks as may from time to time be determined by resolution of the Regional Council.

**25. PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS:**

All accounts rendered to a Regional Organisation shall be presented to the Regional Council for examination and shall have been duly passed for payment by the Regional Council before being paid. Liabilities in excess of monies actually in hand shall not be contracted without consultation with the Branches in the Region.

**26. ANNUAL REPORT AND BALANCE SHEET:**

Each Regional Council shall make a report of the activities in the Region and of the Regional Council during the previous year and shall present a duly audited Balance Sheet and Statement of Accounts for the previous year to the annual meeting of the Regional Council Headquarters and to all the Branches in the Region.

**NEW ZEALAND EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

**27. NEW ZEALAND EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETINGS:**

- a. The New Zealand Executive Council shall meet in person at least once in every four months in each and every year and the New Zealand Secretary shall give at least twenty-eight (28) days clear notice in writing of all such meetings.
- b. It shall also meet by telephone conference at least once in every four months in each and every year and the New Zealand Secretary shall give at least fourteen (14) days clear notice in writing of all such meetings.
- c. Notwithstanding the provisions of section (a) and (b) of this rule, if a majority of the New Zealand Executive Council is in favour, the New Zealand Secretary can call an emergency meeting in person or by telephone conference at shorter notice. Each member of the New Zealand Executive Council shall advise the Secretary promptly of his/her decision. In an event of even voting an emergency meeting shall not be held. Should any member of the New Zealand Council be unable to act, through illness or absence overseas or for any other reason, then his/her vote shall be recorded as being against the holding of the meeting. The President may consult with other members of the New Zealand Executive Council by telephone as to the need for an emergency meeting but the New Zealand Secretary shall not act until the advice from the members of the New Zealand Executive Council has been received.

**28. CHAIRMAN:**

The New Zealand President when attending New Zealand Executive Council meetings shall be Chairman. In the case of non-attendance of the New Zealand President the New Zealand Vice-President shall chair the meeting.

**29. STANDING ORDERS:**

The New Zealand Executive Council shall be empowered to adopt Standing Orders for the better management of the affairs, funds and business of the New Zealand Organisation, for the conduct of meetings of the New Zealand Executive Council and for the exercise of the powers and duties reposing in the New Zealand Executive Council under the Constitution and Bylaws of the Party and shall be empowered to alter, add to or rescind such Standing Orders or any of them **PROVIDED ALWAYS THAT** such Standing Orders shall not be repugnant to or inconsistent with the Constitution and Bylaws of the Party.

**30. ABSENCE FROM NEW ZEALAND EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETINGS:**

When a Regional President has been absent from any New Zealand Executive Council meeting without an apology on his behalf having been tendered to and sustained by that New Zealand Executive Council meeting then the New Zealand Secretary shall write to the Regional Council immediately concerned informing such Regional Council of such absence.

**31. SUBSTITUTE NEW ZEALAND EXECUTIVE COUNCILLORS:**

Nothing in these bylaws shall preclude a Regional Council from sending a substitute to a New Zealand Executive Council meeting in place of its elected Regional President whenever the necessity for so doing shall arise and in such event the provisions of Bylaw 30 hereof shall have no application.

**32. EXPENSES:**

Travelling expenses to New Zealand Executive Council meetings and to meetings of New Zealand Executive Council Committees incurred by the New Zealand Officers and all other members of the New Zealand Executive Council and by members of New Zealand Executive Council Committees required to attend such meetings shall be paid from the funds of the New Zealand Organisation and a boarding allowance at a rate to be determined from time to time by New Zealand Executive Council shall also be paid for the period covering such meetings **EXCEPT THAT** travelling and allowable boarding expenses incurred by Regional Presidents shall be paid by their respective Regional Councils.

**33. CONVENORS OF COMMITTEES:**

The Committees of the New Zealand Executive Council shall be presided over by Convenors who shall be elected annually by New Zealand Executive Council and shall remain Convenors until a successor is appointed.

**34. MEMBERS OF COMMITTEES:**

The Convenors of Committees shall nominate Party members who shall be currently financial members to serve on their respective Committees and shall have discretion as to the number of members invited to serve **PROVIDED ALWAYS THAT** the composition of such Committees shall be subject to confirmation by the New Zealand Executive Council. Such members of Committees need not necessarily be members of the New Zealand Executive Council. They shall cease to be members of the permanent committees as at the date of the New Zealand Conference immediately following their appointment. The New Zealand President shall be ex officio a member of all Committees.

**35. REPORTS OF CONVENORS:**

Convenors of Committees shall report in writing to the New Zealand Executive Council on the activities and findings of their respective Committees when called upon do so and shall furnish written reports to New Zealand Conference.

**SELECTION OF A CANDIDATE**

**36. FORM FOR NOMINATION OF CANDIDATE:**

The New Zealand Executive Council may prescribe a form on which nominations for selection as Candidates shall be made and in that event all such nominations shall be made on the prescribed form.

**37. SELECTION MEETINGS:**

All nominees for selection as Candidates shall be given the opportunity to address the selection meeting of the Electorate prior to the vote being taken for the selection or confirmation of the nominee.

**PARLIAMENTARY SECTION**

**38. CHAIRMAN:**

The Leader of the Parliamentary section when attending meetings of the Parliamentary section shall be Chairman of all such meetings. In the case of non-attendance of the Leader the meetings shall be chaired by the Deputy Leader of the Parliamentary section. In the case of non-attendance of the Leader or Deputy Leader the Parliamentary section shall elect one of its members to chair the meeting.

**39. SECRETARY/TREASURER:**

The members of the Parliamentary section shall elect a Secretary and a Treasurer, or a Secretary/Treasurer should they decide by a majority resolution that there is such a need.

**MISCELLANEOUS**

**40. STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS:**

The New Zealand Secretary shall be responsible for the furnishing and forwarding to the proper authority of all notices, reports, statements and other documents and papers required to be furnished by the Incorporated Societies Act 1908 and its amendments or by any other Statute for the time being in force.

**41. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS:**

- a. The Annual General Meeting of Branches shall be held in January or February, and at least seven (7) days clear notice of an Annual General Meeting shall be given to all members of a Branch either by newspaper advertisement or by notice sent by ordinary post.
- b. An Extra-ordinary General Meeting of members shall be called by a Branch Council if required by a petition signed by at least five (5) Branch members, such a meeting to be held within fourteen (14) days from the date of lodging the petition and called by notification to members of the Branch giving at least seven (7) clear days notice of the meeting.

**42. DISCIPLINARY ACTION:**

Action to expel from the Party or to remove from office may be commenced at a properly constituted meeting by the Branch Council of the Branch of which the person concerned is a member or by the Regional Council in which area that Branch lies or by the New Zealand Executive Council by an appropriate motion of which at least ten (10) days notice has been given setting out the reason for taking such action.

A copy of such motion shall be supplied to the member concerned with an invitation to be present and address the meeting and/or to submit in writing his/her reasons why no action should be taken against her/him.

On the motion being passed, application shall be made to New Zealand Executive Council for the member to be expelled or removed from office. On receipt of the application the member concerned shall be invited by New Zealand Executive Council to show cause in writing why such action should not be taken.

**43. CASTING VOTE:**

Where a question is put to any meeting held under the Rules and Bylaws of the Party and the result of the voting on that question is tied, the Chairman of that meeting shall have the right to exercise a casting vote **PROVIDED THAT** the Standing Orders of any meetings may vary the provisions of this Rule relating to that meeting.

