

SECTION 6 – NATIONAL COUNCIL

6.01 Composition and Selection

The National Council shall be composed of:

- a) One individual elected or appointed by the membership of each Affiliate Network;
- b) One individual elected by the membership of each active National Caucus. At no time shall the number of Caucus representative positions exceed the number of Affiliate representative positions.
- c) One additional Francophone individual, elected by the National Council from among the member groups of the RCEN upon consideration of a recommendation from the Nominations Committee;
- d) One additional Aboriginal individual, elected by the National Council from among the member groups of the RCEN upon consideration of a recommendation from the Nominations Committee.
- e) One additional Youth individual, aged 29 or under at the time of the election, elected by the National Council from among the member groups of the RCEN upon consideration of a recommendation from the Nominations Committee
- f) Additional francophone delegate, if needed to bring Francophone representation on the National Council up to a minimum of four (4); these individuals shall be elected by the National Council from among the member groups of the RCEN upon consideration of a recommendation from the Nominations Committee.
- g) Additional Aboriginal delegate, if needed to bring Aboriginal representation on the National Council up to a minimum of four (4); these individuals shall be elected by the National Council from among the member groups of the RCEN upon consideration of a recommendation from the Nominations Committee.
- h) Additional Youth delegate, if needed to bring Youth representation on the National Council up to a minimum of four (4); these individuals shall be elected by the National Council from among the member groups of the RCEN upon consideration of a recommendation from the Nominations Committee
- i) In addition to the National Council members named under subsections a) to h) above, any member of the Board of Directors whose term as a Director has not expired, shall remain a member of the National Council (i.e. a Voting Delegate) by virtue of their office as a Director, for the duration of their term on the Board, whether or not the term of their original position on the National Council has expired.

6.02 Eligibility

An individual shall be eligible to be a member of the National Council provided that she/he is:

- a) A member of a RCEN member group;
- b) A Canadian citizen or landed immigrant;
- c) A person who is not a member of the staff of the RCEN or of the staff of any of its affiliates, caucuses or committees;
- d) A person who is not in the immediate family of another member of the National Council.

6.03 Term of Office

Members of the National Council shall be elected or appointed for a three year term, and shall, if qualified, be eligible for re election for one additional consecutive term. At the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting, a member whose term is expiring shall formally retire, at which point her/his successor shall take office. If no successor has been elected or appointed, the incumbent member shall continue in office until her/his successor is elected, but in no instance for more than an additional six months beyond the expiration of her/his term. The terms of office shall be staggered such that one third of the members' terms shall expire annually.

6.04 Powers and Duties

Members of the National Council shall be the Voting Delegates at all Annual General Meetings of the corporation and at Special General Meetings not requested by the membership pursuant to Section 12.02. b) of these By-laws. They shall meet annually at the Annual General Meeting.

They shall:

- a) Elect one or more designated Francophone National Council members, one or more designated Aboriginal National Council members, and one or more designated Youth National Council members, in accordance with subsections 6.01.c), d), e), f), g) and h) of these By-laws;
- b) Elect a Chair who shall also be Chair of the Board of Directors;
- c) Elect a Board of Directors in accordance with Section 7 of these By-laws;
- d) Elect or appoint a Nominations Committee as outlined in Section 9.01 of these By-laws;
- e) Approve diversity and skills criteria to guide the work of the Nominations Committee in recommending candidates for the board;

- f) Hear appeals, formally lodged by member groups, against decisions of the Board of Directors;
- g) Make any amendments to this By-law pursuant to Section 15 hereof;
- h) Generally ensure that the mission and objectives of the RCEN and its member groups are pursued;
- i) Assign to the Board of Directors, by resolution, such other responsibilities as it may from time to time deem appropriate;
- j) Bring the perspectives of the members of the RCEN Affiliates, Caucuses and member groups to the discussions of the National Council;
- k) Act in the overall best interests of the RCEN rather than of their particular Affiliate, Caucus or member group;
- l) Report on a regular basis to the bodies that have elected or appointed them;
- m) Appoint the auditor.

6.05 Vacation of Office and Vacancies:

- a) A member of the National Council ceases to hold office when his/her successor takes office at the conclusion of an Annual General Meeting as specified in Section 6.03 of this By-law, or when she/he dies, or ceases to be qualified according to Section 6.02, or is removed from office by a resolution passed by two thirds (2/3) of the Voting Delegates at an Annual or Special General Meeting, or when his/her letter of resignation is sent to the Corporation, or at the time specified in such letter of resignation if that time is later than when the letter was sent.
- b) In the case of any such vacancy, a new member of the National Council shall be elected or appointed to fill the vacancy in the same manner as the member creating the vacancy was elected or appointed, pursuant to Section 6.01 of these By-laws.