

National Association of Federal Retirees

North Island - John Finn Branch
By-Laws

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National Association
of Federal Retirees

Association nationale
des retraités fédéraux

BY-LAWS

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FEDERAL RETIREES NORTH ISLAND - JOHN FINN BRANCH

PART I - Definitions

“Act” means the Canada Not-for-profit Corporations Act.

“Association” means the National Association of Federal Retirees

“Board” means the board of Directors of the Association and, for further certainty, does not include the board of directors of a Branch.

“Branch executive” means the group of volunteers elected by the members of the Branch to conduct and manage the business of the Branch.

“Majority”, unless otherwise specified, means 50% + 1 of those eligible to vote.

PART II – The Branch

2.1 The Branch is an entity and agent of the National Association of Federal Retirees (“the Association”), established by the Charter issued by the Board, on 31 December 1982

2.2 The Branch is subject to the Association’s National by-laws.

2.3 As an agent of the Association, the Branch provides services to the members and carries out local programs consistent with the purpose, strategic direction and policies of the Association.

2.3.1 Core Functions

The core services of the Branch are:

- a) Advocacy, at the local level, in support of nationally approved strategic advocacy priorities to:
 - i) Advocate measures to protect and promote the pensions, benefits and general welfare of members and potential members;
 - ii) Oppose measures detrimental to the interests of members and potential members;
- b) Information sharing;
- c) Membership recruitment and engagement;
- d) Member support – Connecting individual members and their families with the information they need to access their pensions and benefits;
- e) Volunteer support and development;
- f) Financial management – Responsible management of Branch finances and programs; and
- g) Governance – Sound governance in accordance with applicable laws, by-laws and policies.

2.4 Not for profit

The Branch shall carry out its operations without financial benefit to its members. Any profit or other financial gain accruing to the Branch shall be used to promote the objectives of the Association.

PART III - Membership

3.1 Eligibility

A person eligible for membership in the Association is eligible for membership in the Branch.

3.2 **Termination**

A person's membership in the Branch terminates automatically upon termination of membership in the Association.

3.3 **Allocation**

The administrative area of the Branch is assigned by the National Board. New members who reside within that area shall be allocated to the Branch unless they specifically request allocation to another Branch.

3.3.1 Members may request re-allocation to another Branch at any time.

3.3.2 In the event of the dissolution of the Branch, members shall be re-allocated by the Board to adjacent Branches.

3.4 **Code of Conduct**

All members shall abide by the Association's Code of Conduct and, if found to be in contravention of the Code, may be subject to discipline in accordance with the Association's By-laws and Regulations.

PART IV – Membership Fees

4.1 Membership fees are set by the Association.

4.2 The Branch is responsible for remitting to the Association National Office, quarterly, the national portion of any membership fees received by the Branch.

PART V – Branch Executive

5.1 Branch directors must be valid members of the Association. If membership lapses or is terminated by either the member or the Association, the director immediately ceases to hold office.

5.1.1 **Composition**

The Branch executive shall include:

- a) five directors elected to the following officer positions: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary and Membership Director; and
- b) an additional eight to ten elected directors who may be assigned specific responsibilities as needed.

5.1.2 The Branch executive may appoint the past-President as an ex officio director.

5.2 **President**

The President, as chair, shall call and chair Branch executive Meetings, Branch General Meetings and Branch Annual Meetings.

5.2.1 The President shall serve as the chief spokesperson of the Branch and represent the Branch at National Meetings of Members.

5.2.2 The President shall have such other duties and powers as the Branch executive may specify.

5.3 **Vice President**

The Vice President shall assume the duties of President in the event of the President's absence, disability, or refusal to act. The Vice President shall have such other duties and powers as the Branch executive may specify.

5.4 **Treasurer**

The Treasurer shall keep the financial accounts and records of the Branch and shall exercise primary signing authority for expenditures.

- 5.4.1 At each Branch Annual Meeting, the Treasurer shall submit:
- a) a report of the Branch finances for the previous fiscal year, and
 - b) a budget forecast for the current and following fiscal years.
- 5.5 **Secretary**
- The Secretary shall keep minutes of Branch members' and Branch executive meetings and prepare correspondence as required.
- 5.6 **Membership Director**
- The Membership Director shall receive payments from new and renewing members; ensure that accurate membership records are maintained; review the currency of memberships; and provide regular reports to the executive and membership.
- 5.7 **Appointment of Officers**
- The Branch executive may appoint members to serve as officers with duties and responsibilities and may specify and amend the officers' duties and responsibilities as required, except ones defined in these by-laws, which require member approval to change.
- 5.7.1 An appointment may be withdrawn and responsibility reassigned to another member at any time by majority vote of the Branch executive. Withdrawal of an appointment does not affect the subject director's status as a member of the Branch executive.
- 5.8 **Past President**
- The Branch executive may appoint the Past President to serve as an ex officio voting member. The Past President shall have such other duties and powers as the Branch executive may specify.
- 5.9 The Branch executive shall manage and supervise the affairs of the Branch subject to the Act, the By-laws and national policies of the Association, and these by-laws. The Branch executive is, at all times, accountable to the Board of the Association.
- 5.9.1 The Branch executive is responsible for maintaining Branch records including Branch financial and administrative reports and for submitting reports, as required, to the National Office of the Association.

PART VI - Nominations and Elections

- 6.1 **Nominations Committee**
- The Branch President shall, at least 120 days prior to the date of the Branch Annual Meeting, appoint a Chair of the Nominations Committee.
- 6.1.1 The Chair of the Nominations Committee may select other Branch members to serve on the Committee.
- 6.1.2 The role of the Nominations Committee is to assist with the nomination and election of eligible Branch members to available positions on the Branch executive.
- 6.1.3 The Nominations Committee shall call for nomination of candidates for available positions and shall present to the Branch Annual Meeting a list of eligible candidates for each available position.
- 6.2 **Nominations from the floor**
- Branch members may make additional nominations from the floor at the Branch Annual Meeting. If a member is absent when nominated, the nomination must be supported by a written statement from the nominee indicating the nominee's willingness to serve.
- 6.3 **Election process**
- The Chair of the Nominations Committee shall conduct an election for each available position. Where there are multiple candidates for a position, there will be a series of votes, with the candidate

who receives the lowest number of votes dropping off the ballot after each vote, until one candidate receives a majority of the votes cast.

6.3.1 The vote shall be by show of hands unless a secret ballot is requested. If a secret ballot is requested, each of the candidates may name a scrutineer to examine the ballots cast and witness the count of the ballots by the Chair of the Nominations Committee.

6.3.2 All ballots shall be destroyed by the Chair of the Nominations Committee after the elections.

6.4 **Election and Term of Office**

Members of the Branch executive shall be elected at the Branch Annual Meeting, for a term of two years. The term commences at the close of the Annual meeting at which they are elected.

6.5 **Staggering of Terms**

To avoid having the entire executive turn over at the same time, terms shall be arranged so that approximately one-half of the directors stand for election in any given year.

6.6 **Vacancies**

In the event that any position on the Branch executive becomes vacant, the remaining directors of the Branch executive may fill the position by appointment until the next Branch Annual Meeting, at which time the position shall be filled by election.

6.6.1 In the event that no candidate is presented at the Branch Annual Meeting to fill a vacant position, the Branch executive may fill the position by appointment for a term of one year. Where a Director is appointed to fill the remainder of the term of a position that has become vacant, the partial term shall not be counted in any calculation of consecutive terms.

6.7 **Director Automatic Vacancy**

The position of director shall be automatically vacated:

- a) if the director resigns by delivering a written resignation to the Branch President, Vice President, or Treasurer; or
- b) if the director becomes ineligible to hold office in accordance with the Act, the National by-laws, or these by-laws; or
- c) if the director is removed by an Ordinary Resolution of members in accordance with the Act; or
- d) The director has missed six consecutive regularly scheduled executive meetings.

Part VII - Committees

7.1 The Branch executive may establish ad hoc committees as required with such objectives and resources as the Branch executive specifies. An ad hoc committee shall include at least one member of the Branch executive.

7.2 The Branch President or executive shall annually appoint a Nominations Committee to assist with the nomination and election of directors.

7.3 The Branch President or executive shall annually nominate a Financial Review Committee to examine the Branch accounts and report to the membership at the Branch Annual Meeting. No member of the executive may serve on such a committee.

Part VIII – Branch Meetings

8.1 **Branch Annual Meeting**

The Branch shall hold a Branch Annual Meeting to conduct the mandatory business of the Branch.

8.1.1 The Branch executive shall determine the date, location, and agenda of the meeting. The date shall be no later than April 15th.

8.1.2 **Agenda - Mandatory Business**

At every Branch Annual Meeting, the members assembled shall:

- a) Approve a record of proceedings of the last Branch Annual Meeting and any Special Branch Meetings held since then;
- b) Receive a report from the President concerning the activities of the Branch executive since the previous meeting and outlining the plans and priorities for the current and following year;
- c) Receive the reviewed financial records for the previous financial year;
- d) Receive the budget for the current year and the forecast for the next fiscal year;
- e) Approve a financial review committee for the current fiscal year. No member of the executive may serve on this committee;
- f) Consider any proposals for amendment of the Branch by-laws, notice of which was included in the notice for the meeting.
- g) Conduct elections for the Branch executive;
- h) Conduct other such business as may be properly brought before the meeting.

8.1.3 Copies of the record of proceedings for Branch Annual or Special Meetings and a copy of the approved financial report shall be forwarded to National Office no later than May 15th.

8.2 **Branch Special Meetings**

A Branch Special Meeting may be held at the call of the Branch executive at such time and place as the Branch executive may designate.

8.2.1 A Branch Special Meeting must be held upon the written request of 100 Branch Members within 30 days of receipt of the request by the Branch executive.

8.2.2 A Branch Special Meeting may deal only with the business listed in the notice of the meeting and any matter that arises directly from that business.

8.2.3 **Record of Proceedings**

The record of proceedings of a Branch Special Meeting shall be tabled at the next Branch Annual Meeting.

8.3 **Branch General Meetings**

At the call of the Branch executive, the Branch may hold a number of general meetings, intended for information sharing or social functions, during the year. A general meeting may include a business meeting, if required, but the business may not include proposals to amend the Branch by-laws or elect directors.

8.4 **Notice of Branch Meetings**

The Branch executive shall ensure that members are given adequate notice of Branch Meetings.

8.4.1 For a Branch Annual, Special or General meeting, notice shall be given at least 14 days prior to the meeting.

8.5 **Quorum**

At any Branch Annual, Special or General meeting, the quorum required to conduct business is 50 members.

8.6 **Branch Executive Meetings**

Meetings of the Branch executive shall be held monthly except during the months of July and August. This requirement may be reduced by a majority decision of the executive but no more than three months shall elapse between meetings.

8.6.1 **Special Branch Executive Meetings**

A Special Branch executive Meeting will be called upon the written request of at least five directors within 14 days of receipt of the request by the Branch President or, in his/her absence, the Vice President. Such a meeting may deal only with the business listed in the request and any matter that arises directly from that request.

8.6.2 The quorum for a meeting of the Branch executive is a simple majority of the directors then in office.

8.6.3 Minutes of all executive meetings will be kept and archived.

8.6.4 **Means of Communication**

A meeting of the executive may be conducted by telephonic, electronic, or other means of communication that permits all Directors to communicate adequately with each other. A Director participating by such means shall be deemed present at the meeting.

8.7 **Decision-Making**

Fundamental proposals

Any member may submit for consideration at a National Annual Meeting of Members, a proposal to amend special fundamental parts of the Association's Articles or By-laws pursuant to the Act.

8.7.1 **Branch endorsement**

A fundamental proposal shall be considered to have the endorsement of the Branch if it receives the support of a majority of the Branch executive or a majority of the votes cast at an Annual or Special Branch Meeting.

8.8 **Branch Proposals to the Association's Annual Meeting**

In accordance with the National By-Laws, the Branch President may, on behalf of the Branch, submit proposals for consideration at a National Annual Meeting of Members or a Special Meeting of Members. To be submitted on behalf of the Branch, a proposal must receive the support of a majority of the Branch executive or a majority of the votes cast at a Branch Annual or Special Meeting.

8.9 **Procedure**

Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised is the authority on meeting procedure to be followed at Branch meetings unless the members approve the use of other rules of order.

PART IX – Financial Administration

9.1 **Fiscal Year**

For financial reporting and audit purposes, the Branch fiscal year is the calendar year.

9.2 **Signing authority**

The Branch executive shall designate who has the authority to sign contracts and make payments on behalf of the Branch. Two signatures are required to authorize cheques subject to the following constraints:

- a) Spouses may not both hold signing authority;
- b) two persons in a family, domestic or business relationship may not both hold signing authority; and
- c) no person shall sign a cheque made out in their own name.

9.3 **Banking**

The banking business of the Branch shall be conducted at such bank, trust company or other firm or corporation carrying on a banking business designated by the Branch executive, in compliance with the national policy. The Treasurer shall have primary responsibility for conducting the banking business of the Branch.

9.4 **Spending Authority**

The Branch executive shall have authority to make expenditures listed in the budget forecast from the Branch Annual Meeting and otherwise shall have authority to make expenditures as needed up to a set amount as established by the National Board of Directors.

9.4.1 An expenditure that was not included in the budget forecast requires the approval of a majority of the votes cast at a Branch Special or General Meeting. An expenditure greater than the Branch set limit requires approval by National Office or the National Board of Directors.

9.4.2 If approval is sought at a Branch General meeting, notice of the proposal must be given in the notice for the meeting, at least 14 days prior to the meeting.

9.5 **Borrowing Authority**

The Branch shall not have any authority to borrow money.

9.6 **Defence of Benefits Emergency Reserve Fund**

The Branch may establish and maintain a reserve fund, known as the Defence of Benefits Reserve Fund, withdrawals from which may be made only to support initiatives to promote or protect significant pension or health benefits.

9.6.1 **Maximum Amount**

The maximum amount to be held in the Defence of Benefits Reserve may be set at a Branch Annual Meeting by a proposal receiving a majority of the votes cast.

9.6.2 The Branch executive may authorize the withdrawal from the reserve up to a limit set by a vote at a General meeting. Withdrawals over that limit must be authorized at a Branch Annual, Special or General meeting by a proposal receiving a majority of the votes cast.

9.7 **Remuneration**

No member elected to the Branch executive or elected or appointed to serve the Branch in any capacity shall receive remuneration for services rendered pursuant to that election or appointment.

9.8 **Expenses**

Subject to National regulations, a member serving the Branch in any capacity shall be reimbursed expenses necessarily and reasonably incurred in the conduct of the affairs of the Branch or Association.

PART X - Amendments to Branch By-laws

10.1 A proposal to amend these By-laws requires approval by a majority of the votes cast at a Branch Annual Meeting or a Branch Special Meeting called for that purpose.

10.1.1 The text of the proposed amendment must be included in the Notice for the Branch Annual or Special Meeting.

10.2 **Interim amendments**

Between Branch Annual Meetings, the Branch executive may make, amend or repeal any section of the Branch By-laws except those relating to the number or terms of directors.

- 10.2.1 Such By-law, amendment or repeal shall be effective from the date it is approved by the Branch executive until the next Branch Annual Meeting, where it may be confirmed, amended or rejected by a majority of the votes cast at the meeting.
- 10.2.2 The By-law, amendment or repeal ceases to have effect if it is not submitted to the members at the next Branch Annual Meeting or if it is rejected by the members at the Branch Annual Meeting or if it is rejected by the National Board.
- 10.2.3 **Review and Approval**
The Branch is required to forward their by-laws and any subsequent amendments to the Association National Office for review and Board approval.
- 10.2.4 **Precedence**
In the event of a discrepancy or disagreement between Branch by-laws and the National by-laws, the provisions of the National by-laws shall govern.
- 10.3 **Regulations and Procedures**
The Branch executive may establish regulations and procedures supplementary to these by-laws. A new regulation or procedure must be submitted for confirmation at the next Branch Annual Meeting and ceases to have effect if it is not submitted for confirmation or if it is rejected. If the regulation or procedure is confirmed, or confirmed as amended, it remains in effect in the form in which it was confirmed.

PART XI - Dissolution of the Branch

- 11.1 Approval of a proposal to request that the National Board dissolve the Branch requires two-thirds of the votes cast at a Branch Annual or Special Meeting. The proposal to dissolve will be indicated in the meeting notice.
- 11.2 Upon approval of a motion to dissolve the Branch, members shall be re-allocated by the National Board to adjacent Branches. Administration of the winding up of the Branch shall be turned over to the National Association and any assets remaining after settlement of the Branch's liabilities shall be transferred to the National Association.