



Service Nova Scotia

Society Incorporation Forms  
Societies Act  
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Registry of Joint Stock Companies

## Society Incorporation Forms

### CHECK LIST FOR INCORPORATING A SOCIETY

For background and assistance, please see our website ([www.rjsc.ca](http://www.rjsc.ca)) and follow the links to “forms and information” and then to “societies”. We encourage you to download “Societies Incorporation: Overview and Instructions” as an important addition to this package of forms.

On the following pages are all of the forms required to incorporate a society once your group’s name has been reserved. To reserve a name, either call your local Access Centre or use the phone numbers at the bottom of this page. Alternatively, you can use the “Name Reservation Form”, which is available at [www.rjsc.ca](http://www.rjsc.ca) by following the links to “forms and information” and then to “societies”. Once the name is reserved, use the following forms to register and incorporate your society.

Name on reserve (free) \*

*\$43.60 incorporation fee, payable to the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies*

Page 1: Check List

Pages 2-3: *Memorandum of Association*

Page 4: *Society Classification*

Pages 5-9: By-laws

Pages 10-11: *Notice of Directors and Officers*

Page 12: Appointment of Recognized Agent

Page 13: *Notice of Registered Office*

\* You must use the exact name that has been reserved with the Registry of Joint Stock Companies for your society’s use on all of these forms. Submit the original forms (no faxes or emails are acceptable) with the incorporation fee of \$43.60 to your nearest Access Centre or to the mailing address below.

**Memorandum of Association**  
For a Non-Profit Society

The name of the Society is \_\_\_\_\_  
*(society name)*

On a volunteer and non-profit basis the objective/s of the society is/are:

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- 

To acquire by way of grant, gift, purchase, bequest, devise or otherwise, real and personal property and to use and apply such property to the realization of the objects of the Society;

To buy, own, hold, lease, mortgage, sell and convey such real and personal property as may be necessary or desirable in the carrying out of the objects of the Society.

Provided that:

- The society shall not carry on any trade, industry, or business;
- All funds shall be used solely for the purposes of the Society and the promotion of its objects;

Upon dissolution of the society and after payment of all debts and liabilities, its remaining property shall be distributed or disposed of to:

qualified donees described in subsection 149.1(1) of the Income Tax Act ("charitable purposes").

non-profit organization in Canada having objects similar to those of the society.

The activities of the Society are to be carried on in . \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
*(civic number and street)*

Nova Scotia

\_\_\_\_\_  
*(city or town)*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*(province)*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*(postal code)*

**We, the 5 persons whose names, addresses and occupations are subscribed, desire to be formed into a society in pursuance of this memorandum of association.**

1. Member: \_\_\_\_\_  
*(name) (occupation) (signature)*

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
*(civic number and street)*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*(city or town) (province) (postal code)*

2. Member: \_\_\_\_\_  
*(name) (occupation) (signature)*

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
*(civic number and street)*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*(city or town) (province) (postal code)*

3. Member: \_\_\_\_\_  
*(name) (occupation) (signature)*

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
*(civic number and street)*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*(city or town) (province) (postal code)*

4. Member: \_\_\_\_\_  
*(name) (occupation) (signature)*

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
*(civic number and street)*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*(city or town) (province) (postal code)*

5. Member: \_\_\_\_\_  
*(name) (occupation) (signature)*

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
*(civic number and street)*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*(city or town) (province) (postal code)*

***Witness to the above signatures:***

Witness: \_\_\_\_\_  
*(name) (signature)*

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
*(civic number and street)*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*(city or town) (province) (postal code)*

## Society Classification

(society name)

Please review the following list and check off the classification that best describes the main activities of your organization. To gain a better understanding of the nature of non-profit societies, and as part of efforts to understand the overall impact of volunteerism in the Province, we are asking that groups classify their main activities using the International Classification of Non-Profit Organizations. Additional information can be found at [www.statcan.ca/english/freepub/13-015-XIE/2005000/icnpo.htm](http://www.statcan.ca/english/freepub/13-015-XIE/2005000/icnpo.htm)

- G Culture and Recreation
  - Media and Communications
  - Visual/Ceramic arts and architecture
  - Performing arts
  - Historical, literary and humanistic societies
  - Museums
  - Zoos and aquariums
  - Sports
  - Recreation and social clubs
  - Service clubs
- G Education and Research
  - Elementary, primary and secondary education
  - Higher education
  - Vocational/technical schools
  - Adult/continuing education
  - Medical research
  - Science and technology
  - Social sciences/policy studies
- G Health
  - Hospitals
  - Rehabilitation
  - Nursing homes
  - Psychiatric hospitals
  - Mental health treatment
  - Crisis intervention
  - Public health and wellness education
  - Health treatment, primarily outpatient
  - Rehabilitative medical services
  - Emergency medical services
- G Social Services
  - Child welfare, child services and day care
  - Youth services and youth welfare
  - Family services
  - Services for the handicapped
  - Services for the elderly
  - Self-help and other personal social services
  - Disaster/emergency prevention and control
  - Temporary shelters
  - Refugee assistance
  - Income support and maintenance
  - Material assistance
- G Environment
  - Pollution abatement and control
  - Natural resources conservation/protection
  - Environmental beautification
  - Animal protection and welfare
  - Wildlife preservation and protection
  - Veterinary services
- G Development and Housing
  - Community and neighborhood organizations
  - Economic development
  - Social development
  - Housing associations
  - Housing assistance
  - Job training programs
  - Vocational counseling and guidance
  - Vocational rehabilitation
- G Law, Advocacy and Politics
  - Advocacy organizations
  - Civil rights associations
  - Ethnic associations
  - Civic associations
  - Legal services
  - Crime prevention and public policy
  - Rehabilitation of offenders
  - Victim support
  - Consumer protection agencies
  - Political parties and organizations
- G Philanthropic Intermediaries and Voluntarism Promotion
  - Grant-making foundations
  - Volunteerism promotion and support
  - Fundraising organizations
- G International
  - Exchange/friendship/cultural programs
  - Development assistance
  - International disaster and relief
  - International human rights and peace
- G Religion
  - Congregations
  - Associations of congregations
- G Business and Professional Associations
  - Business associations
  - Professional associations
- G Not elsewhere classified (*please specify*)

## BY-LAWS FOR A NON-PROFIT SOCIETY

### Definitions

1. In these by-laws:
  - (a) "Society" means \_\_\_\_\_  
(society name)
  - (b) "Registrar" means the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies appointed under the Nova Scotia Companies Act.
  - (c) "Special Resolution" means a resolution passed by not less than three-fourths of such members entitled to vote as are present in person or by proxy, where proxies are allowed, at a general meeting of which notice specifying the intention to propose the resolution as a special resolution has been duly given.

### Membership Rights and Responsibilities

2. The Society is ultimately accountable to the members of the Society.
3. Every member is entitled to attend any members' meeting of the Society.
4. Every member may vote at any members' meeting of the Society after they have attended at least one previous members' meeting.
5. Any member of legal age, or with their guardian's written consent, is entitled to hold any office.
6. Membership in the Society shall consist of:
  - (a) the minimum of 5 subscribers to the Memorandum of Association,
  - (b) those who support the objects of the Society,
  - (c) those whose name and address is written in the Register of Members by the secretary,
  - (d) those who pay an annual fee in an amount to be determined by the Society, and/or
  - (e) those who reside in the geographic area of \_\_\_\_\_,  
and/or
  - (f) other: \_\_\_\_\_
7. Membership in the Society is not transferable.
8. Membership in the Society shall cease:
  - (a) upon death, or
  - (b) if the member resigns by written notice to the Society, or
  - (c) if the member ceases to qualify for membership in accordance with these by-laws, or
  - (d) if, by a vote of the majority of the members of the society or a majority vote of the Directors of the Society at a meeting duly called and for which notice of the proposed action has been given, the Member's membership in the Society has been terminated.
9. The members may repeal, amend or add to these by-laws by a special resolution. No by-law or amendment to by-laws shall take effect until the Registrar approves of it.
10. No funds of the society shall be paid to or be available for the personal benefit of any member.

## Members' Meetings

11. Every member, subject to by-law 4, shall have one vote and no more and there
12. A general or special meeting of the members may be held at any time and shall be called:
  - (a) if requested by the chair, or
  - (b) if requested by a majority of the directors, or
  - (c) if requested in writing by \_\_\_\_\_ of the members.
13. Notice to members is required for general or special meetings. The notice must:
  - (a) specify the date, place and time of the meeting,
  - (b) be given to the members seven (7) days prior to the meeting,
  - (c) be given to the members by newsletters, newspapers, television, radio, e-mail, telephone, fax and/or other electronic means,
  - (d) specify the nature of business, such as the intention to propose a special resolution, and
  - (e) the non-receipt of notice by any member shall not invalidate the proceedings.
14. An annual general meeting shall be held within three months after every fiscal year end and notice is required which must:
  - (a) specify the date, place and time of the meeting,
  - (b) be given to the members thirty (30) days prior to the meeting,
  - (c) be given to the members by newsletters, newspapers, television, radio, e-mail, telephone, fax and/or other electronic means,
  - (d) specify the intention to propose a special resolution, and
  - (e) the non-receipt of notice by any member shall not invalidate the proceedings.
15. At the annual general meeting of the Society the following items of business shall be dealt with and shall be deemed ordinary business and all other business transacted shall be deemed special business:
  - (a) minutes of the previous annual general meeting,
  - (b) consideration of the annual report of the directors,
  - (c) consideration of the annual financial report of the Society,
  - (d) the appointment of auditors for the ensuing year, and
  - (e) election of directors,
16. Quorum shall consist of \_\_\_\_\_ of members. No business shall be conducted at any meeting unless a quorum is present to open the meeting and, upon request, before any vote.
17.
  - (a) If a meeting is convened as per by-law 12(a) or 12(b) and quorum is not present within one-half hour from the time appointed for the meeting, it shall be adjourned to such time and place as a majority of the members present shall decide. Notice of the new meeting shall be given and at the adjourned meeting the members present shall constitute quorum only for the purpose of winding up the Society.
  - (b) If a meeting is convened at the request of the members as per by-law 12(c) and quorum is not present within one-half hour from the time appointed for the meeting, it shall be dissolved.

18. The President, or in his/her absence, the Vice-President, or in the absence of both of them, any member appointed from among those present, shall preside as Chair at members' meetings.
19. Where there is an equality of votes
20. The Chair may, with the consent of the meeting, adjourn any meeting. No business shall be transacted at the subsequent meeting other than the business left unfinished at the adjourned meeting unless notice of such new business is given to the members.
21. At any meeting a declaration by the Chair that a resolution has been carried is sufficient unless a poll is demanded by at least three members. If a poll is demanded it shall be held by show of hands or by secret ballot as the Chair may decide.

## Directors

22. Any member of the society shall be eligible to be elected a director of the Society and a director of the society shall be a member.
23. The number of directors shall be \_\_\_\_\_ (*not less than 5*). The subscribers to the Memorandum of Association of the Society shall be the first directors of the Society.
24. Directors shall retire from office at the end of each annual general meeting at which their successors are elected. Retiring directors shall be eligible for re-election. Directors shall be elected to
25. If a director resigns his/her office or ceases to be a member in the Society, his/her office as director shall be vacated and the vacancy may be filled for the unexpired portion of the term by the board of directors from among the members of the Society.
26. The members may, by special resolution, remove any director and appoint another person to complete the term of office.
27. The management of the Society is the responsibility of the directors. In particular, the directors may engage a General Manager, and determine his/her duties, responsibilities and remuneration.
28. The directors may appoint an executive committee and other committees as they see fit.
29. Directors who have, or could reasonably be seen to have, a conflict of interest have a duty to declare this interest. The declaration should be made to the members
  - (a) upon nomination, and
  - (b) if serving as a director, when the possibility of a conflict is realized.
30. A conflict of interest does not prevent a member from serving as a director provided that he/she withdraws from the decision making on matters pertaining to that interest. The withdrawal should be recorded in the minutes.

## Directors' Meetings

31. The board of directors shall meet no less than \_\_\_\_\_ times each year.
32. A meeting of directors may be held at the close of every annual general meeting without notice for the purpose of electing officers. For all other board meetings, notice is required and must:
  - (a) specify the date, place and time of the meeting,
  - (b) be given to the directors seven (7) days prior to the meeting,
  - (c) be given to the directors by newsletters, radio, public bulletin boards, e-mail, telephone, fax and/or other electronic means,
  - (d) the non-receipt of notice by any director shall not invalidate the proceedings.
  - (e) Notice can be waived for board meetings with the unanimous approval of the Board.
33. Quorum shall consist of \_\_\_\_\_ of the directors. No business shall be conducted at any meeting of the board of directors unless a quorum is present to open the meeting and, upon request, before any vote.
34. The President or, in his/her absence, the Vice-President or, in the absence of both of them, any director appointed from among the directors shall preside as Chair of the Board.
35. At directors' meetings, where there is an equality of votes

## Officers

36. The officers shall be elected by the directors and shall be a President, a Vice-President, a Treasurer and a Corporate Secretary. The offices of Treasurer and Corporate Secretary may be combined.
37. One of the officers shall be the President. The President shall be responsible for the effectiveness of the board and shall perform other duties as assigned by the members or the directors.
38. One of the officers shall be the Vice-President. The Vice-President shall perform the duties of the Chair during the absence, illness or incapacity of the President, or when the Chair may request him/her to do so.
39. One of the officers shall be the Corporate Secretary. The Corporate Secretary shall:
  - (a) have responsibility for the preparation and custody of all books and records including:
    1. the minutes of members' meetings,
    2. the minutes of directors' meetings,
    3. the register of members, and
    4. filing the annual requirements with the office of the Registrar, and
  - (b) have custody of the Seal, if any, which may be affixed to any document upon resolution of the board of directors, and
  - (c) file with the Registrar:
    1. within fourteen (14) days of their election or appointment, a list of directors with their addresses, occupations, and dates of appointment or election



2. a copy of every special resolution within fourteen (14) days after the resolution is passed, and
  - (d) have other duties as assigned by the board.
40. The directors may also appoint a Recording Secretary
    - (a) who is responsible for taking minutes of all board and members' meetings, and
    - (b) who need not be a director.
  41. One of the officers shall be the Treasurer. The Treasurer shall have responsibility for the custody of all financial books and records of the Society, and carry out all other duties as assigned by the board.
  42. Contracts, deeds, bills of exchange and other instruments and documents may be executed on behalf of the Society by the President or the Vice-President and the Corporate Secretary, or otherwise as prescribed by resolution of the Board of Directors.

## Finance

43. The fiscal year end of the Society shall be the last day of \_\_\_\_\_ .  
(month)
44. The directors shall annually present to the members a written report on the financial position of the Society. The report shall be in the form of:
  - (a) a balance sheet showing its assets, liabilities and equity, and
  - (b) a statement of its income and expenditure in the preceding fiscal year.
45. A copy of the financial report shall be signed by the auditor or by two directors.
46. A signed copy of the financial report shall be filed with the Registrar within fourteen (14) days after each annual meeting.
47. An auditor of the Society may be appointed by the members at the annual general meeting and, if the members fail to appoint an auditor, the directors may do so.
48. The Society may only borrow money as approved by a special resolution of the members.
49. The members may inspect the annual financial statements and minutes of membership and directors meetings at the registered office of the Society with one week's notice. All other books and records of the Society may be inspected by any member at any reasonable time within two days prior to the annual general meeting at the registered office of the Society.
50. Directors and officers shall serve without remuneration and shall not receive any profit from their positions. However, a director or officer may be paid reasonable expenses incurred in the performance of his/her duties.
51. The Society shall not make loans, guarantee loans or advance funds to any director.



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Notice of Directors and Officers for

(society name)

Appointment date: (yyyymmdd)

Please check one: (yyyymmdd)

The following are to serve as the first directors and officers\* from the date of incorporation until the close of business at the first annual general meeting.

The following is the updated list of directors and officers\* as of the appointment date.

\*The Societies Act requires that a notice of Directors be provided. Information regarding appointment of officers is supplementary.

Director or Officer (print or type name) (signature)

Date signed: (yyyymmdd)

Check one or both: Director Officer
Name: (first name and middle initial) (last name)
Residential address: (civic number and street) (apt / suite / unit)
(town or municipality) (province or state)
(country) (postal code)
(occupation) (position held if officer)



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Check one or both: Director Officer
Name:
Residential address:
(first name and middle initial) (last name)
(civic number and street) (apt / suite / unit)
(town or municipality) (province or state)
(country) (postal code)
(occupation) (position held if officer)

Check one or both: Director Officer
Name:
Residential address:
(first name and middle initial) (last name)
(civic number and street) (apt / suite / unit)
(town or municipality) (province or state)
(country) (postal code)
(occupation) (position held if officer)

Check one or both: Director Officer
Name:
Residential address:
(first name and middle initial) (last name)
(civic number and street) (apt / suite / unit)
(town or municipality) (province or state)
(country) (postal code)
(occupation) (position held if officer)

For office use only

Regis ID#: [ ] Date filed: [ ]



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Appointment of Recognized Agent

Societies incorporated in Nova Scotia must appoint an agent. All correspondence from the Registry will go to that agent unless the Registry is given written instructions to the contrary. The Recognized Agent must be resident in Nova Scotia. Service upon the Recognized Agent of any writ, summons, process, notice or other document shall be deemed to be sufficient upon the society, and this appointment shall remain in force until notice in writing by the society that the individual has ceased to be the Recognized Agent is filed with the Registry.

Pursuant to the Societies Act, (society name)
appoints as Recognized Agent (first name and middle initial) (last name)
Civic address in Nova Scotia: (civic number and street) (apt/suite/unit)
(city or town) NS (postal code)
Mailing address: (if different from above) (civic number and street, P.O. box, etc.) (apt/suite/unit)
(city or town) NS (postal code)
Signatory For and on behalf of all Directors
(name of director)
(signature of director)
Date: (yyyy/mm/dd)

For office use only

Regis ID#:

Date filed:



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Notice of Registered Office

Information

Society name: \_\_\_\_\_

as of \_\_\_\_\_ the registered office is situated at:  
*(yyyy/mm/dd)*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*(civic number and street)* *(apt / suite / unit)*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*(city or town)* *(province)* *(postal code)*

Mailing address  
(if different  
from above):

\_\_\_\_\_  
*(civic number and street)* *(apt / suite / unit)*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*(city or town)* *(province)* *(postal code)*

Attention: \_\_\_\_\_  
*(first name and middle initial)* *(last name)*

Enter a phone number where you can be reached: \_\_\_\_\_  
*(telephone number)*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*(fax number)* *(E-mail address)*

Please check here if you want all correspondence from the Registry of Joint Stock Companies directed to the mailing address indicated above, as opposed to being directed to the Recognized Agent.

Signatory

\_\_\_\_\_  
*(name of officer or director)*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*(signature of officer or director)*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*(yyyy/mm/dd)*

For office use only

Regis ID#: \_\_\_\_\_ Date filed: \_\_\_\_\_