

CPF National Bylaw Committee Report: 2022 AGM

Although the committee's activities were restricted to virtual meetings because of the pandemic, it was able to complete some projects that had been requested by the Network.

One of them was to develop an Affiliation Agreement whose purpose is to clarify the legal and governing relationships between the Branches and National. A first draft document was circulated in December 2021 to the Branches for feedback. Many of the comments and suggestions have been incorporated into the 2nd draft document which was presented to the Council of Presidents and discussed at their April meeting. This final document has been circulated, posted and is being presented for approval at the in person August CoP Meeting being held prior to the CPF National AGM.

In addition, the CPF National Executive Director met with individual CPF Branch Boards to present a Network Orientation Session so that Directors might better understand their Board governance roles and responsibilities. These sessions have been very well received. This Orientation will now take place annually within weeks of each Branch AGM, with new Directors' signing the CPF commitment to serve form.

Following a report commissioned by a CPF Branch, our National Bylaws were reviewed by both a Human Resources Consultant and a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Consulting firm to ensure that they reflect today's reality with respect to some recent changes in legislation and not-for-profit sector best practices. The National Bylaw Committee also received reports from some CPF Branches facing succession planning challenges in that they were having difficulty recruiting volunteers to serve on their Boards. The legal requirements for the Canada Not for Profit Act were reviewed, and solutions have been incorporated into the proposed Bylaw Amendments. The changes have been circulated and are being presented for approval during the AGM.

Should these National Bylaw changes be approved at this meeting, some of our National policies will be affected. The Committee has already begun a review of those and will be working on updating them accordingly. From there, the next review of the CPF Branch Bylaws will be undertaken incorporating the similar solutions reflected in the National Bylaw.

Governance is not the most enticing part of assuming a leadership role in any organization. However, governance documents provide the parameters for any organization to be able to manage conflict, oversight and risk management. They give leadership the peace of mind to be able to concentrate on more "important" things such as advocacy and programming. CPF is no exception. Thankfully, Bylaw committee members Diane Tijman and Nicole Thibault understand this and happily work on ensuring that our governance documents are relevant and effective. I am grateful for their contributions.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy McKeraghan, Chair of the CPF National Bylaw Committee