

BY-LAWS OF
SRI LANKA CANADA ASSOCIATION OF ATLANTIC REGION

(SLCAAR)

1.0 PREAMBLE

1.1 The name of the Association shall be the SRI LANKA CANADA ASSOCIATION OF ATLANTIC REGION (SLCAAR) as heretofore constituted.

1.2 The objectives of the association shall be:

- a) To promote, pursue and propagate the culture, customs, sports, arts and traditions of Sri Lanka;
- b) To actively encourage and foster the harmonious coexistence of the persons of Sri Lankan origin;
- c) To assist persons of Sri Lankan origin in relocating and establishing themselves in the province of Nova Scotia
- d) To assist persons of Sri Lankan origin residing in Nova Scotia who are adversely affected economically or otherwise;
- e) To collect, co-ordinate and publicize information of events in Sri Lanka and elsewhere regarding the Island country its people and to maintain a library of documentation, manuals, books, photographs, letters, electronically captured data, any form of literary works and other artifacts about Sri Lanka;
- f) 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 association;
- g) 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 association;
- h) To carry out any other activity that supports the above objectives.

Provided that nothing herein contained shall permit the association to carry on any trade, industry or business and the association shall be carried on without purpose of gain to any of the members and that any surplus or any accretions of the association shall be used solely for the purposes of the association and the promotion of its objectives.

Provided, further, that if for any reason the operations of the association are terminated or are wound up, or are dissolved and there remains, at that time, after Satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities, any property whatsoever, the same shall be paid to some other charitable organization in Canada, having objectives similar to those of the association.

- 1.3 The activities of the association are to be carried out primarily in the province of Nova Scotia, at dates, times and places determined' by the Executive committee(section5.0)
- 1.4 The mailing address of the association shall be a permanent address. If the Executive Committee determines that the current mailing address does not serve the best interest of the association, then the Executive committee shall change the mailing address of the association appropriately. Such Change to the mailing address of the association shall be subject to ratification by the generalmembershipat the immediately succeeding general meeting.
- 1.5 In these by-laws unless there be something in the subject or context inconsistent therewith, 'the *association*' means the Maritimes Association of Sri Lankans.

2.0 MEMBERSHIP

- 2.1 Membership in the association shall be open toall residents of Nova Scotia, who are of Sri Lankan origin their spouses and children; or who hold the same objectives of the association and are actively committed to achieving these objectives, as determined by the Executive committee and subject to ratification at the next General Meeting. Members are expected to contribute and participate by undertaking tasks assigned by the Executive committee to achieve the objectives of the association.
- 2.2 Membership fee for members shall either be \$10.00 per fiscal year, per single person or \$20.00 per fiscal year per immediate family household. All members of this immediate family household who are over sixteen years of age at the beginning of the fiscal year shall have membership privileges.
- 2.3 Membership fee should be paid initially with the application by any person who makes an application forthe membership.
- 2.4 Membership fee shall be paid in full within the first six months of any fiscal year. Any member whose membership fee is in arrears for over eight months of any fiscal year, shall lose the membership of the association unless the Executive committee deems there are mitigating circumstances. Each individual case shall be judged on its own merits.
- 2.5 The membership fee shall be reduced or waived in individual cases at the discretion of the Executive committee.
- 2.6 Every member of the association shall be entitled to attend any general meeting of the association and vote at any such meeting of the association and to hold any office. There shall be no proxy voting. Members of the association shall have only one vote and no more for each resolution.
- 2.7 Membership in the association shall not be transferable.
- 2.8 The General Body is empowered to refuse or grant membership to any person who in its opinion will not **be** actively committed to the objectives of the association. The general body is empowered to expel from the association, any person whose conduct is disruptive to the achievement of the objectives of the association. Under such circumstances, that person shall be given the opportunity to explain his/her actions or conduct and to review the matter at a general meeting.
- 2.9 Membership in the association shall cease upon the death of a member or if he/she resigns his/her membership, or if he/she ceases to qualify for membership in accordance with these by-laws.

3.0 FISCAL YEAR

3.1 The fiscal year of the association shall be from the first day in the month of February in any calendar year to **the** last day in the month of January of the following calendar year.

4.0 MEETINGS

4.1 The Annual General Meeting of the association shall be held within *sixty*days of the beginning of the fiscal year.

4.2 The Executive committee shall summon other general meetings as and when required or at the written request of 25% of the membership. A minimum of two weeks' notice shall be given to the membership of such a meeting and the meeting should be held within three weeks of such request.

4.3 No business shall be transacted at any meeting of the association, unless a quorum of members is present at the commencement of such meeting. Such quorum shall consist of no less than 51%.of members.

4.4 The President of the association shall preside as chairperson at every meeting of the association. If there is no President or if at any meeting he/she *is*not present at the time holding the same; then the Vice President shall preside as chairperson. If there is no President or Vice President or if at any meeting neither the President or Vice President is present at the holding same, then the members present shall choose one of the members present to be *pro*tem-chairperson.

4.5 The Chairperson shall have no vote except in the case of an equality of votes. In the case of an equality of votes, he/she shall have the casting vote.

4.6 Every other member of the association shall vote and no more for each resolution.

4.7 Meetings shall be conducted in the English language and records of the meetings kept in the English language.

5.0 The Executive committee

5.1 Election to the Executive committee shall take place at the Annual General Meeting.

5.2 The Executive Committee shall consist of the following:

- A. a President,
- B. a Vice President,
- C. a Secretary,
- D. a Treasurer,
- E. a Social Secretary.
- F. the immediate Past-President,
- G. a youth representative,
- H. a sports co-ordinator,
- I. and three other members

- 5.3 At the Annual General Meeting, all the incumbent Executive committee members shall retire from office but shall hold office until the dissolution of the meeting at which their successors are elected and retiring members of the Executive committee shall be eligible for re-election.
- 5.4 Any member of the association shall be eligible to be elected a member of the Executive committee of the association.
- 5.5 In the event that a member of the Executive committee resigns his/her office or ceases to be a member of the association, where upon his/her office as member of the Executive Committee shall ipso facto be vacated, the vacancy thereby created *maybe* filled for the unexpired portion of the term by the, Executive committee among the members of the Executive Committee. This appointment shall be subject to ratification by the general membership at the immediately succeeding general meeting.
- 5.6 Any Executive Committee member who did not attend three consecutive meetings of the Executive Committee without valid reason is deemed to have vacated his/her position in the Executive Committee.
- 5.7 The association may, by resolution at a general meeting, remove any member of the Executive committee, before the expiration of the period of office and appoint another person in his/her stead. The person so appointed shall hold office during such time only as the member of the Executive committee in whose place he/she is appointed would have held office if he/she had not been removed.
- 5.8 Meetings of the Executive committee shall be held as often as the business of the association may require, and in any event at least once every quarter and shall be called by the Secretary. Notice of all Executive committee meetings, specifying the date, time and place thereof, shall be given either orally or in writing to each member of the Executive committee within a reasonable time before the meeting is to take place, but nonreceipt of such notice by any member of the Executive committee shall not invalidate the proceedings of any meeting of the Executive committee.
- 5.9 No business shall be transacted at any meeting of the Executive committee unless at least 60% of members of the Executive committee are present at the commencement of such business.

- 5.10 Emergency meetings of the Executive committee may be requested by any member of the Executive committee and shall be held subject to the provisions of section 5 subsection 5.8 of this by-laws and adequate notice being given to other members of the Executive committee.
- 5.11 The President or in his/her absence, the Vice President or in the absence of both of them, any member selected from among those members of the Executive committee present shall preside as Chairperson at meetings of the Executive committee.
- 5.12 The Chairperson at an Executive committee meeting shall be entitled to vote as member of the Executive committee and, in the case of equality of votes, he/she shall have a casting vote in addition to the vote to which he/she is entitled as a member of the Executive committee. All other members of the Executive committee shall have only one vote and no more for each resolution.
- 5.13 The management of the activities of the association shall be vested in the Executive Committee which, in addition to the powers and authorities provided by these by-laws or otherwise expressly conferred upon it, may exercise all such powers and do all such acts and things as may be exercised or done by the association to achieve the objectives of the association. However, the general membership is entitled to overrule, amend, suspend or make null and void any decision of the Executive Committee and to direct the Executive Committee to act in any other appropriate manner, by a majority vote at a General Meeting of the association attended by not less than 65% of the membership.
- 5.14 Any issue/expenditure that involves a financial commitment of \$ 2000.00 or more must have prior approval from the general body. Such approval may be sought from the general body, at a general or special general meeting subject to the provisions of Section 4.0 Subsection 4.2 and subsection 4.3. If the issue or expenditure requirement is of an urgent nature that cannot endure time constraints as described in Section 4.0 Subsection 4.2, then the Executive committee could seek approval from the general body by mustering a round robin vote of members by telephone with approval at a subsequent General Meeting
- 5.15 The President shall have general supervision of the activities of the association and the Executive committee and shall also perform such duties as may be assigned to him/her by the executive committee from time to time.
- 5.16 The Vice President shall, at the request of the Executive committee and subject to its directions perform the duties of the President during the absence, illness or incapacity of the President or during such period as the President may request him/her to do so.
- 5.17 The Secretary shall call all meetings, keep minutes of all General Meetings, keep minutes on all Executive committee meetings and shall perform such other duties as assigned to him/her by the Executive committee and/or the President.

- 5.18 The Treasurer shall collect all membership dues and contributions, maintain all required financial records, report and advise on all fiscal matters and shall perform such other duties as may be assigned to him/her by the Executive committee and/or the President. He/She shall also prepare a report for auditing at the end of the fiscal year.
- 5.19 The Social Secretary shall organize, co-ordinate and perform all social aspects of all functions and such other duties as assigned to him/her by the Executive committee and/or the President.
- 5.20 All other members of the Executive committee shall actively commit and contribute to the achieving of the objectives of the association by undertaking to perform the tasks/duties as may be assigned to them by the Executive committee and/or the President.

6.0 REPEAL AND AMENDMENT OF THE BY-LAWS

- 6.1 The association has the power to repeal or amend these by-laws by resolution passed by an 80% majority vote at a General Meeting attended by at least 60% of the membership.