

Pagan Pride Project of Calgary Society Bylaws

NAME AND GENERAL INFORMATION

1. The name of this organization shall be the Pagan Pride Project of Calgary Society (hereafter referred to as "Pagan Pride Calgary", or the "Society").
2. The organization is organized exclusively for charitable, religious, and educational purposes, including, for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as qualified donees under section 149.1(1) of the Income Tax Act of Canada, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code.
3. For the purposes of this document, the words Pagan and NeoPagan may be used interchangeably, and are defined as follows. A Pagan or NeoPagan is someone who self-identifies as a Pagan, and whose spiritual or religious practice or belief fits into one or more of the following categories:
 - Honoring, revering, or worshipping a Deity or Deities found in pre-Christian, classical, aboriginal, or tribal mythology; and/or
 - Practicing religion or spirituality based upon shamanism, shamanic, or magickal practices; and/or
 - Creating new religion based on past Pagan religions and/or futuristic views of Society, community, and/or ecology; and/or
 - Focusing religious or spiritual attention primarily on the Divine Feminine.
4. No part of the net earnings of the Society shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the Society shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in Section 2 hereof. Less than 10% of the activities of the Society shall be the carrying on of political activities including propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the Society shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office. Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles, the Society shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on by a registered charity exempt from income tax under subsection 149.1(1) of the Income Tax Act of Canada.

MEMBERSHIP

5. The annual membership fee shall be set at \$5, and may be amended at any meeting with the required number of current active members to meet quorum requirements. Any person residing in Alberta, and being of the full age of 18 years, may become a member upon payment of the fee and provision of contact information as required for the Society's records. Any person under the age of 18 years may become a member of the Society with written consent of a parent or other legal guardian.
6. Any member wishing to withdraw from membership may do so upon a notice in writing to the Board through its Secretary. If any member is in arrears for fees or assessments for any year, such member shall be automatically suspended at the expiration of six months from the end of such year and shall thereafter be entitled to no membership privileges or powers in the Society until reinstated.

DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS AND EXPULSION OF A MEMBER

7. Any member upon a majority vote of the members of the Society in good standing at a meeting with quorum may be expelled from membership for any cause which the Society and its members may deem reasonable.
8. The Board shall have the authority to temporarily suspend the rights of membership to individuals or groups whose actions or statements are found not to be in keeping with the principles and guidelines of Pagan Pride Calgary and to nominate a member for formal expulsion as specified above. The Board must also nominate a member for formal expulsion upon the receipt of a petition signed by 15 members or 1/3 of the members of Society in good standing, whichever is less. Petitions for expulsion of Board members require a minimum of 1/3 of the members of the Society in good standing.

PRESIDENT

9. The President shall be ex-officio a member of all Committees. He/she shall, when present, preside at all meetings of the Society and of the Board. In his/her absence, the Vice-President shall preside at any such meetings. In the absence of both, a chairperson may be elected at the meeting to preside.
10. The President will also serve as the Local Coordinator contact with other Pagan Pride groups including Pagan Pride Project, Inc. and will be charged with meeting information sharing requirements including the reporting of attendance numbers, financial reporting and donation tallies for the purposes of generating aggregate data on Pagan Pride events for publicity purposes.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

11. Board of Directors, Executive Committee or Board, shall mean the Board of Directors of the Society. The Board shall have a maximum of seven members, and a minimum of three members, as the Board sees fit. The duties and powers of Pagan Pride shall be vested in the Board. They shall be able to do, or appoint an appropriate representative to do, all things necessary or convenient, not inconsistent with law, to further the activities and affairs of the Society.

12. The Board shall, subject to the bylaws or directions given it by majority vote at any meeting properly called and constituted, have full control and management of the affairs of the Society, and meetings of the Board shall be held as often as may be required, but at least once every three months, and shall be called by any member of the Board. A Special Meeting of the Board of Directors may be called on the instructions of any two members provided they request the President in writing to call such meeting, and state the business to be brought before the meeting. Meetings of the Board shall be called by 10 days notice in writing mailed to each member or by three days notice by fax, email or telephone. A majority of the Board members shall constitute a quorum, and meetings shall be held without notice if a quorum of the Board is present, provided however, that any business transactions at such meeting shall be ratified at the next regularly called meeting of the Board; otherwise they shall be null and void.
13. Members of the Board shall make a 2-year commitment to serve on the Board. Commitments will be reviewed and are renewed at the end of the one-year term pending a vote of confidence by the members. As long as there are continued votes of confidence by the members, there is no limitation as to how many terms a Board member may serve.
14. Vacancies on the Board due to a decision not to recommit, death, resignation, removal, disqualification, or otherwise may be filled by the Board, by appointment of a member of the Society in good standing, or another member of the Board. All such appointments will be subject to the same conditions, obligations and duties as the other Members of the Board.
15. A person appointed or elected a director becomes a director if they were present at the meeting when being appointed or elected, and did not refuse the appointment. They may also become a director if they were not present at the meeting but consented in writing to act as director before the appointment or election, or within ten days after the appointment or election, or if they acted as a director pursuant to the appointment or election.
16. Any director or officer, upon a majority vote of all members in good standing, may be removed from office for any cause which the Society may deem reasonable. Any Board member may be removed when, in the judgment of the Board, they have failed to fulfill their obligations as a Board member. A Board member may remove him/herself voluntarily at any time, by providing written notice of such intentions to the Board in writing, via mail, e-mail or fax.
17. At its discretion, the Board shall have the ability to appoint committees. Such committees shall act in an advisory capacity.
18. The organizational, fiscal, corporate, and legal duties of the Society shall be the responsibility of all Board members equally. When necessary, the Board will appoint individuals to carry out specific tasks including the convening of meetings, keeping and reporting of financial records, signing of contracts or other instruments, and entering into agreements necessary to carrying out the objectives of the Society.

SECRETARY

19. It shall be the duty of the secretary to attend all meetings of the Society and of the Board, and to keep accurate minutes of the same. He/she shall have charge of the Seal of the Society which whenever used shall be authenticated by the signature of the Secretary and the President, or, in the case of the death or inability of either to act, by the Vice-President. In case of the absence of the Secretary, his/her duties shall be discharged by such officer as may be appointed by the Board. The Secretary shall have charge of all the correspondence of the Society and be under the direction of the President and the Board.
20. The Secretary shall also keep a record of all the members of the Society and their addresses, send all notices of the various meetings as required, and collect and receive the annual dues or assessments levied by the Society. Such monies shall be promptly turned over to the Treasurer for deposit in a Bank, Trust Company, Credit Union or Treasury Branch as required.

TREASURER

21. The Treasurer shall receive all monies paid to the Society and be responsible for the deposit of same in whatever Bank, Trust Company, Credit Union or Treasury Branch the Board may order. He/she shall properly account for the funds of the Society and keep such books as may be directed. He/she shall present a full detailed account of receipts and disbursements to the Board whenever requested and shall prepare for submission to the Annual Meeting a statement duly reviewed of the financial position of the Society and submit a copy of same to the Secretary for the records of the Society. The Office of the Secretary and Treasurer may be filled by one person if any annual meeting for the election of officers shall so decide.

ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE FINANCIAL RECORDS

22. The books, accounts and records of the Secretary and Treasurer shall be audited for completeness and accuracy at least once each year by a duly qualified accountant or by two members of the Society elected for that purpose at any Meeting of the members that meets quorum requirements. A complete and proper statement of the standing of the books for the previous year shall be submitted by such reviewer at the Annual Meeting of the Society. The fiscal year end of the Society in each year shall be December 31.
23. In any year where the total revenues of the Society from all sources in a given year are less than \$10,000, the audit of the Society's records may instead be completed by any other current Board member not previously

involved with preparing or maintaining the records of the Society (i.e. not the Treasurer or Secretary), or by a single member of the Society in lieu of the above stated auditor requirements.

24. This option may be exercised at the Board's discretion in such 'emergency' cases where the Society is not in a financial position to procure an independent accountant to review the records, is unable to find two members willing to audit the Society's records, where previous years' AGMs have neglected to appoint auditors and such years are now delinquent, previously appointed auditors become unavailable or fail to fulfill their duties, or any other similar 'emergency' cases where the Board of Directors deems it is in the best interests of the Society and its members to make such an appointment based on the qualifications of the reviewers available.
25. Any such appointment must be ratified by a simple majority vote of the membership at the next AGM following the appointment, if it has not previously been ratified by the membership, according to the voting requirements of the Society.
26. The books and records of the Society may be inspected by any member of the Society at the Annual Meeting or at any time upon giving one week's notice and arranging a time satisfactory to the officer or officers having charge of same. Each member of the Board shall at all times have access to such books and records.

PRIVACY OF MEMBERS' PERSONAL CONTACT INFORMATION

27. This section is meant to further clarify the Society's privacy policy in accordance with Sections 36 and 36.1 of the Alberta Societies Act.
28. The contact information and legal names of members is to be treated as confidential information within the Society's records and is only for the use of the Society in communicating with members and carrying out its duties to members. General requests for lists of Society members, or excerpts thereof, may be denied at the discretion of the Board of Directors if there is a concern that such information is not requested to further the Society's purposes or activities. Members' personal contact information will only be released in such cases by the Secretary of the Society upon receipt of a court order and only exactly as instructed in the court order. The cost of providing such information shall be \$0.25/100 words copied.
29. Any member's personal contact information shall not be shared, or distributed by the Society without the member's permission in writing. The Secretary, upon direction of the Board of Directors, may maintain an online mailing list, discussion group or other means of contact and information sharing for members regarding Society and other community related activities and events that may be of interest to Society members. Any such contact lists will be operated on an 'opt-in' basis only.
30. Membership in the Society includes the agreement to receive Society notices from the Secretary. Such notices may be sent for meetings, summaries of meeting results, notices of changes to membership privileges or categories and any other such items the Society is required to communicate to all members.

MEETINGS

31. The Annual General Meeting (AGM) shall take place no later than the last day of the fifth month following the fiscal year end, at such a place and time as shall be designated by the Board. The purpose of the Annual Meeting shall be to review the annual operations of the Society and to transact such other business as may come before the meeting.
32. Notice of the AGM shall be communicated to every member through telephone, letter, e-mail, or other means of communication to which the Board and members are amenable, with a minimum of 30 days notice.
33. Regular meetings shall be held at any convenient place and time decided by the Board.
34. A member may participate in an annual, regular, or special meeting of the members by or through the use of any means of communication by which all members participating may simultaneously hear or communicate with each other during the meeting. This includes but is not limited to communication on a chat room or via e-mail. A member participating in a meeting by this means is considered to be present in person at the meeting.
35. Special meetings of the Board of Directors shall be called as needed.
36. General meetings of the Society may be called at any time by the Secretary upon the instructions of the President or Board by notice in writing to the last known address of each member, delivered in the mail eight days prior to the date of such meeting. A special meeting shall be called by the President or Secretary upon receipt of a petition signed by one-third of the members in good standing, setting forth the reasons for calling such meeting, which shall be by letter to the last known address of each member, delivered in the mail eight days prior to the meeting.
37. 15 members, or 15% of the members in good standing, whichever is the lessor, shall constitute a quorum at any meeting.

VOTING

38. Any member who has not withdrawn from membership, nor has been suspended or expelled shall have the right to vote at any meeting of the Society.
39. It is expected that the majority of decisions shall be made via consensus among the members. If consensus fails, the decision will be made by a simple majority.

