



Council of Senior Citizens'
Organizations of B.C.
Representing Seniors since 1950
www.coscobc.org

Constitution and Bylaws

CONSTITUTION

1. The name of the Council is: The Council of Senior Citizens' Organizations of British Columbia (COSCO).
2. The purposes of the Society are:
 - a. to assemble, coordinate and advance proposals and resolutions concerned with the welfare of elder citizens and submit them to the appropriate government bodies; and
 - b. to advance the social and physical welfare of all elder citizens in the province of British Columbia.

BYLAWS

1. Membership

- a. Group: Affiliate Membership in the Council shall be open to clubs, organizations, regional councils, and associations of retirees which have a regular membership, elect their officers democratically, subscribe to the purposes of the Council, and pay annual dues as determined by the Council.
- b. Individual: Associate Membership may be granted to individual retirees who subscribe to the aims and objectives of the Council and who pay annual dues as determined by the Council. Associate Members shall be entitled to receive copies of Council Delegate meeting minutes, financial statements and newsletters published by the Council.
- c. Each member organization shall, upon affiliating with the Council, and in January of each year thereafter, forward to the Membership Chair of the Council, the name(s), address(es), telephone number(s) and e-mail address(es) of its Delegate(s) and Alternate(s), along with annual dues.
- d. If the annual dues of an Affiliate remain unpaid by March 1, a notice shall be sent to the President and Secretary of that Affiliate. If the dues remain unpaid by June 30, that said organization shall forfeit membership privileges.
- e. Each Associate member shall, upon affiliating with the Council of Seniors Citizens Organizations B.C., and in January of each year thereafter, forward to the Membership Chair of the Council with current address, phone number, and e-mail address along with the dues owing.
- f. If the annual dues of an Associate member remain unpaid by March 1, a notice shall be sent to the member. If the dues remain unpaid by June 30, that member shall forfeit membership privileges.
- g. Each Delegate, or Alternate replacing an absent Delegate, shall be entitled to voice and vote at Council meetings. Associate members may attend Council meetings as observers, with voice at the discretion of the Chair, but not voting privileges.



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CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS (CONT'D)

2. Meetings:

a. Delegate entitlement at COSCO delegates meetings shall be:

One (1) Delegate	Up to 250 members
Two (2) Delegates	251 to 500 members
Three (3) Delegates	501 to 1000 members
Four (4) Delegates	1001 to 2000 members
Five (5) Delegates	over 2001 members

b. Election or appointment to the Executive does not exempt an individual from inclusion in the Delegate entitlement of their organization.

c. The Annual General Meeting shall be held in the month of February.

d. A quorum for COSCO Delegate meetings, Annual meetings and Special meetings shall be fifteen (15) Delegates, representing not fewer than twelve (12) member organizations.

e. COSCO Delegate meetings shall convene monthly, except in July and August, and at other times when necessary at the call of the President.

f. If the President receives, by hand or registered mail, a written request for a special meeting, signed by ten affiliates and stating the purpose of such meeting, the President shall call a meeting at the earliest possible date.

g. Executive meetings shall convene monthly, except in July and August, and at other times when necessary at the call of the President.

h. A quorum for Executive meetings shall be five (5) Executive members.

i. Any Delegate has the right, with notice, to attend an Executive meeting, except for matters set by the Executive as in camera. Similarly, any Delegate has the right, upon request, to see the approved Executive minutes, except for matters set by the Executive as in camera.



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CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS (CONT'D)

3. Executive

- a. The Executive members are: President, 1st Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, General Vice Presidents, Ombudsperson, Membership Chair, seven (7) Members-at-Large and Chairs of Continuing Committees. With the exception of the General Vice Presidents, Past Presidents, Ombudsperson, Membership Chair and Chairs of Continuing Committees all Executive members shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting by and from the Council Delegates only. In the case of the General Vice Presidents, one name shall be forwarded by each affiliated seniors' organization with more than 3000 members. The Ombudsperson shall be appointed by the Executive.
- b. The term of office for elected Executive members shall be two (2) years, ending at an Annual General Meeting. Any Executive member whose term is ending is eligible for re-election.
- c. Election of Executive members shall be as follows:
President, Treasurer and three Executive Members-at-Large shall be elected in even-numbered years.
1st Vice President, Secretary and four Executive Members-at-Large shall be elected in odd-numbered years.
- d. The foregoing notwithstanding, the immediate Past President shall be entitled to serve as such on the Executive for a period of one (1) year immediately subsequent to his/her term as President and shall, for that period, have full voting privileges as a member of the Executive.
- e. The foregoing a., b., and c., notwithstanding, if no Delegate is available for election as Secretary / or as Treasurer the Executive may appoint a person who is not a Delegate to fill either position in which case the individual(s) appointed shall not vote in the Executive or Delegate meetings but shall be eligible for annual appointment.
- f. An Executive member can be removed from office by Special Resolution of the Delegates, carried by a three quarter (3/4) majority.
- g. A vacancy occurring in the Executive may be filled by appointment by the Executive to complete the term of the member who has left, subject to approval at the Delegates meeting after the appointment, subject to clause 3e. (above)

4. Duties of Executive Members

- a. The President shall preside at all meetings governed in accordance with the Bylaws and shall appoint Chairs for all committees (subject to Executive approval). The President shall be an ex officio member of such committees.