

PROVINCIAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN OF MANITOBA INC.

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE 1 DEFINITION OF COUNCIL OF WOMEN

- 1.1 The Provincial Council of Women of Manitoba, Inc. (PCWM) is a non-profit corporation, incorporated in accordance with the laws of the Province of Manitoba.
- 1.2 PCWM is a federate of the National Council of Women of Canada (NCWC), which is a federate member of the International Council of Women (ICW).
- 1.3 PCWM is a federation of a minimum of five Provincial organizations whose object, policies and principles are in harmony with those of NCWC, and individuals who become members in accordance with Article 5 of this Constitution.

ARTICLE 2 STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

- 2.1 PCWM is a federation of organizations and individuals who act in the public interest for the well being of individuals, families and communities. Through advocacy, education and research, Council promotes laws and programs that advance gender equality, environmental sustainability, human rights, peace and democracy.

ARTICLE 3 NAME AND ADDRESS

- 3.1 This federation shall be called the Provincial Council of Women of Manitoba, Inc., herein called the Council.
- 3.2 The office of the Council shall be located in Winnipeg or such other location in Manitoba as the Council decides.

ARTICLE 4 OBJECT, POLICY AND PRINCIPLES

- 4.1 **OBJECT**
The object of the Council is to bring together groups of women, and women and men, and individuals to work towards improving the quality of life in the province through:
 - a) developing policy based on research and analysis of issues that are provincial and national in scope;
 - b) co-operating with other provincial groups in developing and advancing common principles and objectives;
 - c) providing information to members and the general public on current issues;
 - d) carrying concerns of the Council to the provincial government;

- e) recommending and working toward change in provincial laws, regulations and administrative processes in accordance with the Council's policy resolutions;
- f) developing and submitting resolutions to NCWC on issues of national scope, and where appropriate, advocating for provincial implementation of NCWC policy resolutions.

4.2 POLICY AND PROCEDURES

The Council's policy and procedures shall be consistent with the policy and procedures of NCWC as stated in the NCWC Constitution and By-laws.

4.3 PRINCIPLES

- a) No organization entering into federation with the Council shall thereby lose its independence, aims or methods of operation, or be committed to the principles of any other Federated Organization of the Council.
- b) In all decisions the Council shall safeguard the principles of human rights and democracy.
- c) The Council shall determine at appropriate intervals the ratio of federate to individual votes.
- d) The aggregate votes of all the individual members shall not exceed the aggregate votes of the Federated Organizations.

ARTICLE 5 MEMBERSHIP

5.1 The Council shall be composed of at least five federate organizations and individual members.

5.1.1 The federate organizations shall be made up of one or more of:

- a) Local Councils of Women (LCWs);
- b) Provincial Organizations that support the object, policy and principles of the Council, and have been organized for at least one year prior to becoming a member;
- c) Local Organizations that support the object, policy and principles of the Council, and
- d) Provincial Study Groups.

5.1.2 Individual members include:

- a) Honorary President
- b) Life members

**ARTICLE 6
HONORARY
PRESIDENT,
MEMBERS OF
EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE,
BOARD AND
COUNCIL**

- c) Individual members who support the object, policy and principles of the Council
 - d) Provincial members of NCWC study groups.
- 6.1 HONORARY PRESIDENT
An Honorary President may be selected and appointed according to the By-Laws.
- 6.2 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
The Executive Committee shall be the President, President-Elect, Past President, Vice-Presidents, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer and Archivist.
- 6.3 BOARD
The Board shall be the President, President-elect, Past President, Vice-Presidents, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer, Archivist, President of Local Council, Chairpersons of Standing Study Committee, Special Committees and Administration Committees, and Members-at-Large.
- 6.4 COUNCIL
The Council shall be the federate representatives and individual members.

**ARTICLE 7
ADMINISTRATIVE,
STANDING
STUDY AND
SPECIAL
COMMITTEES**

- 7.1 ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEES
Administrative Committees may be formed by the Board to assist in the administration of the Council.
- 7.2 STANDING STUDY COMMITTEES
Standing Study committees may be formed by the Board for the purpose of:
- a) developing briefs and policy resolutions based on research and analysis of a specific issue;
 - b) educating board and council members, and the public on the topic; and
 - c) establishing a group who will serve the Council as a source of expertise on specific topics.
- 7.2.1 The Chairperson of a Standing Study Committee shall be a member of the similar National Council of Women Committee.
- 7.3 SPECIAL COMMITTEES
Special committees may be formed by the Board or the Executive Committee, to undertake specific projects of a temporary nature.

**ARTICLE 8
MEETINGS**

- 8.1 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
The Council shall hold an Annual General Meeting for presentation of reports, the election of officers and chairpersons of Standing Study committees, and other business, at such time and place as the Council determines.
- 8.2 SEMI-ANNUAL AND OTHER MEETINGS
The Council shall hold at least one other general meeting in each fiscal year and may hold other meetings from time to time to promote the interests of the Council.

**ARTICLE 9
FINANCE**

- 9.1 FINANCE
- a) The fiscal year of the Council shall be from April 1 to March 31st of the following year.
 - b) Records shall be kept of all financial transactions according to generally accepted accounting principles.
 - c) The financial records shall be audited at the end of each fiscal year.
- 9.2 WINDING UP
Upon dissolution of the corporation, the assets, after payment or satisfaction of the Council's debts and accounts, shall be distributed to one or more non-profit organizations or corporations with objects similar to those of the Council.

**ARTICLE 10
BY-LAWS**

- 10.1 By-Laws and Standing Rules adopted by the Council shall be consistent with this Constitution and those of NCWC. Where they differ, NCWC provisions shall prevail.

**ARTICLE 11
GOVERNING
DOCUMENTS**

- 11.1 Governing Documents of the Council shall be:
- a) Articles of Incorporation
 - b) Constitution
 - c) By-Laws
 - d) Standing Rules

**ARTICLE 12
AMENDMENTS**

- 12.1 This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting at an Annual General Meeting of the Council, provided:
- a) a quorum is present, and
 - b) the proposed amendment or amendments were not defeated at the previous annual meeting, and
 - c) notice of the proposed amendment or amendments has been given to the membership of the Council at least two months before the Annual General Meeting.
- 12.2 Notice of proposed amendment or amendments shall be sent to the Constitution Committee of the NCWC in accordance with the regulations determined by the NCWC.
- 12.3 Amendments to the NCWC's Common Constitution may only be made at an Annual Meeting of NCWC by a two-thirds (2/3)-majority vote. Notice of proposed amendment(s) shall be sent to the NCWC Constitution Convener at least four (4) months prior to the NCWC Annual Meeting.