

## **BY-LAWS**

### **BY-LAWS FOR A NON-PROFIT SOCIETY**

WHEREAS the Nova Scotia Hospice Palliative Care Association was incorporated under the Society's Act, c. 435, R.S.N.S. 1989, on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of July, 1994;

AND WHEREAS the Society is empowered under the Act to make by-laws;

THEREFORE, the Society makes by-laws as follows, which replace all previous by-laws of the Society;

### **Definitions**

1. In these by-laws:
  - (a) "Society" means Nova Scotia Hospice Palliative Care Association
  - (b) "Registrar" means the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies appointed under the Nova Scotia Companies Act.
  - (c) "Special Resolution" means a resolution passed by not less than three-fourths of such members entitled to vote as are present in person or by proxy, where proxies are allowed, at a general meeting of which notice specifying the intention to propose the resolution as a special resolution has been duly given.

### **Membership Rights and Responsibilities**

2. The Society is ultimately accountable to the members of the Society.
3. Every member is entitled to attend any members' meeting of the Society.
4. Every member may vote at any members' meeting of the Society after they have attended at least one previous members' meeting.
5. Any member of legal age, or with their guardian's written consent, is entitled to hold any office.

6. Membership in the Society shall consist of those members determined by the criteria set out in Schedule "A" annexed to these By-Laws.
7. Membership in the Society is not transferable.
8. Membership in the Society shall cease:
  - (a) upon death, or
  - (b) if the member resigns by written notice to the Society, or
  - (c) if the member ceases to qualify for membership in accordance with these by-laws, or
  - (d) if, by a vote of the majority of the members of the society or a majority vote of the Directors of the Society at a meeting duly called and for which notice of the proposed action has been given, the Member's membership in the Society has been terminated, or
  - (e) failure to pay membership fee.
9. The members may repeal, amend or add to these by-laws by a special resolution. No by-law or amendment to by-laws shall take effect until the Registrar approves of it.
10. No funds of the society shall be paid to or be available for the personal benefit of any member.

### **Members' Meetings**

11. Every member, subject to by-law 4, shall have one vote and no more and there shall be no proxy voting.
12. A general or special meeting of the members may be held at any time and shall be called:
  - (a) if requested by the chair, or
  - (b) if requested by a majority of the directors, or
  - (c) if requested in writing by 25% of the members.
13. Notice to members is required for general or special meetings. The notice must:
  - (a) specify the date, place and time of the meeting,
  - (b) be given to the members seven (7) days prior to the meeting,
  - (c) be given to the members by newsletters, newspapers, television, radio, e-mail, telephone, fax and/or other electronic means,

- (d) specify the nature of business, such as the intention to propose a special resolution, and
- (e) the non-receipt of notice by any member shall not invalidate the proceedings.

14. An annual general meeting shall be held within three months after every fiscal year end and notice is required which must:

- (a) specify the date, place and time of the meeting,
- (b) be given to the members thirty (30) days prior to the meeting,
- (c) be given to the members by newsletters, newspapers, television, radio, e-mail, telephone, fax and/or other electronic means,
- (d) specify the intention to propose a special resolution, and
- (e) the non-receipt of notice by any member shall not invalidate the proceedings.

15. At the annual general meeting of the Society the following items of business shall be dealt with and shall be deemed ordinary business and all other business transacted shall be deemed special business:

- (a) minutes of the previous annual general meeting,
- (b) consideration of the annual report of the directors,
- (c) consideration of the annual financial report of the Society,
- (d) the appointment of auditors for the ensuing year, and
- (e) election of directors.

16. Quorum shall consist of 25% of members. No business shall be conducted at any meeting unless a quorum is present to open the meeting and, upon request, before any vote.

17. (a) If a meeting is convened as per by-law 12(a) or 12(b) and quorum is not present within one-half hour from the time appointed for the meeting, it shall be adjourned to such time and place as a majority of the members present shall decide. Notice of the new meeting shall be given and at the adjourned meeting the members present shall constitute quorum only for the purpose of winding up the Society.

(b) If a meeting is convened at the request of the members as per by-law 12(c) and quorum is not present within one-half hour from the time appointed for the meeting, it shall be dissolved.

18. The President, or in his/her absence, the Vice-President, or in the absence of both of them, any member appointed from among those present, shall preside as Chair at members' meetings.
19. Where there is an equality of votes the Chair shall have a casting vote in addition to the vote he/she has as a member.
20. The Chair may, with the consent of the meeting, adjourn any meeting. No business shall be transacted at the subsequent meeting other than the business left unfinished at the adjourned meeting unless notice of such new business is given to the members.
21. At any meeting a declaration by the Chair that a resolution has been carried is sufficient unless a poll is demanded by at least three members. If a poll is demanded it shall be held by show of hands or by secret ballot as the Chair may decide.

### **Directors**

22. Any member of the society shall be eligible to be elected a director of the Society and a director of the society shall be a member.
23. The number, qualification and nomination of directors shall be in accordance with the provisions contained in Schedule "B" annexed to these By-Laws.
24. Directors whose term has expired shall retire from office at the end of each annual general meeting at which their successors are elected. Retiring directors shall be eligible for re-election. Directors shall be elected to a 2 year term.
25. If a director resigns his/her office or ceases to be a member in the Society, his/her office as director shall be vacated and the vacancy may be filled for the unexpired portion of the term by the board of directors from among the members of the Society.
26. The members may, by special resolution, remove any director and appoint another person to complete the term of office.
27. The management of the Society is the responsibility of the directors. In particular, the directors may engage a General Manager, and determine his/her duties, responsibilities and remuneration.
28. The directors may appoint an executive committee and other committees as they see fit.
29. Directors who have, or could reasonably be seen to have, a conflict of interest have a duty to declare this interest. The declaration should be made to the members
  - (a) upon nomination, and

(b) if serving as a director, when the possibility of a conflict is realized.

30. A conflict of interest does not prevent a member from serving as a director provided that he/she withdraws from the decision making on matters pertaining to that interest. The withdrawal should be recorded in the minutes.

### **Directors' Meetings**

31. The board of directors shall meet no less than 4 times each year.

32. A meeting of directors may be held at the close of every annual general meeting without notice for the purpose of electing officers. For all other board meetings, notice is required and must:

(a) specify the date, place and time of the meeting,

(b) be given to the directors seven (7) days prior to the meeting,

(c) be given to the directors by newsletters, radio, public bulletin boards, e-mail, telephone, fax and/or other electronic means,

(d) the non-receipt of notice by any director shall not invalidate the proceedings.

(e) Notice can be waived for board meetings with the unanimous approval of the Board.

33. Quorum shall consist of 33% of the directors. No business shall be conducted at any meeting of the board of directors unless a quorum is present to open the meeting and, upon request, before any vote.

34. The President or, in his/her absence, the Vice-President or, in the absence of both of them, any director appointed from among the directors shall preside as Chair of the Board.

35. At directors' meetings, where there is an equality of votes the Chairperson shall have a casting vote in addition to the vote to which the Chairperson is entitled as a director.

### **Officers**

36. The officers shall be elected by the directors and shall be a President, a Vice-President, a Treasurer, a Corporate Secretary, the Past President and any of the Chairs and/or Co-Chairs of any standing committees as may be determined by the directors. The offices of Treasurer and Corporate Secretary may be combined. The duties of the Past President and any of the Chairs and/or Co-Chairs shall be determined from time to time by the directors. The directors shall determine what if any standing committees shall be created and shall assign their activities and responsibilities.

37. One of the officers shall be the President. The President shall be responsible for the effectiveness of the board and shall perform other duties as assigned by the members or the directors.
38. One of the officers shall be the Vice-President. The Vice-President shall perform the duties of the Chair during the absence, illness or incapacity of the President, or when the Chair may request him/her to do so.
39. One of the officers shall be the Corporate Secretary. The Corporate Secretary shall:
- (a) have responsibility for the preparation and custody of all books and records including:
    - 1. the minutes of members' meetings,
    - 2. the minutes of directors' meetings,
    - 3. the register of members, and
    - 4. filing the annual requirements with the office of the Registrar, and
  - (b) have custody of the Seal, if any, which may be affixed to any document upon resolution of the board of directors, and
  - (c) file with the Registrar:
    - 1. within fourteen (14) days of their election or appointment, a list of directors with their addresses, occupations, and dates of appointment or election
    - 2. a copy of every special resolution within fourteen (14) days after the resolution is passed, and
  - (d) have other duties as assigned by the board.
40. The directors may also appoint a Recording Secretary
- (a) who is responsible for taking minutes of all board and members' meetings, and
  - (b) who need not be a director.
41. One of the officers shall be the Treasurer. The Treasurer shall have responsibility for the custody of all financial books and records of the Society, and carry out all other duties as assigned by the board.

42. Contracts, deeds, bills of exchange and other instruments and documents may be executed on behalf of the Society by either the President or the Vice-President together with the Corporate Secretary [2 signatures required], or otherwise as prescribed by resolution of the Board of Directors.

### **Finance**

43. The fiscal year end of the Society shall be the last day of March.

44. The directors shall annually present to the members a written report on the financial position of the Society. The report shall be in the form of:

- (a) a balance sheet showing its assets, liabilities and equity, and
- (b) a statement of its income and expenditure in the preceding fiscal year.

45. A copy of the financial report shall be signed by the auditor or by two directors.

46. A signed copy of the financial report shall be filed with the Registrar within fourteen (14) days after each annual meeting.

47. An auditor of the Society may be appointed by the members at the annual general meeting and, if the members fail to appoint an auditor, the directors may do so.

48. The Society may only borrow money as approved by a special resolution of the members.

49. The members may inspect the annual financial statements and minutes of membership and directors meetings at the registered office of the Society with one week's notice. All other books and records of the Society may be inspected by any member at any reasonable time within two days prior to the annual general meeting at the registered office of the Society.

50. Directors and officers shall serve without remuneration and shall not receive any profit from their positions. However, a director or officer may be paid reasonable expenses incurred in the performance of his/her duties.

51. The Society shall not make loans, guarantee loans or advance funds to any director.

### **Schedule "A"**

Membership in the Society shall be based on two categories:

Individual: Any person or person representing an organization/group interested in furthering the objectives of the Society.

Honorary Life Memberships: Individuals or organizations so designated by the Executive and ratified by a majority of the voting delegates present at a general meeting of the Society.

Every individual and honorary life member of the Society shall be entitled to attend any meeting of the Society, to vote at any meeting of the Society and to hold an office.

Membership in the Society requires:

Applying for membership in the Association; and

Paying an annual membership fee in such amount as the Board of Directors of the Society may from time to time establish.

No formal admission to membership shall be required and the entry in the Register of Members by the secretary of the name and address of any organization or individual shall constitute an admission to membership in the Society.

#### **Schedule "B"**

The number of directors shall be not less than 8 and not more than 16.

The Directors shall be elected by the members at the annual general meeting of the Society.

The directors shall be elected from the candidates nominated by the current directors or from candidates nominated at the annual general meeting.

The Directors shall be elected for a term of two years, renewal up to a maximum of three (3) terms.