

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FEDERAL RETIREES

Prince George Branch BC15

Website:

<https://www.federalretirees.ca/en/branches/british-columbia/prince-george-branch>

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BYLAWS

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FEDERAL RETIREES

BC 15 Prince George 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.

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 November 15, 1996.
- 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 national initiatives 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.
- 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**

New members who reside within the administrative area of the Branch 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.

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 consist of at least three (3) and no more than seven (7) persons who shall be elected. These elected directors will appoint the following as officers of the Branch executive: One President, One Vice-President, One Secretary One Treasurer. The directors may appoint one person to hold the offices of both Secretary and Treasurer, and such person will be known as the Secretary-Treasurer.

5.1.2 The number of directors on the Branch executive shall be established at a Branch Annual Meeting, by a proposal approved by 50%+1 of the votes cast. Subsequent changes to the number of directors may be made in accordance with the provisions for any other amendment to these by-laws set out in Part X.

5.2 President

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

5.2.1 The President shall serve as the chief spokesperson of the Branch and 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 of the Branch and shall exercise primary signing authority for expenditures.

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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 next fiscal period.

5.5 **Secretary**

The Secretary shall keep the minutes of the Branch executive meetings and Branch members' meeting.

5.6 **Appointment of officers**

The Branch executive may appoint members to serve as other volunteers with duties and responsibilities and may specify and amend the volunteer's duties and responsibilities as required, except officer positions defined in these by-laws, which require member approval to change.

5.6.1 An appointment may be withdrawn and responsibility reassigned to another director 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.

5.7 **Past President**

The Branch executive may appoint the Past President to serve as a non-voting advisor for one year. The Past President shall have such other duties and powers as the Branch executive may specify.

5.8 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.

5.8.1 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 45 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 at least 50% + 1 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

All 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. Terms shall be staggered so that half the director positions come for election each year.

6.5 Maximum terms

A member may serve on the Branch executive any number of terms but not more than 3 full terms consecutively in a given elected position, and may stand for re-election to the Branch executive in that given position after a break of one year.

6.6 Vacancies

In the event any position on the Branch executive becomes vacant, the remaining members 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 for the balance of the term.

6.6.1 In the event 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 until the next annual meeting, where the position shall come for election for the balance of the term. 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 the calculation of consecutive terms.

6.6.2 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 Ordinary Resolution of the Members in accordance with the Act; or
- d) The director has missed four 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 shall annually appoint a Nominations Committee to assist with the nomination and election of directors. No member of the executive or their spouses 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;
- 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 two reviewers for the current financial (calendar) year. The reviewers shall NOT be members of the Branch executive;
- 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 reviewed financial report shall be forwarded to National Office by 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 15 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 Meeting, notice shall be given in the period 21 to 90 days prior to the meeting.

8.4.2 For a Branch Special Meeting, notice shall be given at least 14 days prior to the meeting.

8.4.3 For a Branch 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, shall be 6% of Prince George membership.

8.5.1 A member may attend a members' meeting by written proxy delivered to a member of the branch executive. The proxy shall be on the designated form. Proxies shall be counted towards quorum.

8.6 Communication

8.6.1 Participation at Meetings of Members may be by telephonic, electronic, or other communication method as determined by the board.

8.6.2 A person participating in a meeting by such means is deemed to be present at the meeting and is entitled to vote at that meeting by means of any telephonic, electronic or other communication facility that the Branch has made available for that purpose.

8.6.3. If the Branch executive or Members of the Branch call a Meeting of Members, the Board may determine that the meeting shall be held entirely by means of a

telephonic, electronic, or other communication facility that permits all participants to communicate adequately with each other during the meeting.

8.7 **Branch executive Meetings**

Meetings of the Branch executive shall be at the call of the President or upon the request of one-third of the directors.

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

8.7.2 If full minutes of Branch executive meetings are not kept, decisions made at such meetings will be fully recorded and those records entered into Branch archives.

8.7.3 **Means of Communication**

A meeting of the Branch 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.

8.8 **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.

8.8.1 **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 (50% +1) of the votes cast at an Annual or Special Branch Meeting.

8.9 **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 (50% + 1) of the votes cast at a Branch Annual or Special Meeting.

8.10 **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 financial 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 (normally the Treasurer and the President, and up to two other directors).

- i) Spouses may not both hold signing authority;
- ii) two persons in a family, domestic or business relationship may not both hold signing authority
- iii) No person shall sign a cheque made out in their own name.
- iv) Two signatures are required to authorize a cheque for payment

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 of more than the Branch set limit or that was not included in the approved budget forecast requires the approval of a majority (50% + 1) of the votes cast at a Branch Special or General Meeting. An expenditure of more than the Branch set limit requires approval of 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 **Reserve Funds**

The Branch may establish and maintain reserve funds in accordance with the Association's Regulations. The Branch board has the authority to create, change, or remove such reserves. At each annual general meeting of a Branch, a report on all Branch Reserves shall be presented to Members as part of the presentation of the Branch's financial statements. This will include the standard Association template which includes detailed information for the creation, changes or deletion of any reserves.

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 policy, 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 (50%+1) of the votes cast at a Branch Annual Meeting or Branch Special Meeting.

10.1.1 The text of the proposed amendment must be included in the Notice for the Branch Annual 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 (50% + 1) of the votes cast at the meeting.

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10.2.2 The by-law, amendment or repeals 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 to the national Board to dissolve the Branch requires two-thirds of the votes cast at an Annual or Special Branch Meeting. The proposal to dissolve will be indicated on 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 and 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.