

The Humboldt & District Chamber of Commerce Bylaws



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Bylaws of the Humboldt & District Chamber of Commerce

SECTION 1 – DEFINITIONS

1.1 DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of these By-laws, unless context requires otherwise, the word:

- (a) “Board” shall refer to the Board of Directors of the Chamber.
- (b) “Chairperson” shall refer to the Director duly elected to preside over meetings.
- (c) “Chamber” shall refer to the Humboldt and District Chamber of Commerce.
- (d) “Committee Head” shall refer to the Director duly elected to be the chair of a committee.
- (e) “Director” shall refer to a Member of the Board who shall be either elected or appointed.
- (f) “District” shall mean the area within a 50 kilometer radius of Humboldt, Saskatchewan.
- (g) “Executive” shall mean the Executive Committee of the Board of the Chamber.
- (h) “Executive Committee” shall mean President, the Vice-President, the Vice-President of Finance, the Committee Heads and the Executive Director of the Chamber.
- (i) “Executive Director” shall mean the person employed by the Board to manage the Chamber.
- (j) “Member” shall mean every person, association, corporation, society, partnership or estate, directly or indirectly engaged in trade, commerce or economic activity in the District that is admitted to membership in the Chamber.
- (k) “Person” shall mean an individual.
- (l) “President” shall mean the duly elected President of the Chamber.
- (m) “Vice-President” shall mean the duly elected Vice-President of the Chamber.
- (n) “Vice President of Finance” shall mean the duly elected Vice President of Finance of the Chamber

SECTION 2 – ORGANIZATION

2.1 NAME

The name of this organization shall be the “Humboldt & District Chamber of Commerce”.

2.2 OBJECT

The object of the Humboldt and District Chamber of Commerce shall be primarily to work for the enhancement of the economy of the district and the betterment of the community.

In its approach towards its objectives, the Humboldt and District Chamber of Commerce shall be non-sectarian and shall not lend its support to any candidate for political office.

2.3 REGISTERED OFFICE

The Head Office of the Chamber shall be situated in the City of Humboldt.

2.4 BOOKS OF ACCOUNT

The Chamber shall cause proper books of account to be kept. All books of account of the Chamber shall be kept at the head office and shall be open to any Member of the Chamber at reasonable hours free of charge.

2.5 SEAL

The Seal of the Chamber shall remain in the custody of the Executive Director and shall be affixed to all documents that the Chamber duly authorizes or requires.

SECTION 3 - MEMBERSHIP

3.1 RIGHT TO MEMBERSHIP

Every reputable person, association, corporation, society, partnership or estate, directly or indirectly engaged or interested in trade, commerce or other economic activity in the District, shall be eligible for membership in the Chamber.

3.2 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

All potential members shall complete a written application and such application shall be approved of by the Board, the Executive or any person specifically designated with this responsibility.

3.2 TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP

A Member who fails to pay the annual membership assessment, within 90 days of the date it falls due, may be removed from the roll of Members and shall then forfeit all privileges of membership.

3.3 RETIREMENT FROM MEMBERSHIP

Any Member of The Chamber who intends to retire from the Chamber or to resign his membership may do so at any time upon giving the Executive Director ten days' notice in writing of such intention and upon discharging any lawful liability which is standing on the books of the Chamber against them at the time of such notice.

Membership dues that have been paid shall be non-refundable.

3.4 EXPULSION FROM MEMBERSHIP

Any Member may be expelled from membership in the Chamber for reasons other than non-payment of membership assessments by a two-thirds majority vote of the Board.

3.5 RIGHT OF APPEAL

Anyone, whose membership is terminated, for reasons other than non-payment of dues, shall have the right to appeal to a General Meeting of the Chamber. Application for such appeal must be made by the Member in writing to the Executive Director within ten days following receipt of the official notice of termination. The termination shall be confirmed or rescinded by a majority vote of the Members present at the General Meeting.

3.6 VOTING RIGHTS

Each Member, whether individual, corporate, partnership, estate or other group or society, shall have only one vote at meetings of the membership of the Chamber. Each corporate, partnership or estate member or other group member shall appoint one individual to act as their representative at meetings of the Chamber.

SECTION 4 - DUES AND ASSESSMENT

4.1 DUES INCREASES

The dues payable by the Members of the Chamber shall be determined annually by the Board and shall be subjected to the approval of a Special Meeting whenever a change greater than 15% of the previous annual assessment is involved.

4.2 NEW MEMBERS

In the case of a business applying for new membership during the fiscal year, which starts January 1, upon acceptance into membership, the membership fees are pro-rated monthly for the balance of the fiscal year.

4.3 OTHER INCREASES

Other assessments may be levied against all Members provided they are recommended by the Board and approved by a majority of the Members present at a Special Meeting of the Chamber. The notice calling such membership meeting shall state that the meeting is being called to discuss proposed special levies against the Members.

SECTION 5 - BOARD OF DIRECTORS

5.1 NUMBER OF DIRECTORS

The Chamber Board of Directors will consist of a minimum of three (3) and a maximum of thirteen (13) elected Members.

5.2 NOMINATIONS

Any Member of the Chamber may nominate a Member for election to the Board.

5.3 ELIGIBILITY

Only Members, or their employees, are eligible to be a Director. A Director will automatically be removed from the Board upon their associated business ceasing to be a Member.

Each member shall have only one representative on the Board of Directors at one time.

5.4 ELECTIONS

Elections for Directors of the Chamber will be done by ballot prior to the Chamber's Annual General Meeting. If there are less standing nominations for Director Positions than there are positions available, no election will be required and all nominees will be elected by acclamation.

5.5 DIRECTOR VACANCIES AFTER ELECTIONS

If an election fails to elect the maximum number of Directors, the other Directors may appoint an eligible person to be a Director, and a Director so appointed holds office as though elected at the election.

5.6 TERM OF POSITION

Directors shall serve a term of 3 years at which time they will either seek re-election or resign. If a Director is unable to complete his or her term a new Director can be appointed as per section 5.5 to serve the remainder of the term. The Board is not required to wait until the next Annual General Meeting to elect a replacement Director.

5.7 MAXIMUM NUMBER OF TERMS

Each Director shall be allowed to serve at most two (2) consecutive three-year (3) terms or a total of six (6) consecutive years. Upon serving 6 years, a Director is not eligible for re-election until a period of 3 years has passed. If there are vacancies left on the Board after the Annual General Meeting this provision will not apply.

5.8 ASSUMPTION OF OFFICE

Newly elected or appointed Directors, President, Vice-President and Vice-President of Finance will assume office and be sworn in at the Annual General Meeting following his/her election or appointment, except in the case of 5.5.

5.9 SUSPENSION

Any Director may be suspended from his/her position or have his/her tenure of office terminated if in the opinion of the Board, as evidenced by a motion passed by a majority at any Board meeting, the Director was either absent for three (3) consecutive meetings of the Board without just cause or the Director was grossly negligent in the performance of his or her duties.

5.10 POWER OF BOARD

The Board shall have the general power of administration. It may be entitled to make or authorize petitions or representations to the Government or Parliament of Canada, the Government or Legislature of the Province, or others, as it may determine or as may be required by the Members. The Board shall have all powers as are assigned to it by any By-law of the Chamber, provided however, that such powers are not inconsistent with the provisions of *The Boards of Trade Act*.

5.11 STANDING COMMITTEES

The Chamber shall have committees called the Public Relations & Promotions Committee; the Business Retention & Expansion Committee; and the Tourist Booth & Campgrounds Committee.

The Board, at their first meeting following the Annual General Meeting, shall appoint Directors to monitor, assess and make decisions in relation to each of the noted committees.

5.12 ADDITIONAL COMMITTEES

The Board, at its discretion, may appoint ad hoc committees as deemed appropriate from time to time. Such committees can be made up of Directors, Members, or any combination of the two.

5.13 OATH OF OFFICE

All Directors shall be sworn in annually at the Annual General Meeting.

All Directors of the Chamber, before taking office, shall take and subscribe an oath in the following form: "I swear that I will faithfully and truly perform my duty as a Director of the Humboldt & District Chamber of Commerce and that I will, in all matters connected with the discharge of such duty, do all things, and such things only, as I shall truly and conscientiously believe to be adapted to promote the objects for which the Humboldt & District Chamber of Commerce was constituted according to the true intent and meaning of the same. So help me God!"

5.14 MEETINGS

The meetings of the Board shall be open to all Members of the Chamber who may attend however only the Directors shall have voting privileges.

5.15 COMPENSATION

The Directors shall not receive compensation for their services but may be entitled to be reimbursed out of pocket expenses incurred in the course of discharging any duty on behalf of the Chamber. Such expenses are to be preauthorized by the Board or to be submitted to a meeting of the Board and a motion is to be passed to pay such expenses.

5.16 INDEMNIFICATION

The Chamber shall indemnify and save harmless all Directors of the Chamber and their heirs, executors and administrators from and against all costs, charges, expenses and damages sustained as a result of an undertaking authorized by the Chamber or in the good faith execution of duties as a Director.

5.17 DIRECTOR RESPONSIBILITIES

All Directors are expected to:

- a) Actively participate in the deliberations of the Board;
- b) Serve as Committee Heads and members of committees as required by the Chamber;
- c) Maintain contact with Members, by personal visits where possible. Reports of such visits are to be forwarded to the Executive Director;
- d) Seek to encourage non-members to become Members;
- e) Assist in planning, organizing and conducting the Annual Meeting and any other meetings or events that the Chamber undertakes; and
- f) Encourage submissions of policy by Members.

5.18 POLITICAL AFFILIATION

In the event that a Director wishes to be actively engaged as a candidate or executive in an election process at any level of government, the Director shall take a temporary leave of absence no later than the dropping of the writ and if elected, resign their position. Any such request should be submitted in writing to the Executive, subject to the approval of the Board of Directors.

SECTION 6 – COMMITTEES

6.1 COMMITTEE SELECTION

At the first regularly scheduled meeting following the Annual General Meeting the Directors shall organize themselves into the committees as set out in section 5.11.

6.2 COMMITTEE HEAD

Each committee shall appoint a Committee Head from the Directors that are part of their committee.

6.3 DUTIES OF COMMITTEE HEAD

The Committee Head shall be responsible to provide updates and reports back to the Board of the ongoing activities of their committee.

6.4 TERM

The term of the committees and Committee Heads shall be one year.

SECTION 7 – BOARD CHAIRPERSON

7.1 ELECTION

At the first regularly scheduled meeting following the Annual General Meeting the Board shall elect one of the Directors to be their Chairperson.

7.2 DUTIES OF CHAIRPERSON

The Chairperson, in his/her presence, shall preside at all meetings of the Chamber and Executive. He/she shall regulate the order of business at such meetings and receive and put forth lawful motions and communicate to the meeting what he/she may think concern the Chamber.

The Chairperson shall vote only in the case of a tie.

7.3 TERM

The term of the Chairperson shall be one year.

SECTION 8 – EXECUTIVE

8.1 ELECTIONS

The President and Vice-President shall be elected by the Board at the Annual General Meeting. The Committee Chairs and Vice-President of Finance shall be elected by the Board at the first regularly scheduled meeting following the Annual General Meeting. Executive Committee members will be selected from among the elected Directors.

8.2 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The President, the Vice-President, Vice President of Finance, each Committee Head and the Executive Director shall form the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee will meet to deal with emergencies arising in the Chamber and to review the ongoing operations. Their main duty will be to recommend to the Board matters concerning the efficient operation of the Chamber and to deal with matters recommended by the Board.

8.3 BOARD ELECTED POSITIONS

The Board shall elect a President, a Vice-President and a Vice-President of Finance.

8.4 TERM

The term of office of the Executive shall be one year.

8.5 PUBLIC PRONOUNCEMENTS

No public pronouncement in the name of the Chamber may be made unless authorized by the Executive or by some person to whom the Executive has delegated this authority.

8.6 DUTIES OF THE PRESIDENT

The President shall, with the Executive Director, sign all papers and documents requiring signature on behalf of the Chamber unless someone else is designated by the Executive.

It shall be the duty of the President to present a general report of the activities of his year of office at the next Annual Meeting following the conclusion of his/her term.

The President shall be an ex-officio member of all Committees.

In the absence of the Chairperson, the President shall preside at meetings of the Chamber and Executive. He/she shall regulate the order of business at such meetings and receive and put lawful motions and communicate to the meeting what he/she may think concern the Chamber.

8.7 DUTIES OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT

In the absence of both the Chairperson and the President, the Vice-president shall preside at meetings of the Chamber. He/she shall regulate the order of business at such meetings and receive and put lawful motions and communicate to the meeting what he/she may think concern the Chamber.

8.8 EXECUTIVE MEETINGS

The Executive shall meet from time to time as may be necessary to carry on the business of the Chamber. The President or any member of the Executive committee may summon such meetings. The person summoning the meeting shall give notice of the meeting to each member of the Executive Committee at least ten hours prior to the time set for the meeting. Minutes of the proceedings of Executive Committee meetings shall be entered in the books to be kept for that purpose by the Executive Director.

SECTION 9 – EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

9.1 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Board shall employ an Executive Director who shall be a non-voting member of the Board. The Executive Director shall be remunerated as agreed by the Board. If the Executive Director is a member of the Chamber he/she shall be entitled to vote at any meeting other than the Board or Executive meetings.

9.2 FINANCIAL DUTIES

The Executive Director shall be bonded and shall have charge of all funds of the Chamber and shall deposit or cause to be deposited the same in a Chartered Bank or Credit Union selected by the Board. Out of such funds she/he shall pay accounts approved by the Board and shall keep a regular account of the income and expenditures of the Chamber and publish a reviewed statement thereof for each fiscal year for approval by the Board. This reviewed statement shall be available to any Member of the Chamber upon request and shall be presented to a meeting of the membership.

9.3 OTHER DUTIES

The Executive Director shall be responsible to the Board for the general control and management of business affairs. She/he shall be responsible for keeping general records of the Chamber, conducting its correspondence, retaining copies of all official letters and preserving all official documents, and shall perform all such other duties as properly appertain to her/his office. She/he shall, with the President or any assigned Director by the Board, sign all papers and documents requiring signature or execution on the Chambers behalf. She/he shall sign all cheques with one of the President or Vice-president. She/he shall maintain an accurate record of proceedings of the Chamber and of the Executive Committee. She/he shall be responsible for taking minutes or having someone take minutes at the Board meetings.

SECTION 10 – ANNUAL MEETING

10.1 TIME OF ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the Chamber shall be held within 90 days of the end of the fiscal period at the time and place determined by the Board.

10.2 QUORUM AT ANNUAL MEETING

A quorum will consist of at least 10 Members.

10.3 NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

Notice of the Annual Meeting shall be sent to each Member by fax, email, regular mail or by telephone call/message at least 15 days, but no more than 50 days, prior to the meeting date. The Notice may also be placed in the local media. The notice shall contain the date, time and place for the meeting and a short description of the business to be conducted. A copy of the financial statement may be obtained from the corporation without charge.

10.4 LOCATION

The usual place of meeting shall be within the City of Humboldt.

10.5 MINUTES

Minutes of the proceedings of the Annual Meeting shall be entered in the books to be kept for that purpose by the Executive Director.

SECTION 11 – BOARD MEETINGS

11.1 NOTICE NOT REQUIRED

Regular meetings of the Board and the Executive may be held without notice to the Members.

11.2 REGULAR MEETINGS

The Board shall meet at least once a month, except during July, and from time to time as may be necessary on the business of the Chamber. The Board meetings may be summoned by the President or any three members of the Board. Upon receipt of such summons, the Executive Director, or failing her/him, the President, shall give notice to the members of the Board by fax, phone, e-mail or telephone message. Such notice shall be effective if given prior to 5:00 pm on the day prior to the date set for the meeting.

11.3 ALTERNATIVE TO MEETING

The Board may also decide to meet and/or vote by conference call, phone, fax, e-mail or any other acceptable electronic media.

11.4 QUORUM

A quorum is required in order for a Board meeting to be called to order. A quorum of the Board will consist of 50% of the Board plus one.

11.5 MINUTES

Minutes of the proceedings of all Board meetings shall be entered in the books to be kept for that purpose by the Executive Director.

11.6 VOTING

Each Director shall have only one vote. Motions, to be passed, shall require a simple majority of the Board present at a meeting. The Chairperson shall only cast a vote in the event of a tie vote of the other Directors.

SECTION 12 – SPECIAL MEETINGS

12.1 REQUIREMENTS TO CALL

Special membership meetings of the Chamber may be held at any time when summoned by the President, any three members of the Board, or by any ten Members of the Chamber.

12.2 NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING

Upon receipt of a summons to call a Special Meeting, the Executive Director, or failing her/him, the President, may provide notice to each Member of the Chamber. Notice of the Special Meeting shall be sent to each Member by fax, email, regular mail or by telephone call/message at least 15 days, but no more than

50 days, prior to the meeting date. The Notice may also be placed in the local media. The notice shall contain the date, time and place for the meeting and a short description of the business to be conducted.

12.3 QUORUM AT SPECIAL MEETING

A quorum will consist of at least 10 Members.

12.4 LOCATION

The usual place of a Special Meeting shall be the City of Humboldt.

12.5 MINUTES

Minutes of the proceedings of the Special Meeting shall be entered in the books to be kept for that purpose by the executive Director.

12.6 PROXY VOTING

Any Member who is unable to attend and vote may appoint a person to vote on their behalf. To appoint someone to vote on their behalf, the Member must file a notice with the Executive Director at least two (2) business days prior to the meeting of their intent to appoint a proxy. Such notice shall state the name of the Member unable to attend and the name of the person appointed as their proxy and shall be in the form provided.

SECTION 13 – CONFLICT OF INTEREST

13.1 DUTY TO DISCLOSE

Every Director has a duty to disclose any interest, or apparent interest, in any employment, financing agreement or any other contract or discussion that is before the Board before any action is taken by the Board.

13.2 REMOVAL FROM DISCUSSION

Any Director that is in a conflict position, or in an apparent conflict position, shall not participate in discussions on any issue in which he or she has, or has the appearance of having, a personal, professional or financial interest until it is determined if the Director is entitled to participate.

13.3 BOARD DECISION

If it is unclear if the Director is in a conflict position, the other Directors shall vote on whether or not the Director in apparent conflict is in fact in conflict. A simple majority of the Directors entitled to vote shall decide.

13.4 RIGHT TO PRESENT

If it is determined by the Board that a Director is in a position of conflict the Director who is found to be in a conflict position shall be entitled to make a presentation to the Board but shall not be present during the discussion and voting period in relation to the matter in question.

SECTION 14 – BUSINESS OF CHAMBER

14.1 QUOTES

When the Chamber hires someone to do work on their behalf, if the value of the work is greater than five hundred dollars (\$500.00), the Board shall get a minimum of two quotes from qualified Members for the cost of the work. If there is only one Member that regularly performs the work, the Board shall be entitled to

get quotes from non-Members. When the value of the work is under five hundred dollars (\$500.00) the Board may, but is not required to get quotes.

14.2.1 PREFERENCE GIVEN TO MEMBERS

If all other things are equal, preference shall be given to Members. If there are both Member and non-Member quotes and the quotes provided differ by ten percent (10%) or less than the Chamber shall favor a Member over the non-Member.

14.3 NO CAPABLE MEMBER

If there are no existing Members that are able to perform the necessary task then the Chamber is free to hire non-Members.

14.4 CONSIDERATION

When considering quotes for work, price does not have to be the deciding factor. The Board is not obligated to accept the lowest quote. The Board is free to look at all factors when making their decision.

SECTION 15 – GENERAL

15.1 INTERPRETATION

In consideration of these By-laws, the references importing the masculine shall include the feminine and vice versa, and words importing the singular shall include the plural and vice versa and words importing person shall include corporation and vice versa as the context may require.

15.2 HEADINGS

The headings to the clauses in these By-laws have been inserted as a matter of convenience and for reference only, and in no way define, limit, or enlarge the scope or meaning of these By-laws.

15.3 AFFILIATION

The Chamber, at the discretion of the Board, shall have power to affiliate with the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce and any other organization in which membership may be in the interests of the Chamber.

15.4 FISCAL YEAR

The fiscal year of the Chamber shall commence on the first day of January in each year.

15.5 ACCOUNTANTS

An accountant shall be appointed at the Annual Meeting and they shall review the books and accounts of the Chamber at least once in each year and produce financial statements for the members.

15.6 PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

Parliamentary procedures shall be followed at all membership, Board and Executive meetings.

15.7 INSURANCE

The Chamber shall maintain director's liability insurance.