

# **Gender Mosaic Inc. / Mosaïque de Genres Inc By-Laws**

## Preamble

With these Articles of Bylaws, the members of Gender Mosaic do voluntarily agree to advance the harmony and support of one another without displaying prejudice. We shall endeavour to create an energetic, diverse, and understanding community where individuals are free to express and develop their personal growth while respecting the needs of others to do the same. Through the promotion of common-interest forums and other resources we agree to empower with knowledge both ourselves and those we affect. We shall strive to remove the barriers toward these goals and promote the education of all peoples and governing bodies which affect us.

To achieve these ends we have adopted a set of Bylaws which respects the needs of our members, especially their right to privacy of personal identity and which provides an orderly framework for Gender Mosaic and its meetings. Our statement of Purpose sets the perspective of the member within Gender Mosaic, and of Gender Mosaic within the larger world. The obligations of members to one another to achieve harmony within Gender Mosaic, are expressed in a Code of Ethics. This Code emphasizes the right to privacy of members, their right to be free from abuses of power by other members, and their obligations to extend the same acceptance of others as they expect of themselves. To protect the rights of members within Gender Mosaic an office of Ombudsperson is created. Other checks and balances, including terms of reference for the Executive and Membership Committees, are adopted.

We also commit never to discriminate, judge or negatively label, through any form of communication, any other group or individual based on their sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, culture, race, background and this within and without the boundaries of our group and our own communities.

Owing to the nature of our community in which our members reserve the right not to reveal personal information, new members and established members may not feel comfortable with one another at first. Accordingly, a transitional period of integration is recognized, after which a new member acquires full rights in Gender Mosaic.

## **Article 1 - Definitions**

1.1 All references herein to the feminine gender shall include the masculine, and all references herein to the singular number shall include the plural.

1.2 As generally agreed among international medical and educational communities, Gender Mosaic subscribes to the commonly held definition of "transgender" as an umbrella term, sometimes shortened to trans or TG, covering all gender variant people. References to transgender, trans or TG, in either these by-laws or in any Gender Mosaic documentation or signage, can be used interchangeably.

1.3 All references to Transgender/Trans/TG shall include transsexuals, cross-dressers, two-spirited, and other gender variant persons including their significant others and supporters, regardless of sexual orientation or practice, chosen or born gender, race, religion, language or culture.

1.4 A member "in good standing" shall be defined to be a member as defined in Bylaw 5.1 whose dues are not in arrears.

## **Article 2 - Name of the Organization**

2.1 The legal name of the organization shall be Gender Mosaic Inc. / Mosaique de Genres Inc., commonly referred to as GM, MG, Gender Mosaic or Mosaique de Genres.

2.2 Gender Mosaic is a provincially incorporated not for profit corporation.

## **Article 3 - Purposes**

3.1 Gender Mosaic is open to all trans-identified people, both Male to Female and Female to Male, and all those questioning their gender identity and/or expression in any form.

3.2 Gender Mosaic is a not for profit organization serving as a social and support group for the transgender community in the National Capital Region of Canada, formed under the Incorporation Act of Ontario. Gender Mosaic was officially incorporated on January 27, 2012.

3.3 Gender Mosaic is organized for the purposes set forth in its articles of incorporation which are filed with the province of Ontario.

3.4 Gender Mosaic shall endeavour to:

3.4.1 Provide varied forums and resources to assist in the personal development, growth, and contact of its members with the transgender community;

- 3.4.2 Promote knowledge and understanding of the full spectrum of transgenderism in all its variations;
- 3.4.3 Build a sense of community and make contact with other organizations or individuals sharing similar objectives that may benefit or further the objectives of Gender Mosaic;
- 3.4.4 Work toward removing all constraints towards achieving these goals;
- 3.4.5 Notwithstanding by-law 3.4, neither Gender Mosaic nor its members shall be presumed to provide a counselling service; and
- 3.4.6 Gender Mosaic shall at all times promote the harmony and equitable treatment of all people.

#### **Article 4 - Code of Ethics**

- 4.1 Each member shall treat other members with respect at all times.
- 4.2 Each member shall endeavour to work in harmony with other members of GM in a spirit of positive cooperation towards common goals.
- 4.3 All personal information pertaining to any member shall be deemed confidential, unless that member has given permission for its release.
- 4.4 A member shall not disclose confidential information pertaining to another member without permission.
- 4.5 A member shall not publicly advance or engage in any form of racial, cultural, religious, language, gender, or sexual oppression.
- 4.6 No member shall speak on behalf of, or attempt to represent Gender Mosaic, without authorization of the Executive Committee.
- 4.7 Each member agrees to comply fully with the provisions expressed in these Bylaws.
- 4.8 Notwithstanding Bylaw 3.4, neither Gender Mosaic nor a member of Gender Mosaic shall presume upon another member to accede to a request with which they are uncomfortable.
- 4.9 No member or guest of a member shall be dressed at a meeting in a manner normally deemed to be indecent or obscene. In such a case, the individual shall be informed in private by a member of the Executive Committee. The member or guest may be requested to comply or leave.
- 4.10 No Officer of GM shall use their Office in GM to promote personal business interests outside GM.

4.9 No Officer of GM shall use the influence of their Office to promote business interests within GM to the exclusion of competitors.

## **Article 5 - Membership**

5.1 Membership is open to anyone who supports the Purposes of GM provided that they have reached the age of nineteen (19) years and have been screened by the Membership Committee.

5.2 There shall be three (3) classes of membership, namely: Regular, Special, and Family member.

5.3 A Regular Member in good standing shall have full voting rights and shall receive all official bulletins and newsletters of GM through the e-list and-or the website A Regular Member shall pay such dues as have been set from time to time by the membership at a General Meeting.

5.4 Special Membership shall be open:

5.4.1 To students engaged in fulltime course of study at a recognized educational institution.

5.4.2 To others in demonstrable financial hardship; on presentation of sufficient proof to a member of the Executive Committee of the applicant's status or condition.

5.4.3 A Special Member in good standing shall have the same rights as a Regular Member as stated in Bylaw 5.3.

5.4.4 A Special Member shall pay such dues as set from time to time by the membership at a General Meeting, these dues being not more than those of a Regular Member.

5.5 Family Membership shall be open to two (2) or more persons residing in the same household. Persons sharing a Family Membership in good standing shall have full individual voting rights but shall receive only one (1) copy of all official bulletins and newsletters of GM. Persons sharing a Family Membership shall pay such dues as set from time to time by the membership at a General Meeting, these dues being not more than twice those of a Regular Member.

5.6 Notwithstanding Bylaws 5.3, 5.4 and 5.5, a new member shall not be eligible to vote in elections or to hold elected office, but shall have all the other rights of membership, for a qualifying period of ninety (90) days following the first payment of their dues. This qualifying period shall not apply to the renewal of a lapsed membership.

5.7 All GM members shall have access to these by-laws either through hard copy or through the GM web site.

5.8 A member who is not in good standing shall lose voting rights and member privileges until they have recovered their standing through payment of outstanding dues for the current fiscal year.

5.9 To prevent possible compromise of confidentiality, it is in the interest of each member to keep the Secretary informed of changes to their mailing address and telephone number.

## **Article 6 - Executive Committee**

6.1 The Executive Committee shall have the general power to manage and control the affairs and property of Gender Mosaic, and shall have full power, by majority vote from its members, to adopt rules and regulations governing the action of the Executive Committee. Members of the Executive Committee must reside in Canada.

6.2 The daily functioning of GM in accordance with these Bylaws shall be conducted by an Executive Committee comprising a President, two (2) Vice-Presidents, a Secretary, and a Treasurer.

6.3 No member of the Executive Committee shall hold more than two (2) Committee offices. Each Committee member shall have only one (1) vote, which vote shall be cast in person and not by proxy.

6.4 The President shall be the Chief Executive Officer of Gender Mosaic and, in general supervise and control all of the business and affairs of Gender Mosaic. They may sign, with the Secretary or any other proper Officer of Gender Mosaic, any deeds, contracts, or other instruments or documents to be executed on behalf of the organization. Specifically, the duties of the President include:

6.4.1 to chair Executive Committee meetings.

6.4.2 to chair General Meetings.

6.4.3 act as chief coordinator of all GM activities.

6.4.4 to make a report on Executive Committee resolutions to the membership at each General Meeting.

6.5 The duties of the First Vice-President shall be:

6.5.1 to assume the responsibilities and duties of the President in their absence

6.5.2 to aid the President in their daily duties.

6.5.3 to assist in maintaining liaison with GM committees.

6.6 The duties of the Second Vice-President shall be:

- 6.6.1 to assume the responsibilities and duties of the First Vice-President in their absence;
- 6.6.2 to aid the President in their daily duties.
- 6.6.3 to assist in maintaining liaison with GM committees.

6.7 The Secretary shall see that all notices are duly given in accordance with these bylaws or as required by law, maintain the official records of Gender Mosaic, and in general perform the duties customary to the Office of Secretary and such duties as from time to time may be assigned by the President of the Executive Committee. Specifically, the duties of the Secretary include:

- 6.7.1 to record the minutes of all General Meetings and Executive meetings and have these minutes available to members on the Gender Mosaic website.
- 6.7.2 to maintain all records of Gender Mosaic in good order and to permit only authorized issuances of such records.
- 6.7.3 to aid the President in the preparation of agendas for meetings.

6.8 The Treasurer is responsible for all funds and securities of Gender Mosaic; to receive and give receipts of monies due and payable to gender Mosaic, and deposit all such monies of Gender Mosaic in such banks, trust companies or other depositories as shall be selected in accordance with the provisions of the Bylaws; and perform such other duties as from time to time may be assigned to them by the President or Executive Committee. Specifically, the duties of the Treasurer include:

- 6.8.1 to keep accurate records of all GM financial transactions, and to permit only authorized issuances of such records.
- 6.8.2 to make a report on the state of GM finances at each General Meeting.

6.9 Executive meetings shall be at the call of the president, or of any two (2) members of the Executive Committee.

6.10 A majority of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum for all Executive Committee meetings.

6.11 No member of the Executive Committee shall participate in a vote of an Executive Committee meeting on a matter that has been declared a conflict of interest, unless they are permitted to vote by a majority decision of the Executive Committee.

6.12 Robert's Rules of Order, as they apply to procedures in committees, shall apply at all Executive Committee meetings. The latest edition available shall be used.

6.13 The Executive Committee may at its discretion hold meetings in-camera.

6.14 The Executive Committee may from time to time appoint Officers and Committee Chairs as shall be deemed necessary to carry out specific functions for a specific period of time. Such Officer or Committee Chair:

- 6.14.1. Shall be a member in good standing; and
- 6.14.2. Shall hold office until the term, as defined in Article 6.17, of such position expires; and
- 6.14.3. shall have full authority to act as a representative these Bylaws and any pertinent Resolutions passed pursuant thereto; and
- 6.14.4. If not already a member of the Executive Committee, shall not through this appointment Become a member of the Executive Committee, and shall not through this appointment Acquire a vote at Executive Committee meetings; and
- 6.14.5. On leaving office, shall surrender all GM books, records, official files, and assets to the Executive Committee.

6.15 The Executive Committee may appoint a member in good standing to fill any vacant Executive Committee Office for the balance of its term.

6.16 No Executive Committee member shall serve more than three (3) consecutive terms in the same position.

6.17 No Executive Committee member shall serve more than five (5) consecutive terms on the Executive Committee in any position or combination of positions.

6.18 The term of an Executive Committee member shall begin on the date of their appointment under Bylaw 6.14, or twenty (30) days following their election under Article 18, and shall last until they leave office under Article 19, or until twenty-eight (28) days following the election of their successor at the next Annual General Meeting, whichever is sooner.

6.19 On leaving office, an Executive Committee member shall surrender all GM books, records, official files, and assets to their successor.

6.20 Notwithstanding Bylaw 4.2, any member of the Executive Committee or of a previous Executive Committee may release confidential information to any other member of the Executive Committee, and to Officers and Chairs. Unless otherwise restricted by the Articles of Incorporation or these bylaws, any action required or permitted to be taken by the Executive Committee may be taken without a meeting if a majority of the Executive Committee members consent in writing through fax, mail, or by electronic mail to the adoption of a resolution authorizing the action. The resolution and the written consents thereto by the Executive members shall be filed with the minutes of proceedings of the Executive Board.

6.21 Unless otherwise restricted by the Articles of Incorporation or the bylaws, any or all Executive Committee members may participate in a meeting of the Board by means of conference telephone, teleconferencing, or by means by which all persons participating in the meeting are able to communicate with one another, and such participation shall constitute presence in person at the meeting.

6.22 Each Executive Committee member is expected to communicate with the President in advance of all Board meetings stating whether or not they are able to attend or participate by conference call, teleconference, or other agreed-upon means of communication. Any Board member who is absent from three successive Board meetings or fails to participate for a full year shall be deemed to have resigned due to non-participation, and their position shall be declared vacant, unless the Board affirmatively votes to retain that Executive Member as a member of the Board.

6.23 The President and Executive Committee members may accept on behalf of Gender Mosaic any grants, contributions, gifts, bequests, or device for the purpose of promoting transgender support to the community.

6.24 All cheques, drafts, loans, or other orders for the payment of money, or to sign acceptances, notes, or other evidences of indebtedness issued in the name of Gender Mosaic shall be signed by such officer or officers, agent or agents of the corporation and in such manner as shall be from time to time determined by the Executive Committee. In absence of such determination, such instrument shall be signed by the Treasurer and another member of the Executive Committee, except for disbursements over a specific amount, to be set by the Board from time to time, which shall be considered a "special disbursement" and must be approved in advance by the Executive Committee.

#### **Article 7 - General Committees**

7.1 Each general committee shall have powers as the Executive Committee may grant it, consistent with law, the Articles of Incorporation, and the bylaws.

#### **Article 8 - Membership Committee**

8.1 There may be appointed under Bylaw 6.14 a Membership Committee Chair.

8.2 The Membership Committee Chair may appoint at their discretion other members to the Committee subject to the approval of the Executive Committee.

8.3 Notwithstanding Bylaw 19.2, a member of the Membership Committee may be removed from their position on the Committee by a majority vote of the Executive Committee.

8.4 All members of the Membership Committee shall be members in good standing.

8.5 The duties of the Membership Committee shall be to establish the bona-fides of an applicant for membership and to ascertain their capacity for discretion and compliance with both the Purposes of Article 3 and with the Code of Ethics of Article 4.

8.6 Any member of the Committee is competent to approve an applicant for membership.



## **Article 9 - Internet and Web Communications Committee**

9.1 There may be appointed under Bylaw 6.14, an Internet and Web Communications Committee Chair, who may have the title of Editor.

9.2 The Editor may appoint at their discretion other members to the Committee, subject to approval of the Executive Committee.

9.3 Except for the Editor, members of the Committee need not be members of GM.

9.4 Subject to the availability of funds as determined by the Executive Committee, a website shall be made available to the general membership by the Committee.

9.5 The Committee shall prepare a budget for the Internet and/or web communications activities, which budget may be reviewed from time to time.

9.6 The Editor shall keep proper records of all expenditures made with respect to these activities and shall present financial statements when requested by the Executive Committee.

9.7 The Editor shall work within the framework of generally accepted publishing standards with respect to libel and copyright laws, and shall strive to achieve a balance of expressed opinion.

9.8 The Editor shall be responsible for ensuring that the content of any website and/or internet activities respects the Purposes of GM.

9.9 Except for the mandatory inclusion of official notices from the Executive Committee, subject to Bylaws 9.7 and 9.8 the Editor shall have total discretion over the content of the Internet/Web communications.

## **Article 10 - Library Committee**

10.1 There may be appointed under Bylaw 6.14, a Library Committee Chair, who may have the title of Librarian.

10.2 The Librarian may appoint at their discretion other members to the Committee.

10.3 Except for the Librarian, members of the Library Committee need not be members of GM.

10.4 Subject to the availability of funds as determined by the Executive Committee, books and audio-visual materials shall be purchased, and magazines and journals subscribed to or traded, by the Library Committee for the benefit of the general membership.

10.5 The Library Committee shall prepare a budget for the acquisition of materials, and charges to members for use of such materials, which budget may be reviewed from time to time.

10.6 The Librarian shall keep proper records of all expenditures made with respect to the Library and shall present financial statements when requested by the Executive Committee.

10.7 The Librarian shall be responsible for ensuring that Library materials be germane to the Purposes of GM.

### **Article 11 – Elections Nomination Committee**

11.1 There shall be appointed under Bylaw 6.14, a Nominations Committee Chair, who shall have the title of Elections Officer. This appointment shall be made at least fifty-six (56) days before the Annual General Meeting.

11.2 The Elections Officer may appoint at their discretion other members to the Committee, subject to approval of the Executive Committee.

11.3 All members of the Nominations Committee shall be members in good standing.

11.4 The Nominations Committee shall receive nominations for Executive Committee in accordance with Article 18.

11.5 The Nominations Committee shall seek qualified candidates for nomination.

11.6 The Nominations Committee shall report on an ongoing basis the list of candidates to the membership in accordance with Article 18.

11.7 In the event of two (2) or more valid nominations being received for the same Office, an election shall be held.

11.8 In the event of only one (1) valid nomination being received for any Office, the Elections Officer shall declare that candidate acclaimed to that position.

11.9 In the event of no (0) valid nomination being received for a particular Office, the Elections Officer shall declare that Office vacant and to be filled by the new Executive Committee under Bylaw 6.14.

11.10 In the event of no (0) valid nomination being received for any Executive Committee position, the Elections Officer shall assume the powers of the President for the purpose of implementing Bylaw 6.14.

11.11 No member of the Nominations Committee shall be eligible to stand as a candidate for election.

11.12 The Nominations Committee shall solicit candidates for the position of Auditor under Article 14.

### **Article 12 - Other Committees**

12.1 There may be appointed under Bylaw 6.14 Chairs of other Committees at the discretion of the Executive Committee.

12.2 Each Committee Chair may appoint at their discretion other members to the Committee, subject to approval of the Executive Committee.

12.3 Except for the Committee Chair, other members of the Committee need not be members of GM.

### **Article 13 - Ombudsperson**

13.1 There may be appointed under Bylaw 6.14 an Ombudsperson.

13.2 The Ombudsperson shall mediate, counsel, and/or criticize arbitrary or improper actions of officials, and arbitrate disputes within GM.

13.3 The mandate of the Ombudsperson shall not be restricted to representing members in good standing only, but may be extended at their discretion to the representation of non-members.

13.4 Should the Ombudsperson be unable to resolve a conflict submitted for arbitration, the Executive Committee shall appoint an Arbitrator acceptable to all concerned parties.

13.5 Notwithstanding Bylaw 6.14, such Arbitrator as defined in Bylaw 13.4 need not be a member of GM.

13.6 The Ombudsperson shall not hold another Office or Chair within GM during their term as Ombudsperson.

### **Article 14 - Auditor**

14.1 Notwithstanding Bylaw 6.14, at each annual General Meeting duly called there shall be appointed, by majority vote, at least one person or organization who shall be Auditor.

14.2 Notwithstanding Bylaw 6.14, the Auditor need not be a member of GM.

14.3 Such Auditor shall submit a report of the state of the finances of GM during the year of their appointment at the next Annual General Meeting.

14.4 The Auditor shall not be a member either of the current Executive Committee or of the Executive Committee whose books they audit.

### **Article 15 - Financial**

15.1 The Executive Committee may, from time to time, open or close bank accounts as deemed necessary in the name of GM.

15.2 Cheques and other financial instruments drawn on such accounts as stated in Bylaw 15.1 shall require the signatures of any two (2) Executive Committee members.

15.3 There shall be a fiscal year established at the discretion of the Executive Committee.

15.4 Any financial decision that would put GM in a deficit position shall be referred to a General Meeting of the membership for approval.

15.5 Executive Committee members, and appointed Officers and Chairs, shall receive no remuneration for service to GM.

15.6 Executive Committee members, and appointed Officers and Chairs, may receive the prior approval of the Executive Committee or of the general membership.

### **Article 16 - Books and Records**

16.1 For the purposes of this Article, the term "Books and Records" shall comprise minute books, ledgers, and other working documents.

16.2 The record keeper shall be a member of the Executive Committee as appointed. Except for confidential personal information, as defined in Bylaw 4.1, all Executive Committee Members, other Officers, and Chairs, shall have unimpeded access to all Books and Records of GM. These Books and Records shall be available at any reasonable time.

16.3 Except for confidential personal information, as defined in Bylaw 4.1, the Books and Records of GM may be inspected by any member in good standing upon giving notice. The time and place for such inspection shall be mutually agreeable to the requester and the person in charge of said Books and Records.

### **Article 17 - General Meetings**

17.1 General Meetings of the members of GM shall be held at such time, place, and in such a manner as may be decided by the Executive Committee, upon notice of said meeting being given not less than fourteen (14) days prior to the date of such meeting.

17.2 Such General Meetings shall be held at least three (3) times annually.

17.3 At such General Meetings, there shall be present not less than ten (10) members in good standing or one-third (1/3) of the membership in good standing, whichever is the lesser; and this shall be the quorum required for voting on any matter brought before those members to be decided, except as noted elsewhere in these Bylaws. Only those members actually present, in person and not by proxy, shall be counted in deciding whether a quorum exists.

17.4 If, at a duly announced General Meeting, a quorum is not obtained, then another meeting shall be duly announced.

17.5 The right to vote on any motion duly made and seconded shall be restricted to members in good standing.

17.6 Each member eligible to vote shall have one vote. This vote shall be cast in person and not by proxy.

17.7 Voting shall be by a show of hands or such method as the chair may direct.

17.8 Notwithstanding Bylaw 17.7, when a vote is to be taken, any member eligible to vote may request that such vote be taken by secret ballot. This request shall not be subject to discussion or vote, and the said vote shall be made by secret ballot.

17.9 Robert's Rules of Order shall apply at all General Meetings. The latest edition available shall be used.

17.10 One General Meeting per calendar year shall be deemed the Annual General Meeting. No less than sixty (60) days' written notice must be given to the body of GM members.

17.11 The order of business at the Annual General Meeting shall be:

Call to order

Approval of the minutes from the previous General Meeting

Business arising from the minutes

Reading of correspondence

President's report

Secretary's report

Treasurer's report

Auditor's report

Report of Committees other than Nominations Committee

Report of Nomination Committee and Election of Executive Committee

Appointment of Auditor

Unfinished business

Adjournment

## **Article 18 - Election of Officers**

18.1 Elections shall be held at the Annual General Meeting. This portion of the Annual General Meeting shall be chaired by the Elections Officer.

18.2 A member in good standing is eligible to stand for only one (1) Executive Committee office at a time. Such member must:

18.2.1. register with the Elections Officer no less than thirty (30) days prior to the election date;

18.2.2. provide a signed statement of intent to stand for elected office, with no less than two (2) signatures of other members in good standing; and

18.2.3 declare any potential conflicts of interest that may interfere with their duties, or influence their objectivity.

18.3 Votes shall be cast by secret ballot.

18.4 Notwithstanding Bylaw 18.3, a member in good standing may register with the Elections Officer a telephone vote or written ballot prior to the Annual General Meeting, if they are unable to attend the meeting.

18.5 The Elections Officer shall appoint one or more scrutineers to assist in vote counting. These scrutineers need not be members of GM.

18.6 The candidate with a plurality of votes shall be declared elected.

18.7 In the event of a tie vote, an immediate runoff ballot shall be cast where only those candidates which were tied for the largest number of votes shall be placed on the runoff ballot.

18.8 In the event of a runoff ballot where some, but not all, candidates are tied for the largest number of votes, subsequent runoff ballots shall be held.

18.9 In the event of a runoff ballot where all candidates are tied, the Elections Officer shall cast a deciding ballot.

## **Article 19 - Resignation or Removal of Officers**

19.1 A member of the Executive Committee shall inform the Executive Committee of their intent to resign their position. A Committee Chair or other Officer shall notify the Executive Committee of their intent to resign their position. A Committee member shall notify the Committee Chair of their intent to resign their position.

19.2 Vacancies in the membership of all committees may be filled by the President of the Board or other individuals nominated by the Executive Committee.

19.3 Elected Officers may be removed from office by a Recall Election.

19.4 A Recall Election may be called by a petition showing cause, and signed by at least twenty percent (20%) of the members of GM.

19.5 A Recall Election shall be held within sixty (60) days of presentation of the petition, and shall be held at a duly announced General Meeting.

19.6 A Recall Election shall require a two-thirds (2/3) majority of members present and voting in order to remove the Elected Officer from office.

19.7 A Recall Election shall be Chaired by the Elections Officer.

## **Article 20 - Resignation or Expulsion of Members**

20.1 A GM member may voluntarily resign without notice at any time.

20.2 A request from a resigning member to remove personal information from GM personal files shall be acted upon by the Officer holding such files within 45 days of notice.

20.3 GM may, but is not required to, refund any balance of dues to a resigning member which shall be decided by the Executive Committee.

20.4 Membership may be withdrawn for cause from any member by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of those votes cast at a General Meeting duly called provided that:

20.4.1. the member is notified in writing no less than thirty (30) days in advance of the vote; and

20.4.2. they are provided with a statement from the Executive Committee showing cause; and

20.4.3. such member shall be entitled to bring to the meeting a representative, who need not be a member of GM, to assist in their defence; and

20.4.4. this portion of the meeting may be chaired by the Ombudsperson.

20.5 A member expelled under Bylaw 20.4 shall be entitled to a refund of the unexpired portion of their membership dues.

20.6 For the protection of GM, a request from a member expelled under Bylaw 20.4 to remove personal information from GM files, need not be acted upon.

## **Article 21 - Amendments to Bylaws**

21.1 Any motion to repeal or amend the Bylaws of GM shall require:

21.1.1. Notice of Motion of such change be duly issued in writing to all members of GM not less than thirty (30) days prior to the date of the General Meeting at which the particular motion is to be tabled; and,

21.1.2. that the motion receive a two-thirds (2/3) majority of those present and voting

21.2 Upon the passing of such motion, such amendments to the Bylaws shall not be enforced or acted upon until notice of the passing of the motion and of the content of the motion have been duly issued in writing to the members of GM, and such notice shall be issued to the members within thirty (30) days.

## **Article 22 - Error or Omission in Notice**

22.1 Notices shall be sent to the last mailing or e-mail address as reported by each member or in accordance with instructions given by that member

22.2 No error or omission in giving notice of any General Meeting shall invalidate any decisions taken at that meeting.

22.3 The Executive Committee shall correct, as soon as possible, any errors or omissions in notifications and reports.

## **Article 23 - Dissolution**

23.1 Upon dissolution of GM and after the payment of all debts and liabilities, the remaining assets of GM shall be distributed to a charity operating within Canada, the said charity to be designated by a resolution of the Executive Committee.