NFU 56th Annual Convention

November 19 to 21, 2025, Crowne Plaza Hotel, Moncton, New Brunswick

Steering Committee Report

(1) That Convention Co-Chairpersons shall be Dianne Dowling, Kate Storey, Geneviève Latour, and Aaron Shantz.

(2) That visiting members have all privileges except moving, seconding and voting on resolutions and motions, or voting in elections.

(3) That this convention be a safe space where all attendants feel relaxed and be able to fully express themselves without fear of being made to feel uncomfortable, unwelcome, or unsafe on account of biological sex, race/ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, cultural background, religious affiliation, age, or physical or mental ability.

(4) That this convention be open to the media and to guests except for the presentation of the financial statement and budget beginning Wednesday, November 19 at 4:30 PM (Atlantic Time).

(5) The Board has appointed Phil Mount, Al Birchard, Hannah Dwyer, Ari Westhaver, and Will Robbins to act on the Resolutions Committee. The Steering Committee recommends that a further 2 members be elected from the floor to represent the general membership.

(6) Any non-emergency resolutions shall be referred to the Resolutions Committee for presentation to the Convention if 2/3 majority of delegates voting approve that it be referred, provided they are received by the National Office by Saturday, November 15. If deemed by the Steering Committee to be of an emergency nature, Emergency Resolutions from the floor may be introduced prior to 3:20 PM (Atlantic Time) on Thursday November 20th.

(7) That a time limit of two minutes per speaker be imposed when debating motions or resolutions, or asking questions.

(8) That a time limit of 20 minutes per resolution be imposed.

(9) That a seconder of a resolution has the privilege of opening and closing the debate. In the case of motions or amendments from the floor, the mover shall have the privilege of opening and/or closing debate.

(10) That members consider actively creating space for other voices, ceding position to those who have not yet addressed the issues at hand, in an effort to make Convention more inviting and inclusive to all. With a similar goal, the Chairs may also, at their discretion, call on those who have not yet had a chance to speak, rather than acknowledging speakers strictly in the order in which they approach the mic.

(11) If time permits, those who wish to speak twice may do so.

(12) With the exception of Constitutional Amendments, that the chairperson calls for an opposite view after hearing two speakers for or against a motion. If no opposing view is heard, the chairperson will call the question after affording the mover or seconder, as the case may be, the opportunity to close debate.

(13) During debate on Constitutional Amendments, that the chairperson calls for an opposite view after hearing two speakers for or against a motion. If no opposing view is heard, the chairperson will resume hearing from their speakers list.

(14) Delegates attending via Zoom have been identified with a “D” in front of their name on the Zoom participant list. Delegates attending in-person will be identified with a delegate name badge. Only delegates may vote either by using the Zoom platform or voting card.

(15) A delegate may call for a recount; however, such appeal for recount shall occur prior to the next order of business.

(16) Julie Maxwell, Al Birchard, and Claire Perttula have been appointed to act as the Nominations Committee.

(17) David Thompson has been appointed to act as Returning Officer. Joan Lange, Cathy Holtslander, James Hannay, and Sarah Marquis will act as alternates.

(18) Nominations for National Officers may be submitted to the Nominating Committee. Nominations received to date for the various National Officers will be displayed in the public Zoom chat and announced verbally by the Chairs periodically during the Convention. Delegates may submit nominations to the Nominations Committee, with the consent of the nominee. Nominations may also be made from the floor of the Convention for any National Officer at the time nominations are called for on the agenda. A nominee who is nominated will be requested to declare his or her intent.

(19) If more than one candidate is offering for presidential and vice-presidential position(s), the Steering Committee will establish a question period of the nominees. Only nominees who have declared themselves candidates for office will be permitted to address the Convention. In the event of an election, a five-minute time limit per address will be permitted. The order of declarations shall be reverse of the order of nominations.

(20) Only credentialed delegates may vote in elections.

Online: Those on computers will vote confidentially using a poll. Those on telephone will have a time period that is no less than 30 minutes to phone Joan Lange at 306-280-3232 with their confidential vote.

In-Person: To vote in elections, delegates must display their delegate's badge. Only delegates inside the convention hall will receive a ballot. While the vote is being conducted, the doors will be tiled.

(21) The elected National Officers shall require a clear majority to be elected. If more than two are running for any position and there is no clear majority on the first ballot, the one receiving the lowest number of votes shall be dropped and a second balloting held, etc.

(22) Results of elections shall be announced to the Convention by the Returning Officer. Numbers are announced.

(23) After each vote is decided, the Chairperson shall call for a motion to destroy the ballots and delete the electronic file where votes were recorded.

(24) Materials to be displayed or circulated at the Convention must be approved by the Steering Committee.

(25) Online technology requires all attendees' microphones to be muted during panels and speakers. Attendees will be provided with instructions on how to reach out if they are muted and need to speak urgently (i.e. challenging the chair).

(26) Once adopted, rules of the Steering Committee can only be suspended or amended if 2/3 majority of voting delegates support a motion to suspend a rule or rules.

(27) This Convention shall be governed by Parliamentary Procedure at a Glance (as recorded in O. Garfield Jones).

Steering Committee Co-Chairpersons: Jenn Pfenning and Julie Maxwell

Steering Committee Members: Jenn Pfenning, Phil Mount, Julie Maxwell, Cady Foreman, Adama Bundu, Claire Perttula, Al Birchard, Hannah Dwyer