

*THE CAMEROON GOODWILL  
ASSOCIATION OF  
MONTREAL*

# Bylaws

## CHAPTER 1: ORGANIZATION AND OPERATION

### ARTICLE 1: PROCEDURE FOR MEMBERSHIP

- A. Prospective members shall complete an application form obtainable from the Secretary.
- B. Such an application must be sponsored by an existing member
- C. Applications for membership shall be presented to The Association during its January, April, July and October meeting (admission months).
- D. No application shall be discussed in the presence of the applicant.
- E. In the event of no objection, the applicant must receive at least a two-third vote of the members present at the General Assembly.
- F. In case of a specific objection, the case will be referred to an ad hoc committee elected by the General Assembly. The committee shall hear the reasons for the objection and make suggestions as to the admittance or rejection of the application.
- G. Upon acceptance, the applicant shall pay a membership fee of \$10 CAD. Membership becomes effective only once the membership fee is paid, not later than the following meeting.
- H. Spouses of existing members who intend to join The Association can apply at any time and their application reviewed during the next meeting.
- I. Upon acceptance, associate members shall pay a membership fee of \$5 CAD applies.
- J. All members shall renew their membership every January by paying an amount of \$10 CAD and \$5 CAD for full members (including out of town members) and associate members respectively.

### ARTICLE 2: MONTHLY SESSIONS

- A. Monthly meetings shall be held on the second Saturday of each month.

- B. Meetings begin at 8:00 p.m. prompt.
- C. There shall be quarterly thematic meetings (January, April, July and October) reserved for special activities (for example Born-houses, Marriages, Admission of new members)
- D. Any latecomer is required to pay a fine of \$1 to the treasurer.
- E. By lateness, it means somebody who comes after the official start of the meeting.
- F. Each member shall contribute \$15 toward entertainment for the following meeting.
- G. Each associate member shall contribute \$8 toward entertainment for the following meeting.
- H. Members are encouraged to make savings in multiples of \$20, which will be distributed at the end of the year.
- I. Interest paid on savings will be an administrative decision and in case of multiple loan applications priority shall be given to those who own savings.

### **ARTICLE 3: HOSTING**

- A. Hosting of monthly meetings shall be based on a schedule drawn up at the beginning of the year.
- B. The Executive shall propose the hosting schedule to be adopted by the General Assembly.
- C. The hosts shall hold the meeting at their residence or at one of the designated locations.
- D. The hosts shall receive an equivalent amount of 85% of the entertainment fees of all resident and participating out-of-town registered members.

### **ARTICLE 4: SPECIAL EVENTS**

- A. Goodwill shall organise special events within the year if found necessary by the General Assembly.
- B. They can either be for-profit or not-for-profit in nature.
- C. In either case an audit committee shall be set up before the occasion and shall tender their report in the next meeting following the event.
- D. The proceeds from such event shall be remitted in the emergency fund.

#### **ARTICLE 5: EMMERGENCY FUND**

- A. An emergency fund shall be established to cover unforeseen circumstances that require assistance to members.
- B. The amounts spent on such events shall be replaced when members' contributions are made
- C. Each member shall contribute \$20 upon admission towards this fund. Unless depleted, the contribution shall be valid throughout the member's membership.
- D. All fines and penalties collected during the course of the year shall go towards this fund.

The balance (15 %) of money collected for entertainment at each meeting shall go towards this fund.

- E. At the end of the year, the balance will stay in the account as emergency fund for the next year.

#### **ARTICLE 6: DISCIPLINE**

- A. Members are expected to respect one another and also abide by the rules and regulations established by The Association.
- B. The Association shall not tolerate any conduct or behaviour that is intended to disrupt or undermine its smooth functioning.

#### **ARTICLE 7: BANK ACCOUNT**

- A. The Association shall maintain a bank account at a recognized Canadian financial institution.
- B. There shall be three (3) signatures deposited and any two (2) of the three (3) signatures shall be accepted to process transactions.
- C. No two (2) signatures on account shall belong to members of the same family.

## **CHAPTER 2: SOCIO-ECONOMIC RECOGNITION AND ASSISTANCE**

### **ARTICLE 8: DEATH**

- A. The Association shall give \$1500 to assist a bereaved member who suffers the loss of a loved one, i.e., a parent (one mother, one father during ones tenure of membership), child (biological or adopted) or spouse (legally married or common law partner).
- B. The said amount (\$1500) shall be distributed equally among all registered members, and shall be contributed on or before the day of the wake-keeping.
- C. The Association shall organize a wake-keeping on the week-end following the announcement, during which the money (check or cash) shall be handed over to the bereaved. The Executive shall adequately communicate this information to members.
- D. During such events, women shall come along with food while men shall bring drinks. This shall be coordinated by the Social Secretaries.
- E. In the case of the death of a member, registered members of The Association shall contribute \$100 each to support the bereaved family. The Association shall organize a befitting funeral as a last respect to the deceased.
- F. If more than one member of the same family suffers such a loss, The Association shall respond to its obligations with respect to each member concerned.
- G. To be eligible for the full package, the member shall be up to date with all financial obligations; else (if owing the Association for less than three months), all outstanding financial obligations shall be deducted from the package. Should the member be owing the Association for three months or more, as stated in the Constitution, the Association will not honour any obligation towards such a member.

## **ARTICLE 9: BIRTH**

- A. In the event of the birth of a child(ren), a check of \$700.00 shall be given to the family if both parents are registered members of Goodwill. If only one of the parent is a member of Goodwill, a check of \$350.00 to the member. This amount remains the same irrespective of the number of children born to the family/member at the time.
- B. The said amount (\$700 or \$350) shall be distributed equally among all registered members, to be contributed at most a month after the birth of the child.
- C. The check shall be handed to the family during one of The Association's quarterly thematic meetings (April, July, October and January)
- D. To be eligible for the full package, the member(s) should be up to date with his (their) financial obligations; else all outstanding financial obligations shall be deducted from the package.

## **ARTICLE 10: MARRIAGE**

- A. In the event of a marriage (court, church, traditional) The Association shall give a check of \$500.00 to the family if both are registered members of Goodwill. If only one of the spouses is a member of Goodwill, a check of \$350.00 to the member (This shall be a one time event).
  - In case of common law, the member(s) concern must inform The Association of a change in status
  - In case of divorce and remarriage by any of the members, only members who have never benefited from the marriage package shall be eligible for the package of a single member.
  - Should the marriage be contracted out of Montreal, the package shall be handed to the couple during one of the thematic meetings after the arrival of the spouse in Montreal.
- B. The said amount (\$500) shall be distributed equally among all registered members.

- C. The check shall be handed to the newlyweds during one of The Association's quarterly thematic meetings (April, July, October and January).

#### **ARTICLE 11: MEETING ENTERTAINMENT**

- A. The Association shall establish a standard monthly menu and a cooking schedule.
- B. The Association shall establish a monthly schedule for men in assisting the host in arranging the hall and buying drinks.

### **CHAPTER 3: EXTRA-ORDINARY MEASURES**

#### **ARTICLE 12: EXTRAORDINARY MATTERS**

The General Assembly of The Association reserves the right to treat any issue that arises in the course of the year not covered by the bylaws or constitution and adopt any resolution as a working procedure until the concerned document is amended.

#### **ARTICLE 13: AMENDMENTS**

The bylaws shall be amended each year as need arises