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## PREAMBLE

Dedicated to the proposition that Canadian workers, as citizens are entitled to secure and protect their mutual welfare and that of their families by all legitimate means, this autonomous Canadian Labour Centre is brought into being.

Inherent in this proposition is the attainment of its' economic, social and legislative objectives through the organization of Canadian workers in free trade unions, the promotion and advancement of their interests in all fields of common endeavour by the utilization of their collective strength, abilities and resources.

Founded to contribute to the realization of the legitimate aspirations of those who toil for a living, this organization will not deviate from their pursuit of the cause of peace, freedom and security for all peoples.

It will at all times, hold true to the high ideals and principles of social justice on which the Labour Movement was founded.

Unalterably opposed to corruption and totalitarian ideologies in all forms, it will utilize every resource at its' command to combat these evils wherever they may be found. It will seek to eliminate tyranny, oppression, exploitation, hunger and fear, as well as discrimination on the basis of race, colour, creed or national origin.

With a keen appreciation of the tremendous responsibilities which it has assumed, this organization accepts the challenge of the future to foster and defend the principles of democracy in the economic, social and political life of the nation.

BRANTFORD AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS  
( As Amended and Approved July 11\96 )

ARTICLE 1-

This Labour Council shall be known as the Brantford and District Labour Council, and is chartered by the Canadian Labour Congress. It shall consist of organizations located in the County of Brant and affiliated to the Canadian Labour Congress which become affiliated to this Labour Council. These organizations shall conform to the Constitution and the rules of regulations of this Council as set forth herewith. This Labour Council shall not be dissolved while there are five organizations remaining in affiliation.

ARTICLE 2-

The purpose of this Labour Council are;

- 1 - To support the principles and policies of the Canadian Labour Congress.
- 2 - To promote the interests of its affiliates and generally to advance the economic and social welfare of workers.
- 3 - (a) To assist affiliated organizations in extending its benefits of mutual assistance and collective bargaining to workers.  
  
(b) To assist in the organization of the un-organized into unions for their mutual aid, protection and advancement, giving recognition to the principle that both craft and industrial unions are appropriate, equal and necessary as methods of union organization.
- 4 - To encourage all workers without regard to race, creed, sex, age, colour, or national origin to share in the full benefits of union organization.
- 5 - To secure legislation which will safeguard and promote the principal of free collective bargaining, the rights of workers, and the security and welfare of all people.

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6 - To protect and strengthen our democratic institutions, to secure full recognition and enjoyment of the rights and liberties to which we are justly entitled, and to preserve and perpetuate the cherished traditions of our democracy.

7 - To promote the cause of peace and freedom in the world and to assist and co-operate with the free and democratic labour movements throughout the world.

8 - To aid and encourage the sale and use of union made goods and union services through the use of the union label and other symbols; to promote the labour press and other means of furthering the education of the labour movement.

9 - To protect the labour movement from any and all corrupt influences and from undermining efforts of all totalitarian agencies which are opposed to the basic principles of our democracy and free democratic unionism.

10- To safeguard the democratic character of the labour movement and to observe and respect the autonomy of each affiliated union.

11- While preserving the independence of the labour movement from political control, to encourage workers to vote, to exercise their full rights and responsibilities of citizenship, and to perform their rightful part in the political life of the municipal, provincial and federal governments.

### ARTICLE 3 - MEMBERSHIP

#### Section 1 - Obligation of Delegates

" I \_\_\_\_\_ sincerely promise and declare that I will obey the bylaws of this Labour Council and the Constitution of the Canadian Labour Congress. That I will be faithful to the duties devolving upon me as a delegate to this council, that I will attend all meetings of the Council, if possible and work at all times for and in the interests of this Council."

#### Section 2 - The Labour Council shall be composed of:

- (a) local unions, branches and lodges of the national and international unions, regional and provincial organizations affiliated to the Canadian Labour Congress,
- (b) local unions in the area chartered by the Canadian Labour Congress.

Section 3 - Any organization affiliated with this Labour Council may be expelled from membership in the Council by a majority roll call vote at a meeting. Any decision to expel may be appealed to the Executive Committee of the Canadian Labour Congress, within Two (2) months. The decision shall be in force and effect during the appeal.

Section 4 - It shall be the duty of each affiliated organization to furnish the Secretary of Council with the following:

- (a) All official reports which deal with matters within the purview of the Council,
- (b) Such other reports as will facilitate and make more effective the work of the Council.
- (c) A statement of their membership in good standing. Affiliates are encouraged to file with the Secretary, copies of their collective agreements.

Section 5 - C.L.C. officers, directors and representatives shall be accorded all rights and privileges of the delegates except the right to vote when they attend meetings of this Council. This also applies to O.F.L. officers.

Section 6 - C.L.C. officers, directors and representatives are eligible as delegates and where credentialed, will have the same rights as delegates, including the right to vote. This also applies to O.F.L. officers.

Section 7 - Any organization controlled or dominated by any totalitarian agency or whose policies and activities are consistently directed toward the achievement of the programme or purposes of any totalitarian movement shall not be permitted as affiliates to the Labour Council.

#### ARTICLE 4 - MEETINGS

Section 1 - The regular monthly meetings of this Labour Council shall be the governing body of the Council, except as provided in Article 20, its' decisions shall be by majority vote.

Section 2 - The regular meetings of the Council shall be held on the fourth (4th) Wednesday of each month at 7:30 sharp.

Section 3 - Sub-section A - Special meetings of the Council may be called by the direction of the Executive Council or on the request of the affiliated organizations representing a majority of the total membership of the Council as evidenced by the records of the Secretary.

**Sub-section B -** In the event a majority as provided in sub-section A requests a special meeting, the Executive Council shall call such meeting with seven (7) calendar days notice of the time and place for holding the special meeting, together with a statement of the business to be considered at such meet

**Sub-section C -** Representation to special meetings shall be on the same basis as regular meetings.

**Sub-section D -** Except as provided in Sub-section B, a special meeting shall exercise the same authority as regular meetings.

**Section 4 -** Representation to the Council shall be on the following basis; From affiliated local unions, branches and lodges, three (3) delegates for the first one hundred or less dues paying members and one additional delegate for each one hundred dues paying members or major fraction thereof, but not more than fifteen (15) delegates from any union, branch, or lodge, excepting amalgamated units which may seat one delegate from each of its units but not more than fifteen.

**Section 5 -** The number of members of each organization for the purpose of selecting delegates to the Council shall be the average monthly number on which per capita is paid

**Section 6 -** The secretary shall furnish each affiliate with credential blanks which must be attested to as required on the blanks and deposited at the regular Council meeting before new delegates may be seated in Council.

**Section 7 -** Any organization suspended or expelled by the Canadian Labour Congress or this Council, shall not, while under such penalty be allowed representation in the Council. Any organization which is in arrears to the Council for per capita tax three months or more shall not be entitled to recognition or representation in the Council.

**Section 8 -** Any person suspended by or expelled from any organization affiliated to this Council shall not be seated as a delegate.

**Section 9 -** Any organization controlled or dominated by any totalitarian agency shall not be allowed representation in this Council.

**Section 10 -** Any delegate being absent from four consecutive meetings of the Council (as per record kept by the Sergeant-At-Arms) without an excuse having been previously presented to the Secretary from the delegate or his/her organization, certifying to sickness, absence from the city, or engagement at night work, said delegate shall forfeit

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his/her seat, and immediate notice sent to his/her organization by the Secretary requesting a new credential for the vacant seat. The Secretary shall also revise official roll call and attendance card file for accurate use by the Sergeant-At-Arms.

Section 11 - Ten of the registered delegates representing at least five of the affiliated unions, shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

Section 12 - The rules and order of business governing meetings shall be;

- (a) The President, or in his/her absence or at his/her request, the First or Second Vice President shall take the chair at the time specified at all regular and special meetings. In the absence of both the President or his designated representative, a chair shall be chosen by the Executive Council.
- (b) No question of a sectarian character shall be discussed at meetings.
- (c) When a delegate wishes to speak, they shall be recognized by the Chair and shall give their name and the organization they represent and shall confine their remarks to the question at issue.
- (d) A delegate shall not speak more than once upon a subject until all who wish to speak have had an opportunity to do so.
- (e) A delegate shall not interrupt another except to call a point order.
- (f) If a delegate is called to order, they shall, at the request of the Chair, take their seat until the question of order has been decided.
- (g) Should a delegate persist in unparliamentary conduct, the Chair will be compelled to name them and submit their conduct to the judgement of the meeting. In such case, the delegate whose conduct is in question shall explain and then withdraw and the meeting will determine what course to pursue in the matter.
- (h) When a question is put, the Chair after announcing the question shall ask "Are you ready for the question?" If no delegate wishes to speak, the question shall be put.
- (i) Questions may be decided by a show of hands or a standing vote, but a roll call vote may be demanded by 30 percent of the delegates present. In a roll call vote, each delegate shall be entitled to one vote.

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(j) Two delegates may appeal the decision of the Chair. The Chair shall put the questions thus: " Shall the decision of the Chair be sustained" , The question shall not be debatable except that the Chair may make an explanation of their decision.

(k) The Chair shall have the same right as other delegates to vote on any questions. In case of a tie they shall cast the deciding vote.

(l) When the previous question is moved, no discussion or amendment of either motion is permitted. If the majority vote that the question be put the original action has to be without debate. If the motion to put the question is defeated, discussion will continue on the original motion.

(m) A motion may be reconsidered provided the mover of the motion to reconsider voted with the majority and notice of motion is given for consideration at the next meeting and said notice of motion is supported by two thirds of the delegates qualified to vote.

(n) In the event officers of the Council fail to call meetings or otherwise fail to carry out their duties and responsibilities, The Congress shall take whatever measures are necessary to re-organize the Council.

(o) In all matters not regulated by these rules of order, Bourinot's Rules of Order shall govern.

(p) i- No motion to permit the expenditure of more than one hundred (\$100.00) dollars shall be voted on at any membership meeting, unless such motion is contained in the Executive Board recommendations or in the report of any Standing Committee, such item must have been contained in the Committee minutes.

ii- Any motion from the floor under new business to authorize an expenditure of more than one hundred (\$100.00) dollars shall lay on the table until the next regular meeting of the general membership, when it shall be dealt with under the heading of 'Executive Board Recommendations'.

## ARTICLE 5 - OFFICERS

Section 1 - The officers of the Council shall consist of a President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Sergeant-At-Arms, and six Executive members.

**Section 2** - Each officer shall be a member in good standing of an affiliated organization. No one shall be eligible for election unless he/she has attended 50 percent of the meetings of Council in the previous six months.

**Section 3** - The officers shall be elected by the Council at the Annual Meetings, which shall be held within the first quarter of the year. The President, Secretary, Treasurer, 1st Vice-President, 2nd Vice-President, Sergeant-At-Arms for two year term and Executive at large for 1 year term.

**Section 4** - Election of Officers shall be by secret ballot. A majority of votes cast shall be required before any candidate can be declared elected, and second and subsequent ballots shall be taken if necessary to obtain majority. On the second and subsequent ballots, the candidate receiving the lowest number of votes in the previous ballot shall be dropped. In the case of a tie vote, the presiding officer may cast the deciding vote.

**Section 5** - The election of each office shall be completed before nominations may be accepted for any subsequent office.

**Section 6 - Subsection A** - Nominees allowing their name to go forward for the office of President, Vice President (s), Secretary, Treasurer, Sergeant-At-Arms, and executive members shall upon acceptance of nomination, come forward and clearly and audibly speak the following lines to the assembled delegates..." In accepting nomination, I swear and affirm that I will faithfully support the Constitution, principles and policies of the Canadian Labour Congress and the Bylaws of this Labour Council.

**- Subsection B** - Officers shall be installed by a Past President or any member of the Council chosen for the purpose. Each officer, before assuming his duties shall be required to take the following obligation....." I sincerely promise and declare that I will be faithful to the duties devolving upon me as an officer of this Council, attend all meetings of this Council if possible, and at the end of my term of office deliver up to the Council or to my regular successor, all books, funds, or other property in my possession belonging to this Council."

**Section 7** - The term of officers of the Council shall commence upon the completion of election.

**Section 8** - In an event of a vacancy in the office of the President, the First Vice President shall become President and fill the term of office if, the 1st/2nd Vice President is unable to act in this matter, the office of President will be filled by election at the next General Meeting.

Section 9- In the event of a vacancy in any office of the Council, except the President, the vacancy shall be filled by the Executive Board appointment. Said appointment to come to the General Membership, the meeting immediately following the appointment(s) in question.

Section 10 - The Executive Officers shall hold title to any real estate of the Council as trustees for the Council. They shall have no right to sell, convey or encumber any real estate without first submitting the proposition to a meeting and such proposition is approved.

#### ARTICLE 6 - DUTIES OF THE PRESIDENT

Section 1- The President shall function as the Chief Executive Officer of the Labour Council, and shall be a Labour Council delegate to all conventions and shall be ex-officio member of all committees of the Labour Council, and shall exercise supervision over the affairs of the Labour Council, sign all official documents and preside at the regular and special meetings.

Section 2- Subject to appeal to the Canadian Labour Congress, the President shall have authority to interpret this Constitution and his interpretation shall be conclusive and in full force and effect unless reversed or changed by the Executive Council or at a meeting of the Canadian Labour Congress.

Section 3- As a signing officer, the President shall be bonded for such amount as may be determined by the Executive Council.

Section 4- The President shall employ such staff and representatives as are necessary and shall fix their compensation subject to the approval of the Executive Board of the Labour Council. The direction of all the staff and representatives shall be the responsibility of the President or their designated representative.

Section 5- The President shall be automatically selected as a member of all delegations or representative groups from Labour Council to other organizations.

#### ARTICLE 7 - DUTIES OF THE VICE PRESIDENTS

Section 1- The First and Second Vice Presidents shall aid the president in the duties as chief executive officer of the Council and act on behalf of the president when required to do so. It shall be the duty of the First Vice President to act as Chair of the Executive Council.