

POLICIES GOVERNING LOCAL OR REGIONAL CHAPTERS

CHARTERED BY

THE COUNCIL OF SENIOR CITIZENS? ORGANIZATIONS OF BC.

Article 1.

Any group consisting of two (2) or more local branches of COSCO BC affiliated organizations, or ten individuals along with one (1) local branch of a COSCO BC affiliated organization, may make application to the Executive of COSCO BC for the issuance of a COSCO Local or Regional Charter. The Executive of COSCO BC shall have the power to define the geographic boundaries of a local and regional COSCO Branch.

Article 2.

Any group receiving such a Charter agrees to abide by the bylaws, principles and policies of the Council of Senior Citizens? Organizations of British Columbia. In addition a local or regional COSCO Branch agrees to limit their activities to local and regional issues and refer provincial and national issues (by resolution) to the Council of Senior Citizens Organizations of British Columbia. Local or regional COSCO spokesperson shall speak on behalf of their branches and not on behalf of the Council of Senior Citizens? Organizations of British Columbia, unless so properly authorized by the Executive of COSCO BC. In addition branches agree to participate in programs initiated by COSCO BC.

Article 3.

The initiation fees for an individual member of a branch shall be not less than five (5) dollars. Yearly individual and affiliated membership dues shall be set by the local branches. Each local and regional COSCO Branch will pay to COSCO BC annually an amount equal to 10% of all membership dues and affiliation fees collected.

Article 4.

Each local and regional COSCO Branch is entitled to send one (1) delegate to the monthly meeting of the Council of Senior Citizens? Organizations of British Columbia. Such delegate will have voice and vote. Expenses for attending monthly COSCO BC meetings are the responsibility of the local or regional COSCO Branch, sending the delegate.??

Article 5.

Each local and regional COSCO Branch shall hold regular monthly meetings, with the exception of July and August. Meetings shall be conducted under Roberts Rule of Order, except where a roll-call vote is requested. In such a case delegates from affiliated branches can cast the votes of all members of their branch.

Article 6.

Each Local or regional COSCO Branch shall elect the following officers: President, First Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and four Board Members. Elections for half of the officers shall be held each March to allow for continuity and stability. At the initial election the President, the Secretary and two Board Members shall be elected for a two year term and the other officers for one year. In the case of a vacancy, the Branch Executive has the authority to appoint a replacement for the un-expired term of office.

Article 7.

Each local or regional COSCO Branch shall establish an account with a financial institution, preferably with a credit union. There shall be at least two signing officers for such an account. All expenditures shall be properly authorized by the Branch Executive and subsequently reported and approved at a Branch general meeting through the adoption of a monthly financial report.

Article 8.

Should any local or regional COSCO Branch become defunct, then COSCO BC will act as the Trustee for the defunct COSCO Branch funds, records and property, until such time as the COSCO Branch is re-established and functioning again. If, after a period of three years no branch is re-established, the funds, records and property will become the property of COSCO BC.

Article 9.

Each local and regional COSCO Branch shall reach out to other groups in its community or region who are committed to protecting and enhancing a civil society. Such groups shall include the local Labour Council and its affiliates, the United Way, the Social Planning Council, the local Health Coalition and other kindred groups. Local and regional COSCO Branches shall abstain from narrow partisan politics but are free and encouraged to participate in political action in support of issues of importance to the good and welfare of seniors specifically and a civil society generally.

Article 10.

Each local and regional COSCO Branch may adopt additional policies and procedures providing these are not inconsistent with the provincial bylaws and are adopted after a notice of motion is given at a regular monthly meeting and approved at a subsequent general meeting by a two thirds majority.