

Membership Policy

Effective Date: 17 June 2025

Approved By: Board of Directors

1. Purpose

WHEREAS the Objectives of The Old School Community Gathering Place Co-operative Limited (hereinafter referred to as the “Old School”) as stated in the Articles of incorporation and Bylaws are *“to foster a vibrant inclusive community by providing programs and services that promote the health, well-being, and community spirit of all people in Musquodoboit Harbour and surrounding areas”*;

AND WHEREAS The Old School is a non-profit co-operative that carries on business for the sole purpose of carrying out the Objectives set out above and without purpose of gain to the members;

The following sets out the terms, conditions, rights, and responsibilities of Membership in the Old School. This Policy is intended to provide further and better particulars of membership and is secondary to provisions in the Articles and Bylaws of the Old School,

2. Membership Requirements

Members are required to:

Agree with and support the Co-operative’s Objectives” to foster a vibrant inclusive community by providing programs and services that promote the health, well-being, and community spirit of all people in Musquodoboit Harbour and surrounding areas”;

- Comply with the Co-operative’s Bylaws;
- Pay the annual membership fee; and

3. Membership Types

a. Lifetime Members



In keeping with the bylaws, the founding members of the Old School, who paid a fee of \$100 dollars, have a lifetime membership which concludes on their death or wind-up of the Old School. Lifetime membership cannot be assigned and does not have any special privileges other than exemption from annual membership fee.

b. Regular Members

Regular members must meet all the membership qualification criteria set out herein and pay the annual membership fee.

c. Household Membership

In keeping with the bylaws, the Board of Directors may allow household memberships where several members reside in a single household.

4. Membership Term and Fees:

The membership term is from April 1 to March 31 every year. This is in keeping with the Old School's fiscal year.

With the exception of Lifetime Membership, membership does not automatically renew.

The membership fee is an annual fee covering the Old School's fiscal year, April 1 to March 31.

Charitable Tax Receipts are not issued for membership fees.

In keeping with the bylaws, the Board of Directors shall review and set membership fees on an annual basis. The fees for the upcoming year shall be posted on the Old School website no later than January 31 of each year.

No fee payment shall be accepted without the paying member signing the Membership Agreement at Schedule "A" hereto. In the case of a Household Membership, all members of the household seeking membership must sign the Membership Agreement at Schedule "A."

The full annual membership fee is payable regardless at what point in the fiscal year the member is accepted for membership.

The membership fee is not refundable, in whole or part, regardless of if the membership is terminated through resignation, expulsion, or death.

5. Termination of Membership

Termination of membership, including lifetime membership, can occur as a result of resignation, expulsion, or death.

Grounds for expulsion include:

- Breaching confidentiality with respect to the confidential business of the Old School, including but not limited to disclosure of the identity of any client served by the Old School to anyone who is not an employee of the Old School;
- Acting in a manner contrary to the Objectives of the Old School;
- Engaging in unbecoming and/or uncivil behavior in relation to matters or events involving the Old School; or
- Using the name of the Old School, its property, facilities, equipment, programs, or affiliation with same, for personal gain, financial or otherwise.

In the event of a Family Membership, membership of individuals of a household may be terminated as a result of resignation, death or expulsion. Regardless of such termination, the other members within the Household Membership remain members.

6. Member Rights

a. General Rights

Members have the right to attend and vote at Annual and Special Meetings, submit motions, resolutions or proposals at Annual and Special Meetings, request Special Meetings of the membership *per* Section 5(2) or Regulation 17 of the *Co-operative Associations Act*.

b. Right to Inspect Books and Records

Members have the right to inspect and request copies of the Books and Records of the Old School including the Old School's Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, minutes of General or Special Meetings, a list of Directors and Officers, Membership Register, and annual financial statements.

Members do not have the right to inspect or request copies of operational records of the Old School, including but not limited to bank records, employment records, client



service records, grant applications or agreements. Many of these records contain confidential and private information the Old School has an obligation to protect.

c. Voting Rights

Every member in good standing, Lifetime or Regular, has one vote at any General or Special Meeting of the Old School.

In the case of Household Memberships, the Household shall have one vote regardless of the number of household members.

7. Member Communication

In keeping with The Old School Communication Policy, the Old School shall maintain:

- A website and Facebook Page with information and announcements regarding current programs and services offered by or through the Old School.
- A general email address and phone number for any inquiries or other communications.

8. Member Meetings

Members in good standing are entitled to attend all membership meeting, including:

- The Annual General Meeting which shall be held within four months of the year-end;
- Any Special Meetings called by the Directors, or by a written request of the members as per Section 5(2) or Regulation 17 of the *Co-operative Associations Act*.

9. Conflict Resolution

The Old School Dispute Resolution Policy shall be used to navigate any interpersonal or organizational disputes among and/or between members, volunteers, staff, and the Board of Directors of the Old School. *[policy under development this clause will come into effect once the Conflict Resolution Policy has been approved]*

Schedule "A" MEMBERSHIP AGREEMENT



Membership for 2025

Individual (\$20) ☐

Family (\$35) ☐

Student/Senior (\$15) ☐

Name (s)

Mailing Address

Community/City

Province

Postal
Code

Phone Number

Email Address

Would you like to receive our newsletter?

yes ☐

no ☐

Would you be interested in volunteering?

yes ☐

no ☐

By signing this form you,

1. Agree to help the Membership and Board of The Old School meet the Co-operative's Objective" to foster a vibrant inclusive community by providing programs and services that promote the health, well-being, and community spirit of all people in Musquodoboit Harbour and surrounding areas".
2. Acknowledge you have been provided a link to the Membership Policy and Bylaws of The Old School.

Signature

Date

If you are filling this out electronically, please type your name in lieu of signing.

You may pay via e-transfer to oldschoolmh@outlook.com.

Please add a note letting us know that this is for membership. Thank you.

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