



## Voting Membership – Revisions April 9, 2018

### Background:

In 2015 the Province overhauled the Societies Act which resulted in changes to the way non-profits write their bylaws. BGCCVI revised their Bylaws, which were approved at the AGM in June 2016 and registered in February 2017. One area of substantial change was the area of membership. Membership is no longer deemed a “right” and nonprofit Boards today carefully manage who they approve as members, particularly voting members, of their nonprofit organization.

Two categories of members were established, voting and non-voting. Families who participate in BGCCVI programs pay a membership fee to BGCCVI, and become non-voting members of the Society.

Voting members are approved through an application process and approval by the Board. The rights and obligations of voting members is defined in the bylaws, however their purpose and how they will be engaged and managed needs to be further defined. Voting members are able to vote at General Meetings and participate in programs and initiatives of the Society, as determined by the Board. As voting members, they can be a face of BGCCVI in the communities, and in casting votes at the AGM, they have a say in election of Board members, who in turn determine the direction of BGCCVI.

Bylaw 2.4 states that a person becomes a Member on the date of the Board Resolution or such later date as specified therein. By managing the engagement and distribution of the voting membership applications as described below, approval will be given to all applications when they come before the Board.

### Purpose of Voting Members:

The relationship of the voting member to the organization is strategic, not operational.

- To build relationships and networks in the communities within the BGCCVI region
- To have direct connections to the communities served, geographically and people wise (eg aboriginal, gender)
- To get feedback on community needs
- As a pool of volunteers for activities, committees and Board membership
- To expand our presence in communities

### Required for funding applications

- Some funding applications require that the number of members be more than 50% the number of Board members. Our target number of members is a minimum of 25.
- A broad based membership indicates broad community interest/support/engagement



### Process:

- 1) Anyone expressing interest in becoming a voting member will be referred to the Executive Director (ED) or a Board member for follow-up.
- 2) The ED or Board member will arrange an additional meeting to advance the process of engagement (explore the applicant's interests in BGCCVI, describing the benefits of being a voting member and what is expected of the voting member). If the person remains interested, a membership form would be completed, or left with them. The ED or Board member will be responsible for collecting the form and any membership fees paid. Completed application forms and membership fees will be given to the ED.
- 3) At each Board meeting the ED will provide the names of any new applicants which will be reviewed and a Board Resolution of acceptance documented in the minutes.
- 4) The ED will give the completed forms and fees to administrative staff and Communications and Marketing for appropriate follow-up including addition to the Register of Members and addition to the external communication database.
- 5) A letter/email will be immediately sent to the new Member to welcome and acknowledge them. Communications and Marketing will ensure ongoing communication with voting members to foster a meaningful relationship.
- 6) Members requesting email notices will be included in distribution lists as required. All members will receive information regarding the AGM and notification that their membership expires immediately after the AGM.
- 7) Member's forms will be available prior to and at the AGM for renewal.