

Canadian Association for Baptist Freedoms (CABF)
Suggested Changes to Memorandum of Association
Updated May 26, 2022

In the past several years, there has been growing interest in joining the CABF by individuals and churches that are not located in Nova Scotia. In fact, some have already joined and more are interested. Unfortunately, the second last line of our Memorandum of Association (MOA) states:

"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 wish to be a truly "Canadian" organization, we will need to change our MOA to show that we wish to undertake activities beyond Nova Scotia.

Specifically, we are now looking at getting Alberta provincial government approval for ministers in our Alberta member church(es) and Alberta chaplains to perform marriages, based on their having accreditation with CABF. This cannot happen without our Association being registered in Alberta. The same is true for other 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 requires that we are able to undertake activities beyond Nova Scotia, or the other jurisdiction will not accept our registration.

The Memorandum of Association also needs updating in other ways. In order to meet newer requirements of the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA), we have 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.

A further change is to widen the scope Objective #6 to include both ordained ministers and lay ministers. This is consistent with the wording of the updated text developed by the Credentials Committee dealing with accrediting ministers.

Recently, the question of supporting the establishment of new churches has been raised. Consensus from CABF Council on wording for a new Objective is, "To provide support to member churches and to churches which are considering membership in the Association;"

Regarding the Objective, "To associate and co-operate with other like-minded organizations..." it was agreed to drop the list, as it is already out of date, and just keep the broad concept. Thus, we can decide from time to time with which other organizations we wish to co-operate.

Finally, we are changing the word, "Society" to "Association" in a number of places.

These proposed amendments to update the MOA are highlighted on the attached copy.

MEMORANDUM OF ASSOCIATION

FOR A NON-PROFIT SOCIETY

Societies Act Chapter 435 RSNS 1989, Amended 1993, c. 42

The name of the Society is the **CANADIAN ASSOCIATION FOR BAPTIST FREEDOMS.**

For the purposes of the Nova Scotia Societies Act, references to “Association” shall be interpreted as “Society.”

On a volunteer and non-profit basis to advance religion in accordance with the tenets, doctrines and observances of the Baptist Denomination of the Protestant Christian faith, the objectives of the ~~society~~Association are:

1. To witness to the freedom implicit in the voluntary principle in religion, which is a fundamental tenet of historic Baptist identity.
2. To affirm and celebrate Baptist participation in, and witness to, the whole visible, catholic and evangelical church of Jesus Christ;
3. To promote peace and understanding amongst people of all faiths;
4. To provide a forum for the discussion of doctrinal and ethical questions, and social issues and policies in that spirit of tolerance and mutual respect which issues from Christian love;
5. To bear witness to these objectives with and among Baptists regionally as well as nationally and internationally;
6. To provide accreditation for ordained ministers~~clergy~~ and chaplains and for lay ministers;
- ~~6.7.~~To provide support to member churches and to churches that are considering membership in the association;
- ~~7.8.~~To associate and co-operate with other like-minded organizations, such as but not limited to the Atlantic Ecumenical Council, The Canadian Council of Churches, The Gathering of Baptists, Canadian Baptists Ministries and the Alliance of Baptists;
- ~~8.9.~~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 objectives of the SocietyAssociation;
- ~~9.10.~~_____ 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 objectives of the SocietyAssociation.

Provided that: - The societyAssociation shall not carry on any trade, industry, or business;

- All funds shall be used solely for the purposes of the SocietyAssociation and the promotion of its objectives;

- If the societyAssociation is terminated, wound up or dissolved and, after satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities, there remains any property whatsoever, the same shall be paid to some other charitable organization in Canada having objectives similar to those of the societyAssociation and which is a qualified donee ~~as defined by within the meaning of subsection 248(1) of the Income Tax Act, the Canadian Revenue Agency.~~

The activities of the SocietyAssociation are to be carried on in Nova ScotiaCanada.

The Registered oOffice of the SocietyAssociation is located at First Baptist Church Halifax, 1300 Oxford Street, Halifax, Nova Scotia, B3H 3Y8.