

Canadian Association for Baptist Freedoms (CABF)
Annual Report of Constitution and Governance Committee
Fiscal Year 2021

As reported in the 2020 Annual Report, following approval of a comprehensive set of amendments to the By-Laws by the membership at the October 3, 2020 Annual General Meeting, the proposed amendments were submitted to the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies as required by the *Societies Act* of Nova Scotia, the legislation under which CABF is incorporated. The amendments were approved by the Registrar on December 16, 2020.

However, with a rapidly developing interest in our Association from Churches and Ministers residing outside of Nova Scotia, and with specific interest in those Ministers being able to perform marriages in those jurisdictions, it was necessary to consider amendments to our Memorandum of Association, By-Laws and Policy and Procedures Manual. Work on this was started in consultation with the Credentials Committee and the CABF Council.

In our Memorandum of Association (MOA) a principal issue was the second last line which stated:

"The activities of the Society are to be carried on in Nova Scotia."

This could be seen as preventing us undertaking activities in other provinces or territories. If we wished to be a truly "Canadian" organization, we needed to change our MOA to show that we wished to undertake activities beyond Nova Scotia. Our Association needed to be able to become registered in these jurisdictions. We do not have to be incorporated in each jurisdiction. Our incorporation in Nova Scotia is fine for operation in any Canadian province or territory. However, we need to register separately in each province or territory where we would like their Vital Statistics organization to recognize the CABF list of Accredited Ministers for the purpose of performing marriages. That required that we are able to undertake activities beyond Nova Scotia, or the other jurisdictions will not accept our registration.

The Memorandum of Association also needed updating in other ways. In order to meet newer requirements of the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA), we included a change in language for the Purposes of the Association "*to advance religion in accordance with the tenets, doctrines and observances of the Baptist Denomination of the Protestant Christian Faith*" "To advance religion" is one of a choice of four mandatory phrases from CRA to limit the scope of "charitable" organizations. The remainder of the phrase adds some specificity about which religion we represent. Finally, we suggested changing the word, "Society" to "Association" in a number of places.

By the end of December, 2021, a first draft of amendments was prepared for further discussion by the CABF Council with regard to possible additional amendments.

Over the past several years the Credentials Committee has been working on an update and consolidation of the several policies established over the previous eight years. When approved,

these changes would be incorporated into an update to the Policy and Procedures Manual and would require changes to several sections of the By-Laws.

Work on all three documents in coordination with the Credentials Committee was scheduled to continue in the 2022 Fiscal Year.

Respectfully submitted,

Constitution and Governance Committee

Dave Gibson, Chair and members John Churchill and Gary Nelson