

# BACKGROUND

## NEW BC SOCIETY ACT

- Requires Not for Profit Societies in BC to transition to the requirements of the new BC Societies Act by November 28, 2018.
- HCBC Board of Directors initiated a Bylaws Task Force consisting of the Executive Director, the President, a Director at Large, a Zone Director and an Affiliate Director.
- The Task Force took the opportunity to complete a thorough review of the existing Bylaws knowing that some sections were outdated and lacked the flexibility required in today's business climate.

## WHY A THOROUGH REVIEW WAS UNDERTAKEN

- Horse Council adheres to the practice of "Continuing the Search for Good Governance" and ensuring we are following "best practices."
- Bylaws were last visited in their entirety in 1980 with minor changes in 2006.
- Membership has doubled since 2006.
- The demographic has changed.
- Technology and communication systems have changed.
- HCBC services and programs have changed to keep up with changing needs of members.
- More staff hired to manage these changes.

## SUMMARY OF AREAS OF IMPROVEMENT

The revised Bylaws:

- streamline membership and improve the protection of personal information;
- allow more flexibility in Governance and operations;
- empower the society to respond quickly in a crisis;
- simplify the election/appointment process for Directors and Officers;

- clarify duties and responsibilities of Directors and Officers;
- strengthen the Societies' ability to recruit Directors through competency based job descriptions with application for officer positions open to all members.

## **MEMBERSHIPS**

- Two categories of member – voting and non-voting
- Voting members are; Adult previously called Seniors and Lifetime.
- Non-voting includes Member Clubs
- Youth previously called Junior. Age for Youth has been changed to legal age of majority as legislated in BC which is 19; for HCBC this means under 19 as of January 1.
- Youth will be called “youth associates” rather than members with the intent of protecting the Youth from having their information disclosed.
- Youth are still included in the members' insurance and other programs.
- A discounted price for “family membership” will still be offered, however the Family Membership category has been removed. Individuals included in the family receive either Adult Membership or Youth Associate status with the added benefit that all “Adult” members will be entitled to vote.

## **REGIONS REPLACE ZONES**

Regions: East Kootenay, West Kootenay, Okanagan Similkameen, Thompson Shuswap, Prince George Cariboo, Peace River, North West, Vancouver Island North, Vancouver Island South, Vancouver Sunshine Coast, Fraser Valley West, Fraser Valley East.

A small scale map showing the Regions and a list of communities by Region can be found on the web site.

A list of the communities in each Region is available on request and will be posted on the website once these Bylaws have been approved by the membership.

- 12 Regions will replace the current 8 Zones (based on BC Games).
- The Regions are based on geographic areas and member numbers.
- Today's technology, digital mapping software and databases allow sorting of information for Summer Games Zones and Regions.
- All equestrians will be well served by the new Regional structure.
- Regional funding will replace Zone funding programs.

## **NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF REGIONAL DIRECTORS**

- Nominations and elections for Regional Directors will be held in the fall of each year with 6 Regions electing on even years and 6 electing on odd years.
- Each Region will elect one (1) representative who will be a Director of HCBC.
- Any Adult Members in a given Region may be nominated as a candidate for a Regional Director
- All Adult Members in a given Region may vote for the candidate of their choice.
- All elections will be done electronically, therefore no meetings are required to nominate and elect a Regional Director.

## **REGIONAL MEETINGS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR REPLACE ZONE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS**

- Regional Directors who represent the membership of a given Region will be able to hold meetings at different times of the year and in different locations, possibly in conjunction with other equine events where members are already present.

## **OFFICERS (THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD)**

- The number of potential Officer positions has increased by one (1) to nine (9)
- Only two (2) Officer positions are named in the Bylaws (President and Secretary/Treasurer)
- Other officer positions will be listed in policy to allow more flexibility when/if a change of title and duties is required to keep abreast of changes in programs and staff assignments.
- The Secretary and Treasurer positions have been combined as most of the duties of Secretary are now performed by a staff member and are overseen rather than actually performed by the Secretary.
- Each Officer position will have a set of competencies that applicants must meet.
- The Nominating Committee will **solicit nominations from the membership** not limiting nominations to the Board as currently exists.
- All Board members will still be able to apply for an Officer position.
- The Directors will elect the Officers from the slate of candidates for each posted position.
- It is recognized that from time to time the society would benefit having a person with specialized skills as an Officer - this has been accomplished by allowing the Board to appoint a member to a position.