

CANADA-MAURITIUS CULTURAL ASSOCIATION OF OTTAWA

Statement of Purpose

- To identify specific issues and concerns affecting Mauritian-Canadians.
- To establish liaison with other ethno cultural groups at the national, regional, provincial and municipal levels with the purpose of enhancing for cross-cultural understanding, mutual tolerance and working consensus.
- To pursue such other cultural, educational and social goals, programs and activities in response to community concerns as may from time to time be determined by the Association

Name

1. The name of the association is to read as follows « **CANADA-MAURITIUS CULTURAL ASSOCIATION OF OTTAWA** »
Address: **Address of current President.**
Unit #1 - 971 Gulf Place,
Ottawa, ON
K1K 4E3

Objectives

2. The objectives of the Association are to:
 - (a) Promote awareness among Canadians of the Cultural fabric of the Republic of Mauritius.
 - (b) Help bring individuals together by pursuing social and educational programs and cultural activities of common interest for the benefit of the whole community.
 - (c) Help Mauritian Nationals coming to Ottawa as immigrants or visitors to adapt to the new environment and culture.

Head Office/Legal Status

3. The head office of the community association shall be in the Regional Municipality of Ottawa, in the province of Ontario, and at such place therein as the Board of Directors may from time to time determine.
4. The Association shall be a non-profit organization, duly registered, under the laws of Canada or any of its provinces or territories

Membership

5. Membership is open to all Mauritian nationals and their spouses over 18 years old, as well as any individual of at least 18 years old sponsored by at least two bona-fide members of Mauritian Nationality. Junior membership is open to all persons of the age of 12 but not more than eighteen (18) years. Members over 18 years old in good standing will have voting privileges and with one vote per member
6. Any member who shall violate any provision of the rules or who shall commit any act injurious to the Association or its reputation ; refuse or neglect to comply with any of its rule, regulation, resolution, order or direction of the Board of Directors or of a duly authorized committee, may be expelled from the Association by two-thirds votes of the Members of the Board of Directors present at the meeting in which such matter is considered, provided that the member has been furnished with a full statement of the charges against him or her and has been given an adequate opportunity for a hearing prior to action by the Board of Directors.
7. A member who is expelled from the Association shall automatically forfeit all rights, claims and benefits, if he or she has any, in the Association and its property.
8. Any member may resign from the Association by submitting a written resignation to the Board of Directors.

Membership Fees

9. A minimum amount in the form of a membership fee shall be requested from members of the Association to defray all expenses of the Association. Such amount shall be fixed from time to time by the Board of Directors and approved at the Annual General meeting.
10. The Treasurer shall notify all members of the Dues or Fees at any time payable by them. If these are not paid within thirty (30) days of the motion duly carried by the Board of Directors, the members cease to have any voting rights in the Association. Any such members, on payment of all unpaid dues or fees, may be re-instated as members in good standing.

Voting/Elections

11. The voting membership shall consist of all Association members over 18 years old of good standing
12. An Election Committee shall consist of three (3) members who are not candidates for election, appointed by the Board of Directors for the casting of the Ballots on the day of election, and for assisting and conducting the election. The election of Members of the Board of Directors shall be conducted in an honest and orderly manner. The

Election Committee shall arbitrate on any question or issues arising from such election. The decision of the Election Committee shall be binding and final. All members are eligible to run as a candidate to form the Board of Directors.

13. Voting by proxy shall not be allowed. At every Annual General Meeting, in addition to any other business that may be transacted, the report of the Board of Directors, the financial statements, the report of the auditors and the annual report of activities for the year shall be presented.
14. The members of the Board of Directors shall be elected and shall serve for the term of two (2) years until the next election. The Board of Directors shall have power to call at any time a general or special meeting of the Members.

Meetings

15. No public notice or advertisement of Members' meetings, general, annual or special shall be required, but notice of the time and place shall be sent to the Members in good standing by prepaid mail or by e-mail at least fourteen (14) days before the time fixed for the holding of such meetings and shall contain enough information to allow members to form a reasoned decision. All meetings, including the Annual General Meeting will be held in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada
16. At all meetings of the Members, every question shall be decided by a majority of the voting Members present. Every question shall be decided in the first instance by a show of hands unless a poll be demanded by the majority present. Unless the constitution otherwise provides, no quorum is necessary for a meeting to be held.
17. Any member of the Association in good standing, can call a general or special meeting of the members provided motion is seconded by another member.
18. The affairs of the Association shall be managed by the Board of Directors composed of at least 5, but no more than 10 Directors or Executives, all elected by members of good standing with voting privileges :
 - 1 PRESIDENT
 - 3 VICE-PRESIDENTS
 - 1 TREASURER
 - 1 SECRETARY
 - 1 PUBLIC RELATION
 - 1 WEBMASTER
19. The Board of Directors shall meet a minimum of 3 times a year in the City of Ottawa, Ontario, with all Directors being given 7 days advance notice by mail or e-mail.
20. Each member of the Board of Directors is entitled to one vote and at least 3

Executives are needed to constitute a quorum

21. There will be no substitute to meeting of the Board of Directors and no mail ballot or proxy voting is allowed.
22. The Board of Directors shall render to all members of good standing an Annual Report of Activities covering the period of the fiscal year of the Association.

Vacancies on Board of Directors

23. The office of Directors shall be automatically vacated:
 - (a) At the end of the term for which each Executive was elected.
 - (b) If an Executive resigns his or her office by submitting a written resignation to the Board.
 - (c) If he or she is convicted of any indictable criminal offence.
 - (d) On death.

Provided that any vacancy occurs for any of the above reasons, the remaining Directors/Executives may appoint a qualified person to fill the vacancy for the remainder of the term. Provided further that the vacancy occurs in the position of President, the Board shall be called to elect one of its Vice-Presidents as President.

24. There shall be no more than 10 officers to assist the Board of Directors to conduct the affairs of the Corporation.

They shall include among others :

1 ASSISTANT TREASURER
1 ASSISTANT SECRETARY
1 CULTURAL ATTACHÉ
1 SPORTS OFFICER
1 SOCIAL ATTACHÉ
1 AUDITOR

All officers will be appointed for a two year term by the Board of Directors at the Annual General Assembly or Special Meeting and shall not be entitled to any remuneration.

25. The Assistant Treasurer shall assist the Treasurer in ensuring that the financial affairs of the Association are in order.
26. The Assistant Secretary shall assist the Secretary in ensuring that all the Secretarial functions of the Association are properly taken care of, including the taking of minutes of the Board of Directors.
27. The Cultural Attaché shall assist the Board with the planning and implementation of

call cultural activities of the Association.

28. The Sports Officer shall assist the Board with the planning and implementation of all the sport activities of the Association.
29. The Social Attaché shall assist the Board with the planning and implementation of all the social activities of the Association.
30. In the absence of the President, his or her duties may be performed by a Vice-President or such other Director as may from time to time be appointed for the purpose.

If the president or any of the other Directors present is unwilling to act as a chairman, the Executives present shall choose one of their members to be chairman.

31. No junior members shall be eligible for election as Director.
32. The members may by special resolution remove a Director or Executive before the expiration of his or her term of office with the approval of two-thirds of the majority present.
33. The Secretary shall take or cause to be taken Minutes of all General and Special Meetings of the Board of Directors and shall have such Minutes properly transcribed and kept in a Minute Book provided for that purpose.
34. The Treasurer shall keep full and accurate accounts of all receipts and disbursement of the Association in proper books of account and shall deposit all monies or other valuable effects in such bank as the Directors may from time to time decide upon. He or she shall disburse the funds of the Association under the direction of the Board of Directors at the regular meetings thereof or whenever required of him or her, an account of all transactions as Treasurer of the Association. He or she shall also perform such other duties as may from time to time be determined by the Board of Directors
35. All cheques, bills of exchange or other orders for the payment of money, notes or other evidence of indebtedness issued in the name of the Association shall be signed by at least 2 Directors/Executives : the President or Vice-President and the Treasurer or such designated Director/Executive and in such manner as shall from time to time be determined by resolution of the Board of Directors. Any two of such Director/Executive with proper signing authority may endorse notes and drafts for collection on account of the Association through its bankers, and endorse notes and cheques for deposit only to the credit of the Association. Any two of such Director/Executive with proper signing authority may arrange, settle, balance and certify all books and accounts between the Association and the Association's bankers and may receive all paid cheques and vouchers and sign all the bank's forms or settlement of balances, release or verification slips.

36. No remuneration will be paid to any Directors/Executives serving on the Board of Directors of the Association

Deposit of Securities for Safekeeping

37. The securities of the Association shall be deposited for safekeeping in one or more banks, trust companies or other financial institutions to be selected by the Board of Directors. Any and all securities so deposited may be withdrawn, from time to time, only upon the written order of the Association signed by at least two of such Directors/Executives of the Association and in such manner, as shall from time to time, be determined by resolution of the Board of Directors. Such authority may be general or confirmed to a specific instance. The institution which may be selected as Custodian of the Board of Directors shall be fully protected in acting in accordance with the directions of the Board of Directors and shall in no event be liable for the due application of the securities as withdrawn from deposit or the proceeds thereof.

Audit

38. The books and account of the Association shall be audited at least twice a year by the auditor for the Association. At each Annual General Meeting, the Association shall appoint one auditor who shall audit the accounts of the Association and report to the members at the Annual General Meeting.
39. The Association year-end shall be December 31st.

Inspection of Records

40. All books and records of the Association shall be kept at the office of the Association, and shall be open to the inspection of the Directors at all times.
41. Except as otherwise provided by rules, other Members of the Association may not inspect the books and records except by appointment with the Secretary or Treasurer and having first obtained the appropriate approval of the Board of Directors for such inspection.
42. A notice of inspection may be given to a member either personally; by forwarding by mail to the Association's Registered Address or by such other method of service as provided herein.

Amendment of Constitution and By-Laws

43. The Board of Directors shall have the right to amend the Association's Constitution, and repeal or amend By-Laws but they shall not be enforced or acted upon unless approval has been granted after consultation with members.

Interpretation

44. In these By-laws and in all other By-laws of the Association hereafter passed, unless context otherwise requires, words importing the singular number of the masculine gender shall include the singular number of the feminine gender, as the cause may be, and vice versa, and references to persons shall include Association.

I hereby certify that the foregoing By-laws was enacted by the Directors and confirmed by the members on the.....

45. The Board of Directors is not responsible for action undertaken by any member of the Association without the explicit approval of the Association

46. The business of the Association shall be carried on without the purpose of gain for its member, and any profits or other accretions of the Association shall be used in promoting its objectives.

47. Upon the dissolution of the Association and after payment of all debts and liabilities its remaining property shall be distributed or disposed of to charitable organizations which carry on their work solely in Canada.

The foregoing constitution is hereby passed by all the directors of the Association on this.....1st.....day of.....January....., 2009

President

Date

Vice-President

Date

Secretary

Date

2009-01-01