



January 30, 2021

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING NOTICE
Sunday February 14, 2021

Assalaamu Alaykum,

May this letter find you in the best of health.

Please be informed that the Association is holding a Special General Meeting (SGM) on February 14, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. on Zoom platform seeking your approval on the following important matters:

[A] Meeting Agenda

1. Purchasing one-thousand (1000) grave plots in Langley, BC;
2. Approving proposed Constitution and Bylaw amendments—per attached.

[B] Information Meeting

In order to allow the members adequate time to ask questions on Agenda 2, there will be an *Information Meeting* on Sunday, February 7, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. Both these meetings require advance registration for member verification as outlined below:

[C] Meeting Registration

- (a) Please [use this link](#) to register for the February 7, 2021 Information Meeting. The registration deadline for this meeting is *Saturday February 6, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.* The Zoom login for this meeting will be sent to the registrants on Saturday 6th around 9:00 p.m.;
- (b) Please [use this link](#) to register for the SGM on February 14, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. The registration deadline for SGM is *Saturday February 13, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.* The Zoom login for this meeting will be sent to the registrants on Saturday 13th around 9:00 p.m.
- (c) Kindly ensure to register for both meetings *separately*.

Please note that the Executives reserve the right to extend the registration deadlines with notice.

We wish to thank you in advance for your co-operation, and remain,

Yours Sincerely,

The BC Muslim Association

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Abdullah Nasib Ali', written over a horizontal line.

Abdullah Nasib Ali
General Secretary
secretary@thebcma.com
604.339.2276



Proposed Amendments to BCMA Constitution & Bylaws

AMENDMENT [1]

Reinstatement of Constitution clauses from Bylaws

RATIONALE

The new BC Society's Act came into effect November 28, 2016 which required us to remove all unalterable clauses. BCMA complied with that requirement on October 28, 2018 for three affected clauses (3,4,5) of the Constitution. We are now reinstating these clauses back into the Constitution section after being appropriately reworded by our Religious Board.

This will now identify BCMA as a Sunni Muslim Organization while meeting BC Registry mandate.

CURRENT BYLAW

19.19 Religion

To propagate and foster the religious belief of the Association and the religion of the Association is Islam. *This provision was previously unalterable.*

19.20 Creed Upheld

To uphold and promote the Kalima (creed) which is the basic belief of the Association (Sunni Muslims). *This provision was previously unalterable.*

19.21 Preamble

Kalima (Creed)

The basic belief of the Association is in the holy code, the Kalima which is the first principle of Islam. It is a declaration of faith, which is: "LA ILAHA ILLALLAH MUHAMMADUR RASULULLAH"

Meaning: "There is no god (deity) but Allah and Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) is the Messenger (Apostle) of Allah."

The Kalima requires a further belief in Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) as the last Messenger and seal of all the Prophets of Allah. *This provision was previously unalterable.*

PROPOSED AMENDMENT

CONSTITUTION

(a) To propagate and foster the religious belief of the Association and the religion of the Association is Islam.

(b) To uphold the creed of the Sunni School of Theology, *La ilaha illa Allah Muhammad rasul Allah* namely that Allah alone is to be worshipped and that Prophet Muhammad is His final messenger;

(c) To promote and propagate the creed of the Sunni School of Theology, as understood by the majority of Sunni scholars both past and present;



Proposed Amendments to BCMA Constitution & Bylaws

AMENDMENT [2]

Repealing and amending women's affairs article to make it an inclusive organization

RATIONALE

We are enabling clause 6.2 [*The Executive Council shall be comprised of (a) the Executives (b) Branch Representatives (c) Chapter Representatives (d) Board of Trust Affairs*] and so we need to repeal articles 11 to 15 with some amendments to article 12 to meet the new reporting structure. The current structure is not working as we had perceived initially. This change is proposed unanimously by the BCMA Women's Council and supported by the Executive Council including past presidents. This will make the Association more inclusive and stronger and with the advent of Zoom, conducting meetings collectively will not be an issue.

Repeal Article 11 [The Council of Women Affairs];

Amend Article 12 [Women's Branch and Chapter Management Committees];

Repeal Article 13 [Board of Women's Affairs];

Repeal Article 14 [Proceeding of the Board of Women's Council];

Repeal Article 15 [Portfolios].

Amend Article 12 as follows:

12.8 Dissolution of Women's Branch and Chapter Management Committees

When resignation of simple majority of Branch and Chapter Management members is received by ~~the secretary of Board of Women's Council or~~ the General Secretary of the Association, the Branch and Chapter Management shall be deemed dissolved.

12.9 Roles and Responsibilities of Women's Branch and Chapter Management Committees

The Women's Branch and Chapter Management Committee is responsible for attending to the following on behalf of the ~~Council of Women's Affairs and the~~ Association:

- (d) Be accountable to the ~~Council of Women's Affairs, Board of Women's Council and Women Branch and Chapter members~~ Branch and Chapter members, **Executive, Executive Council and Trustees;**
- (f) Prepare and submit financial reports to its Branch and Chapter members, ~~Board of Women's Council, Council of Women's Affairs,~~ Executive and the Executive Council as and when required;
- (l) Review the previous plans and formulate a four (4) year strategic plan and a two (2) year tactical plans within three (3) months of their appointment for submission to the ~~Board of Women's~~ **Executive Council** for approval;
- (o) Comply with directives issued by ~~Board of Women's Council and Council of Women's Affairs~~ **Executive or Executive Council** failing which will result in disciplinary action.

Note: Article 12 to be changed to Article 6 and the rest of the Articles to be renumbered accordingly.



Proposed Amendments to BCMA Constitution & Bylaws

AMENDMENT [3]

Changing fiscal year end date to June 30 from July 31

RATIONALE

- (1) The school year ends on June 30th under the Provincial Government law and since majority of our financial operations are connected with the schools, it is prudent that our Fiscal year to coincide with this date as well;
- (2) This will give an opportunity to start early our audit process to hopefully meet other deadlines such as Branch and Association annual general meetings;
- (3) May reduce audit costs.

Note: This bylaw change is subject to the Canada Revenue Agency approval and may not take effect immediately.

CURRENT BYLAW

17.12 Fiscal Year

The Fiscal Year of the Association shall be twelve (12) months period beginning on **August 1st and ending on July 31st** of the following year.

PPOPOSED AMENDMENT

17.12 Fiscal Year

The Fiscal Year of the Association shall be twelve (12) months period beginning on **July 1st and ending on June 30th** of the following year.



Proposed Amendments to BCMA Constitution & Bylaws

AMENDMENT [4]

Relaxing membership renewal deadline

RATIONALE

- (1) With today's online technology, membership dues can be paid anytime and as long as the members bring a copy of online receipt, interim receipt or membership card, he/she should be permitted to vote.
- (2) Our members should be deemed in good standing once all debts are paid.

CURRENT BYLAW

a. Voting Rights of Members

(d) Existing Members – Shall be eligible to vote provided membership is renewed. The cutoff date for renewal of membership shall be fifteen (15) days prior to start of meeting or election day of the Association, Branch or Chapter.

(e) Members in Good Standing – A member shall be deemed in good standing when he has paid his Annual Membership Fee by December 31st of the year of expiration as well as any debt and obligation due to the Association.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT

4.11 Voting Rights of Members

(d) Existing Members – Shall be eligible to vote provided membership is current.

(e) Members in Good Standing – A member shall be deemed in good standing when he has paid all his outstanding debts including membership fees.



Proposed Amendments to BCMA Constitution & Bylaws

AMENDMENT [5]

Member in good standing-redefined

RATIONALE

This change will complement Amendment [4] 4.11 (e) amendment.

CURRENT BYLAW

4.12 Membership Fee Arrears and Reinstatement

Members who fail to pay Membership Fee for more than three (3) years from the last expiry date shall cease to be a member of the Association. He may reapply as a new member thereafter. Members in arrears for three (3) years or less shall cease to be a Member in Good Standing. Upon payment of all outstanding Membership Fees such member shall deemed to be reinstated from the date of expiry. **Any such reinstated member shall have voting rights but shall not qualify for candidacy for any elected or appointed position in the Association for that year in which membership has been updated.**

PROPOSED AMENDMENT

4.12 Membership Fee Arrears and Reinstatement

Members who fail to pay Membership Fee for more than three (3) years from the last expiry date shall cease to be a member of the Association. He may reapply as a new member thereafter. Members in arrears for three (3) years or less shall cease to be a Member in Good Standing. **Upon payment of all outstanding Membership Fees such member shall deemed to be reinstated from the date of expiry.**



Proposed Amendments to BCMA Constitution & Bylaws

AMENDMENT [6]

Trustees in Executive Council to be accorded full voting rights

RATIONALE

All Trustees attend EC meetings but have no voting rights compared to other officials. This is unfair and disrespectful since the Trustees are senior members of the Association They should have the right to vote same as all other attendees.

CURRENT BYLAW

6.4 Voting Rights of Members of the Executive Council.

All members of the Executive Council except the Board of Trust Affairs shall have one (1) vote each on all matters. However, the members of the Board of Trust Affairs shall only have the right to vote as follows:

- a) In the event of purchase or disposition of real property assets;
- b) In the utilization of any funds related to real property assets transactions;
- c) In the formation or dissolution of a Branch and Chapter.

PPOPOSED AMENDMENT

6.4 Voting Rights of Members of the Executive Council.

All members of the Executive Council shall have one (1) vote each on all matters.



Proposed Amendments to BCMA Constitution & Bylaws

AMENDMENT [7]

Improving process to amend bylaws

RATIONALE

- (1) Keeping our Constitution and Bylaws updated at all times is essential for a progressive organization and by having a standing Constitution Review Committee will be helpful in this regard;
- (2) The Executive Council (EC) consisting of senior officials is required to appoint all boards and committees. As well, their major role is policy making and they hold the final administrative authority in all matters of the Association;
- (3) The members will have trust and confidence when the proposed amendments have been thoroughly debated and vetted by the Executive Council before being presented to members for adoption.

CURRENT BYLAW

19.17 Amendment of Constitution and Bylaws

The Bylaws of the Association shall not be altered or added to except by a special resolution of the Association and in accordance with the Society Act. A majority of seventy-five percent (75%) of voting members present shall approve the need for changes in the Constitution and Bylaws. Such changes in Bylaws shall be delegated to a Constitution Review Committee comprising of no more than nine (9) members of which five (5) shall be appointed in that meeting and the remaining four (4) including the Chair shall be appointed by the Executive Council.

19.18 Adoption of Constitution and Bylaws

The proposed alterations and or additions are to be submitted to the Executive Council for their initial approval after which a Special General Meeting of the members shall be called giving fourteen (14) days' notice and specifying the intentions of the resolution. A majority of seventy-five percent (75%) of voting members present shall approve recommended changes as they deem appropriate for the betterment of the Association. These recommended changes shall have the final approval of the Executive Council for adoption.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT

19.17 Amendment of Constitution and Bylaws

The **Constitution and** Bylaws of the Association shall not be altered or added to except by a special resolution of the Association and in accordance with the Society Act. A majority of seventy-five percent (75%) of voting members present shall approve the need for changes to the **Constitution and a majority of sixty-seven percent (67%) of voting members present shall approve the need for changes to the Bylaws. Such changes in Constitution and Bylaws shall be delegated by the Executive Council to a Constitution Review Committee.**

19.18 Repealed but replaced by 16.17 as below



Proposed Amendments to BCMA Constitution & Bylaws

16.17

- **CONSTITUTION REVIEW COMMITTEE (CRC)**

The CRC reports directly to the Executive.

16.17 Composition of the Constitution Review Committee

The CRC shall be comprised of a Chairperson and six (6) other members in good standing as follows:

- (a) Four (4) men and
- (b) Two (2) women.

16.18 Appointment of Constitution Review Committee

The following rules will apply for appointment of this committee:

- (a) The Executive shall recommend the name of the CRC Chairperson and four (4) men and two (2) women to the Executive Council for approval within two (2) months after the Annual General Meeting but not later than December 31st of the year of expiration of the term of the previous CRC;
- (b) The Executive Council shall approve and appoint the Chairperson and six (6) other members for a period of three (3) years. The term shall be considered completed on December 31st of year three;
- (c) The Executive shall have the right to replace CRC member(s) in consultation with and in agreement of the Executive Council.

16.19 Roles and Responsibilities of Constitution Review Committee

- (a) Review the Constitution and Bylaws;
- (b) Consult with appropriate stakeholders before proposing amendments to the Executive Council;
- (c) Provide rationale for the proposed amendments;
- (d) Submit their proposed amendments to the Executive Council before June 30;

16.20 Roles and Responsibilities of the Executive Council

- (a) Review the proposed amendments submitted by the CRC;
- (b) Approve the final wording of the amendments with a sixty-seven percent (67%) majority vote;
- (c) Ensure the amendments are presented to the membership.

16.21 Roles and Responsibilities of the General Secretary

- (a) Communicate the motion(s) for amendments with rationale to the general membership fourteen (14) days before any general meeting of the Association;
- (b) Add the proposed amendment motions to the agenda of any general meeting of the Association.

16.22 Roles and Responsibilities of the Membership

- (a) Approve the passage of the proposed Bylaws amendments with sixty-seven percent (67%) of the voting members present at the meeting;
- (b) Approve the passage of the proposed Constitution amendments with seventy-five percent (75%) of the voting members present at the meeting.

16.23 Effective Date

The approved amendments shall be filed online with the BC Registry within seven days and becomes effective upon confirmation.



Proposed Amendments to BCMA Constitution & Bylaws

AMENDMENT [8]

Special resolution threshold to be 67% (sixty-seven) as per new BC Society Act

RATIONAL

The new Society's Act permits special resolutions threshold to be two-thirds (67%) but we will continue to retain three quarters (75%) in certain important areas such as Constitution amendments.

CURRENT BYLAW

19.16 Special Resolution

A resolution passed in a Special or Annual General Meeting by a majority of not less than 75% of the votes of those members of a society who are present, being entitled to do so, vote in person, of which the notice that the bylaws provide, and not being less than 14 days' notice, specifying the intention to propose the resolution as a special resolution has been given.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT

19.16 Special Resolution

Unless elsewhere specified, a resolution passed in any General Meeting by a majority of not less than sixty-seven percent (67%) of the votes of those members of a society who are present, being entitled to do so, vote in person, of which the notice that the bylaws provide, and not being less than 14 days' notice, specifying the intention to propose the resolution as a special resolution has been given.



Proposed Amendments to BCMA Constitution & Bylaws

AMENDMENT [9]

Adding qualified individuals to Executive Board

RATIONALE

- ❖ For several years the Executive Council has been struggling to fill all the Executive positions as per existing bylaw and had to transfer valuable elected officials from Branches to Executive positions;
- ❖ By having some flexibility, the Executive Council will ensure there is balance and Branches are not negatively affected. Besides, we already have this flexibility in filling Branch vacancies.

CURRENT BYLAW

7.5 Election of Secretaries, Treasurers and Vice-Presidents

The Executive Council in consultation with the President shall elect the following within seven (7) days of Annual General Meeting of the election year:

- (a) Eight (8) Vice-Presidents;
- (b) General Secretary;
- (c) Assistant General Secretary;
- (d) General Treasurer; and
- (e) Assistant General Treasurer.

All the above twelve (12) officials shall be elected from within the Executive Council and/or from the elected Branch or Chapter officials. The Executive Council with fifty percent plus one (50%+1) majority, at its discretion, may **make no more than four (4) appointments** from the general membership. All such appointees shall have the same rights, authorities and the privileges as an elected member of the Executive Board.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT

7.5 Election of Secretaries, Treasurers and Vice-Presidents

The Executive Council in consultation with the President shall elect the following within seven (7) days of Annual General Meeting of the election year:

- (a) Eight (8) Vice-Presidents;
- (b) General Secretary;
- (c) Assistant General Secretary;
- (d) General Treasurer; and
- (e) Assistant General Treasurer.

All the above twelve (12) officials shall be elected from within the Executive Council and/or from the elected Branch or Chapter officials. The Executive Council with fifty percent plus one (50%+1) majority, at its discretion, may **make no more than six (6) appointments** from the non-elected members. **These appointees shall be appropriately qualified for the position.** All such appointees shall have the same rights, authorities and the privileges as an elected member of the Executive Board.



Proposed Amendments to BCMA Constitution & Bylaws

AMENDMENT [10]

Introducing junior membership

RATIONALE

- ❖ Junior membership designation has merit in the sense we will be creating loyalty and affinity to the Association by recognizing, registering and awarding them special designation for their dedication.
- ❖ At age of 16 we can convert them to full paid members who are already connected to BCMA.
 - ❖ These are our future leaders.

CURRENT BYLAW

4.5 Classes of Membership.

There shall be three classes of Membership as follows:

- (a) Ordinary Members;
- (b) Life Members;
- (c) Honorary Members.

PPOPOSED AMENDMENT

4.5 Classes of Membership:

There shall be **four** classes of Membership as follows:

- (a) **Junior Members**
- (b) Ordinary Members;
- (c) Life Members;
- (d) Honorary Members;

4.10 Junior Membership:

The Branch and Chapter Directors may bestow Junior Membership to an individual for participation and volunteerism to the Association. The members must be at least 10 years old. They shall cease to be a junior member when they reach the age of 16 years. They shall not have any voting rights. Junior Members shall be exempt from paying membership fees.

An application form shall be filled for each Junior member and submitted by the Youth or Sports Directors of the Branch /Chapter.