

2016

**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
FEDERAL RETIREES
FREDERICTON AND DISTRICT (NB62)
BY-LAWS**

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BYLAWS

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FEDERAL RETIREES

FREDERICTON & DISTRICT BRANCH (NB62)

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 board” means the group of volunteers elected by the members of the Branch to conduct and manage the business of the Branch, commonly referred to as Branch directors.

“Branch Executive” means the President, Vice President, Administrative Director, Treasurer, and Membership Director.

“Branch Officer” means a member of the Branch board appointed by the Branch board to perform specific duties (ex. the Health Benefits Officer or the Special Events Officer); except for Branch President, which is an officer position that is specifically elected by the members.

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, in 1963.
- 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.
- 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

- 3.3.1 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.
- 3.3.2 Members may request re-allocation to another Branch at any time.
- 3.3.3 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 Board and 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 Board shall, at all times comprise of the Branch Executive and 7 – 9 additional directors elected in accordance with these by-laws.
 - 5.1.2 The number of directors on the Branch Board 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

- 5.2.1 The President is elected by the members. The President shall call and chair Branch board, Executive and Branch General Meetings.
- 5.2.2 The President shall serve as the chief spokesperson of the Branch and represent the Branch at the National Meetings of Members.
- 5.2.3 The President shall have such other duties and powers as the Branch board may specify.

5.3 Vice President

The Branch board shall appoint a director to serve as Vice President. The Vice-President shall assume the duties of President in the event of the President's absence, disability, or refusal to act, as determined by the Branch board. The Vice-President shall have such other duties and powers as the Branch board may specify.

5.4 Treasurer

- 5.4.1 The Branch board shall appoint a director to serve as Treasurer. The Treasurer shall keep the financial accounts of the Branch and shall exercise primary signing authority for expenditures.
- 5.4.2 At each Branch Annual Meeting, the Treasurer shall submit:
 - a) a report of the Branch finances for the previous fiscal year,
 - b) a budget for the then current fiscal year, and
 - c) a budget forecast for the following fiscal year.
- 5.4.3 The Treasurer shall have such other duties and powers as the Branch board may specify.

5.5 Administrative Director

The Branch board shall appoint a director to serve as Administrative Director. The Administrative Director will act as clerk, recording votes and all proceedings in the books kept for that purpose. In addition the Administrative Director shall conduct correspondence, publishes notices and shall have such other duties and powers as the Branch board may specify.

5.6 **Membership Director**

The Branch board shall appoint a director to serve as Membership Director. The Membership Director shall update and report on membership levels of the branch and work with the various membership data bases to manage the membership of the branch and contact members and former members when necessary. In addition the Membership director will complete the Capital Remittance Form quarterly and shall have such other duties and powers as the Branch board may specify.

5.7 **Appointment of Officers**

5.7.1 Except for the position of President, the Branch board may appoint directors 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.

5.7.2 An appointment may be withdrawn and responsibility reassigned to another director at any time by majority vote of the Branch board. Withdrawal of an appointment does not affect the subject director's status as a member of the Branch board.

5.8 **Past President**

The Branch board shall appoint the immediate Past President to serve as a director for one year. The Past President shall have such other duties and powers as the Branch board may specify.

5.9 **Branch Management**

5.9.1 The Branch board 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 board is, at all times, accountable to the Board of the Association.

5.9.2 The Branch board 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

- 6.1.1 The Branch board shall, at least 120 days prior to the date of the Branch Annual Meeting, appoint a Chair of the Nominations Committee.
- 6.1.2 The Chair of the Nominations Committee may select other Branch Members to serve on the Committee and these Branch Members must be approved by the Branch board.
- 6.1.3 The role of the Nominations Committee is to assist with the nomination and election of eligible Branch members to those positions on the Branch board that are up for election including President and any vacant director's positions.
- 6.1.4 The Nominations Committee shall call for nomination of candidates to the position of President and/or director for positions available on the Branch board 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

- 6.3.1 The Chair of the Nominations Committee shall propose at a Branch Annual Meeting a nominee for any available position including President and any number of directors that will raise the Board membership to the minimum level of 12 and maximum level of 14 directors. The slate will be considered elected if it receives 50% + 1 of the eligible votes cast at the Branch Annual Meeting.
- 6.3.2 Should the slate of proposed Officers and Directors not be approved, 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.
- 6.3.3 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.

- 6.3.4 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 board shall be elected at the Branch Annual Meeting, for a term of 2 years. The term length will be such that the end of terms of the directors are staggered in an equitable manner. The term commences at the close of the Annual meeting at which they are elected.

6.5 Maximum terms

A member may serve on the Branch board in any capacity, except in the position of President, for an unlimited number of consecutive terms, and may stand for re-election to the Branch board. The position of President is limited to 3 consecutive 2 year terms.

6.6 Vacancies

- 6.6.1 In the event any position on the Branch board becomes vacant, the remaining directors of the Branch board may fill the position by appointment until the next Branch Annual Meeting, at which time the position shall be filled by election, for the remainder of the term of the vacated position.

- 6.6.2 In the event no candidate is presented at the Branch Annual Meeting to fill a vacant position, the Branch board may fill the position by appointment for a term of one year and the position will be up for election at the next Annual meeting 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.

6.6.3 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.

PART VII - Committees

- 7.1 The Branch board may establish ad hoc committees as required with such objectives and resources as the Branch board specifies. An ad hoc committee shall include at least one member of the Branch board.
- 7.2 The President or the Branch board shall annually appoint a Nominations Committee to assist with the nomination and election of directors.

Part VIII – Branch Meetings

8.1 Branch Annual Meeting

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

- 8.1.1 The Branch board shall determine the date, location, and agenda of the meeting. The date shall be no later than May 5th.

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 board since the previous Annual Meeting and outlining the plans and priorities for the current and following year;
- c) Receive a report of 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 reviewer for the current financial (calendar) year. The reviewer shall NOT be a member of the Branch board;
- 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 board;
- h) Conduct other such business as may be properly brought before the meeting.

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- 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**

- 8.2.1 A Branch Special Meeting may be held at the call of the Branch board at such time and place as the Branch board may designate.
- 8.2.2 A Branch Special Meeting must be held upon the receipt of a written request of 5% of recorded Branch Members within 30 days of receipt of the request by the Branch board.
- 8.2.3 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.
- 8.2.4 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 board 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 board shall ensure that Members are given adequate notice of Branch Meetings.

- 8.4.1 For a Branch Annual or General 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.

8.5 **Quorum**

At any Branch Annual, Special or General meeting, the quorum required to conduct business is 2% of recorded Branch Members.

8.6 **Branch Board or Executive Meetings**

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

Fredericton and District (NB62) by-laws

- 8.6.2 The quorum for a meeting of the Branch board or Executive is a simple majority of its members then in office.
- 8.6.3 If full minutes of Branch board or Executive meetings are not kept, decisions made at such meetings will be fully recorded and those records entered into Branch archives.
- 8.6.4 For a meeting of the Branch board, notice shall be given at least 7 days prior to the meeting in any of the formats adopted by the Branch board or Executive (mail, telephone electronic, etc.). For a meeting of the Executive notice should be given at least 3 days prior to the meeting.
- 8.6.5 Minutes shall be kept of legally convened Branch board or Executive meetings, a simple majority of those in attendance is required to approve any decisions taken.
- 8.6.6 A meeting of the Branch board or Executive may be conducted by any telephonic, electronic, or other means of communication that permits all members to communicate adequately with each other. A director participating by such means shall be deemed to be present at the meeting. Any decisions made must be reviewed at the next Branch board meeting and entered into the minutes.

8.7 **Decision-Making**

8.7.1 **Fundamental proposals¹**

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.

8.7.2 **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 board or a majority (50% +1) 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 board, 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 board or a majority (50% + 1) of the votes cast at a Branch Annual, General or Special Meeting.

¹ Fundamental Proposal per national By-laws.

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 financial year is the calendar year.

9.2 Signing authority

The Branch board shall designate who has the authority to sign contracts and make payments on behalf of the Branch.

- i) Spouses may not both hold signing authority;
- ii) two persons in a family, domestic or business relationship may not both hold signing authority; and
- 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 board, in compliance with the national policy. The Treasurer shall have primary responsibility for conducting the banking business of the Branch.

9.4 Spending Authority

9.4.1 The Branch board shall have authority to make expenditures listed in the budget presented at 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.

9.4.2 An expenditure that was not included in the budget or 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.

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9.4.3 If approval is sought at a Branch General meeting, notice of the proposal must be given in the notice for the meeting, at least 21 days prior to the meeting.

9.4.4 If approval is sought at a Branch Special 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 **Allocated Reserve Funds**

The Branch may establish and maintain allocated Reserve Funds in accordance with national policy, withdrawals from which may be made as approved by the Branch board in accordance with the stated purpose for the allocated reserve Fund.

9.6.1 **Maximum Amount**

The maximum amount to be held in the allocated Reserve Funds may be set at a Branch Annual Meeting by a proposal receiving a majority (50%+1) of the votes cast.

9.6.2 The Branch board may authorize the withdrawal from the allocated 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 (50%+1) of the votes cast.

9.6.3 When an allocated fund is not at its maximum amount, the Branch board shall report to the members on its plan for replenishing that fund.

9.7 **Remuneration**

No member elected to the Branch board 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 or Branch Special Meeting.

10.2 Interim amendments

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

10.2.2 Such by-law, amendment or repeal shall be effective from the date it is approved by the Branch board 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.

10.2.3 The by-law, amendment or repeals ceases to have effect if it is not submitted and approved by 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.

10.3 Review and Approval

The Branch board is required to forward their by-laws and any subsequent amendments to the Association national office for review and Board approval.

10.4 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.

10.5 Regulations and Procedures

The Branch board 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.

Part XII - Effective Date

12.1 The effective date of these By-Laws shall be **May 2016**.

12.2 Record of Amendments

- a. 1964 Original By-Laws;
- b. 1967 First Amendment
- c. 1988 Second Amendment
- d. 1995 Revised (May 10th)
- e. 1997 First Amendment (Oct)
- f. 1998 Revised
- g. 2003 Revised
- h. 2009 Revised
- i. 2012 Revised
- j. 2016 Revised