



<b>Centre For Inquiry Membership Policy</b>	
<b>Date of Issue:</b> February 10, 2015	<b>Revision Date:</b> May 7, 2015
<b>Issued/Developed By:</b> Eric Adriaans, National Executive Director	
<b>Board of Directors Approval Date:</b>	<b>Affirming Signature:</b>

## Centre for Inquiry Canada Membership Policy

### A. Overview

Centre for Inquiry Canada – Le Centre Pour L'enquête (CFI Canada) is a charitable organization with the mission:

*To educate and provide training to the public in the application of skeptical, secular, rational and humanistic enquiry through conferences, symposia, lectures, published works and the maintenance of a library.*

CFI Canada's mission informs and establishes the foundations of its organizational principles and philosophy.

As a charitable educational organization registered with the Canada Revenue Agency, CFI Canada's structure includes a membership structure for purposes of governance, financial support and constituency. This policy outlines the structural and administrative procedures for the membership within the boundaries of the organization's Bylaws.

### B. Related Policy Statement

**Related Policies** – CFI Canada expects the highest standards of professional and ethical conduct in keeping with

- CFI Canada's Statement of Values
- CFIC's Code of Conduct
- Other CFI Canada policies and positions as communicated from time to time

This Activist Activities Policy includes direction regarding conduct that may be perceived as interfering with business operations, discredits CFI Canada, or is problematic to CFI Canada's Community or other personnel. Such conduct may result in dismissal, legal action and/or other sanctions.

## **C. Definitions**

“CFI Canada’s Community” means any and all clients, personnel, members, Board Members, Friends of the Centre, Councillors, donors, supporters and all those individuals and organizations who have a responsibility toward CFI Canada and an interest in its success.

“volunteer” means any person who gives unpaid service to CFI Canada on a regular basis and any volunteer who provides direct service to vulnerable persons or is in a position of financial trust; volunteer includes all “Councillors” as defined by the CFI Canada Bylaws but does not include “Friends of the Centre for Inquiry Canada”.

## **D. Procedural Details**

### **I. CFIC Bylaw Requirements**

There shall be two classes of members in the Corporation, namely, Councillors and Friends of the Centre for Inquiry Canada.

The Board of Directors of the Corporation may, by resolution, approve the admission of the Friends of the Centre for Inquiry Canada to the Corporation. Friends of the Centre for Inquiry Canada may also be admitted in such other manner as may be prescribed by the Board by resolution. Councillors shall be elected in accordance with the Election of Councillors provisions of these by-laws.

In addition to payment of all applicable membership fees and dues, the following conditions of membership shall apply:

#### **Councillors**

Councillors shall be voting members. Only those who have been elected as Councillors may be Councillors in the Corporation.

The term of membership of a Councillor shall be four years, subject to renewal in accordance with the policies of the Corporation and the Election of Councillors provisions of these by-laws.

As set out in the articles, each Councillor is entitled to receive notice of, attend and vote at all meetings of members and each such Councillor shall be entitled to one (1) vote at such meetings.

#### **Friends of the Centre for Inquiry Canada**

Friends of the Centre for Inquiry Canada non-voting membership shall be available only to those who have applied and have been accepted for Friends of the Centre for Inquiry Canada non-voting membership in the Corporation.

The term of membership of a Friend of the Centre for Inquiry Canada shall be determined in accordance with the policies of the Corporation.

Subject to the Act and the articles, a Friend of the Centre for Inquiry Canada shall not be entitled to attend or vote at meetings of the members of the Corporation.

Pursuant to subsection 197(1) (Fundamental Change) of the Act, a special resolution of the voting members/Councillors is required to make any amendments to this section of the by-laws if those amendments affect membership rights and/or conditions described in paragraphs 197(1)(e), (h), (l) or (m).

## II. Fees

- a) Friends of the Centre For Inquiry Canada are subject to an annual fee in the amount of \$30; failure to pay the annual fee will result in lapse of membership status, rights and benefits.
- b) CFIC Councillors are subject to an annual fee in the amount of \$60; failure to pay the annual fee will result in lapse of membership status, rights and benefits.
- c) Membership fees are subject to change on an annual basis.

## III. Renewal and Notice

Membership Renewal shall be based on the date of payment by the member. CFIC shall issue notice of membership renewal not later than 30-days prior to the date of renewal for the member.

## IV. Suspension of Membership

Any membership not paid by the member by the date of renewal shall be suspended with all associated rights and privileges suspended until the membership has been paid in full.

## V. Revocation of Membership

The CFIC Board may revoke membership from any member subject to related CFIC policies. In the event that membership is revoked for any member, the current annual membership fees, if paid, shall be refunded in full to the member.

## VI. Earned Membership

CFIC recognizes the contributions of volunteers to the success of the organization; Branch and Operational Committee leaders as well as Members of the Board of Directors and National Executive Director may waive Friend of the Centre For Inquiry Canada membership fees for those volunteers who are deemed to have earned their membership fees through their voluntarism and where the individual volunteer is perceived to be in a position of financial need.

Earned Memberships shall be approved or denied by the Board of Directors.

CFIC Council Fees may not be waived or earned.

VII. Rights and Privileges

- a) All members are eligible for special notice, pricing, discounts or admittance opportunities for CFIC events, services and promotions as established by the Board of Directors, Branch leadership or National Executive Director.
- b) Friends of the Centre For Inquiry Canada are eligible for nomination to the CFIC Council subject to CFIC Elections Policies.
- c) CFIC Councillors are eligible for nomination to the CFIC Board of Directors subject to CFIC Elections Policies.
- d) CFIC Councillor are the voting members of CFIC for all CFIC Elections purposes, subject to the CFIC Bylaws and Elections Policies.
- e) The CFIC Council shall number 5% of the total CFIC membership (Friends).

VIII. Approval of Memberships

The Board of Directors assigns to the National Executive Director and administrative personnel duties to activate all membership applications, excepting nominations for earned memberships, upon receipt of payment for the membership unless any cause to refer the membership application to the Board of Directors is suggested by the application.

Earned Membership nominations shall be forwarded by the branch or operational lead to the Secretary of the Board of Directors for approval.

IX. Formation and Continuance of Branches

- a) Formation and continuance of a CFIC Branch shall be conditional upon the engagement of a minimum of 10 Friends of the Centre For Inquiry Canada, the sponsorship of 2 CFIC Councillors and approval of the Board of Directors.
- b) Branches must have an annual operational and promotional plan approved by the National Executive Director and Board of Directors.
- c) Branches may be based on local community or provincial boundaries.
- d) 10% of Friends of the Centre For Inquiry Canada membership fees shall be reserved for local projects.
- e) Branches shall be assigned a proportional operational budget based the membership scale of the organization and the total shared costs of the organization's operations.

## **F. Responsibilities**

1. The National Executive Director is responsible for advising CFI Canada's Community, maintaining, monitoring, and revising this policy.
2. Members of the Board of Directors, Branch Directors, the National Executive Director and other Officers of CFI Canada are responsible for oversight, applying and implementing this policy in each of their respective jurisdictions.