



CONSTITUTION

OF THE

**ONTARIO COLLEGES
RETIRES' ASSOCIATION**

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PREAMBLE

WHEREAS there are approximately 8,500 retirees formerly employed by Ontario Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology as of December 31, 2000, and this number will continue to increase;

AND WHEREAS no official association exists to promote and advance the interests of the Ontario Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology retirees;

AND WHEREAS a number of representatives of the said retirees have met to consider the advantages and desirability of forming an association to promote and advance the interests of the said retirees;

AND WHEREAS the representatives have determined that it has become desirable and necessary that an association be brought into existence in order to create improved communication and co-operation amongst the retirees; and between retirees and the CEC (College Employer Council), the Ontario Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology, the CAAT (Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology) Pension Plan, OPSEU (Ontario Public Services Employees' Union), OCASA (Ontario College Administrative Staff Association), and any other relevant parties which from time to time it may be deemed to be desirable, with regard to matters of interest to the retirees;

AND WHEREAS the said representatives have determined that it is appropriate that a Constitution should be prepared to reflect the principles and structure of a retirees' association, and that details of the Association's mandate, procedures, and rules be set out in by-laws enacted in accordance with the Constitution;

NOW THEREFORE the aforesaid representatives prepared and adopted this Constitution on behalf of all retirees who are or who may become eligible for membership in the Association.

ARTICLE 1 NAME

- 1.01** This organization shall be known as the "Ontario Colleges Retirees' Association" (OCRA).

ARTICLE 2 DEFINITIONS

In this Constitution:

- 2.01** "Association" means the "Ontario Colleges Retirees' Association" (OCRA).
- 2.02** "Benefits" means any health care and life insurance coverage, pension, or other benefit which the Association deems appropriate to include.

- 2.03** “**By-Laws**” means those by-laws adopted or amended pursuant to Article 6.
- 2.04** “**College**” means an Ontario College of Applied Arts and Technology.
- 2.05** “**Member**” means any retiree who has applied for and has been granted membership in accordance with this Constitution and By-laws enacted thereunder.
- 2.06** “**Ontario Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology**” means the colleges of applied arts and technology established by the government of the Province of Ontario.
- 2.07** “**Retiree**” means any individual formerly employed by an Ontario College of Applied Arts and Technology, and is receiving a pension, or is eligible to receive a deferred pension based on his or her time of employment, or who has accepted a lump sum payment in lieu of a pension.
- 2.08** “**Voting Member**” means a paid-up member of the Association.
- 2.09** In this Constitution and in all By-laws of the Association, words importing the singular shall be interpreted to include the plural and vice versa, and the masculine gender includes the feminine and vice versa.
- 2.10** “**Chair**” means the duly appointed President of the Association.

ARTICLE 3 PURPOSE/MISSION OF THE ONTARIO COLLEGES RETIREES’ ASSOCIATION

- 3.01** The Ontario Colleges Retirees’ Association is a democratically structured association with the mission to pursue and foster the interests of its members. The purpose and mandate of the Association include, but are not limited to, the following:
- (a) Developing and presenting a common position on issues of interest to retirees, including pension and health benefits, government policies and proposals, and private sector arrangements with other organizations as deemed appropriate, and achieving these objectives through advocacy, negotiation, lobbying, or other actions;
 - (b) Collecting, distributing, analyzing, and commenting on information about matters of interest to the members;
 - (c) Developing and maintaining effective channels of communication with the membership;
 - (d) Establishing and maintaining liaison with various boards and agencies which may impact our members, as well as local retiree associations/clubs.

ARTICLE 4 MEMBERSHIP

- 4.01** Membership in the Association is open to all College (CAAT) retirees.
- 4.02** Retirees who wish to join the Association will be required to complete a membership application form.
- 4.03** Members who have paid the annual membership fee or who have paid the Life membership fee or have been declared a “Honorary Lifetime” member as specified in the Association’s By-laws, are classified as paid-up members. Honorary Members have no voting rights. Paid-up Members and Associate Members have voting rights.
- 4.04** Applications for membership in the Association will be reviewed as specified in the Association’s By-laws.

ARTICLE 5 GOVERNANCE

- 5.01** The Board of the Association will be comprised of eleven voting members, ten of whom will be elected at large by the voting members of the Association at a general meeting. The immediate Past President will be invited to attend all Board meetings and to participate with voice and vote. Except as provided in Article 5.02, the term of office for any director shall be the period of time between three consecutive general meetings (normally two years) as provided in Article 5.05).
- 5.02** Retirees attending the meeting at which this Constitution is ratified shall be deemed to be voting members at a general meeting, and they shall elect ten of themselves to constitute the first Board of the Association. Five will be elected for the period of time until the next or second general meeting, and five shall be elected for the period of time until the following or third general meeting. The intended effect of this process is that only five individuals would be elected at each general meeting, thus providing for continuity of leadership.
- 5.03** The officers of the Association shall be: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Communications Officer.
- 5.04** All officers of the Association shall be elected by the Board from amongst the Board members. They shall serve in the office to which they were elected for the period of their term on the Board.
- 5.05** The Board may appoint by a simple majority vote any voting member of the Association to replace any member of the Board who does not finish the term to

which he or she was elected. The appointment shall be for the remainder of the term of the replaced Board member.

- 5.06** A quorum for conducting business at Board meetings shall be fifty per cent plus one of the Board. Decisions shall be approved by a simple majority of all those members of the Board present at the meeting. In the event of a tie, the President shall cast the deciding vote.
- 5.07** Board meetings shall be held at the time and place as determined by the Board, and Board members who are unable to attend in person may be considered to be in attendance by means of such telephone, electronic, or other communication facilities as permit all persons participating in the meeting to communicate with each other simultaneously and instantaneously.
- 5.08** General meetings shall be held at the time and place as determined by the Board in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution. The period of time between general meetings shall not normally exceed 18 months.
- 5.09** The Association shall not incur debts by borrowing money unless prior approval for such action has been obtained by passage of a Board motion following at least four (4) weeks' notice of such a motion.

ARTICLE 6 CONTENT AND ENACTMENT OF BY-LAWS

- 6.01** By-laws may be enacted for the purpose of conducting and regulating the business and affairs of the Association, or for the purpose of carrying out the objectives and mandate of the Association. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, by-laws may be enacted to:
 - (a) establish procedures and criteria regarding the admission and voting status of members including contributions made to the Association and fees payable to maintain membership status in the Association;
 - (b) govern the calling, holding, and conducting of meetings of the Board;
 - (c) govern the election of the Board and the officers of the Association;
 - (d) outline the powers and duties of the Board and the officers;
 - (e) outline the powers and duties of any committees;
 - (f) govern arrangements for the Association to hold property and hire personnel, including provisions relating to the appointment of Trustees, the handling of funds, books, and records, annual audit, appointment of auditors, signing officers, and fiscal year of the Association;

- (g) determine the types of expenses that will be covered by the Association and the rates of the coverage, and to provide for the payment of expenses incurred by members of the Board in the conduct of the business of the Association; or the expenses of any member of the Association as pre-authorized in accordance with a process approved by the Board;
- (h) govern conflict of interest;
- (i) provide for the indemnification of officers;
- (j) govern the right of the Association to deny membership or to rescind membership in the Association for conduct or behaviour considered by a simple majority vote of the Board to be unacceptable.

6.02 By-laws may be enacted or amended by a simple majority vote of the Board during the period following the ratification of this Constitution and the next general meeting. Thereafter by-laws may be enacted or amended;

- (a) if passed by the Board at a meeting and confirmed by a simple majority of voting members present at a general meeting or at a meeting called especially for the purpose;
- (b) by simple majority vote of the voting members of the Association at a general meeting.

ARTICLE 7 AMENDMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION

7.01 This Constitution may be amended at a general meeting. Amendments to the Constitution will require a two-thirds majority of the votes cast in favour of the respective amending resolutions.

ADOPTED this 19th day of April, 2001.

The founding members of the Ontario Colleges Retirees' Association who participated in and contributed to the meetings leading to the adoption of the above Constitution are as follows:

Linda Choptiany, Centennial College

Don Forrest, Fanshawe College
Dave Grimes, Fanshawe College

Peter Pass, Georgian College

Derrick May, Mohawk College
Bob Pando, Mohawk College

Jennie Balasak, Niagara College
Gary LaRose, Niagara College

Bill Totten, St. Clair College

Geza Alexin, Seneca College
Joan Cunnington, Seneca College
Sheila Hirsch, Seneca College

Peter Mazeikis, Sir Sandford Fleming College

AMENDMENT DATES

October 29, 2009

November 2, 2011

October 25, 2012

June 6, 2018

June 26, 2024