



NAJC Constitution & Resolutions Committee (CRC)
Question & Answers Session on Proposed By-Law Amendments
16 January 2020 (20:00-21:30 EST)

Attendees: B. Tomlinson (CRC Chair), L. Deutscher Kobayashi, J. Planidin, R. Teshima, K. Okabe, L. Oikawa, F. Torigai, S. Hamade, V. Rygnestad, K. Dembo, L. Kojima

1. Review of the Process

- Idea tonight and through this process is not to introduce new amendments, but to discuss those that have been presented.
- Bylaw changes were distributed to the membership on December 17, 2019.
- Jan 16, 2020 session designed to provide some additional background to the amendments being proposed, given the volume of changes.
- Google form will be distributed to the membership designed to capture any other issues, concerns or questions about the various amendments. The feedback will be reviewed by the Constitution and Resolutions Committee to see if any “friendly amendments” may be needed to any of the amendments, or whether there are any substantive issues arising from any of the amendments that may warrant further discussions prior to the vote on the amendments.
- Feb 18, 2020 – close off date for feedback. Gives a month to ensure coherence.
- Mar 18, 2020 – Special General Meeting of Membership to review and vote on the various motions
- Approved motions will be incorporated into a new draft of the By-Laws, effective the date the motions were approved, and filed with Corporations Canada.
- Bylaw changes will come into effect for the next membership meeting, the 2020 Annual General Meeting and the 2020 National Executive Board elections.

2. Overview of the Proposed Changes

- 83 amendments in total proposed
- Amendments grouped into 16 motions - the grouping of thematically related amendments into motions is designed to logically relate changes into more digestible components.

- Each motion can then be reviewed based on the how the by-laws currently read, how they will be changed and the rationale for the change, to allow the member to draw their own conclusion regarding the merits/validity of the proposed change.

3. Google Form

- Members can use the Google form to submit feedback regarding the various motions being proposed. If you want to view the form it can be viewed here:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfLbCWs7QrFQ1apys9hgDiyd3rHQhqSPV3hagO9dHGdguyHVg/viewform?usp=sf_link
- The form is a pretty basic one – the motions have been copied and space has been provided below each motion for members to submit comments, questions or changes.
- All responses will be consolidated into a spreadsheet. This will then be summarized by the CRC and circulated for further review and analysis (likely early March in advance of the 18 March Special General Meeting).
- It will be closed by **18 February**, and the CRC will evaluate these for coherence.
- We kindly ask that responses are consolidated by organization (where the President is acting as the point-of-contact on behalf of an organization).

4. Open Questions and Answers

- Tracking other "bigger picture" issues (e.g. individual membership) in a roster of outstanding questions. Prescribed timeline for these amendments, but would like to start a discussion with a larger group earlier than before the next AGM in September 2020.
- Question about "communication" and "advocacy" as key words that appear to be missing. "Communication" is included under Motion #15 (for electronic communications).
- 7.4.7: Appeal period needs clarification (one year past the initial designation of suspension).
- 8.1.4: Clarification of elections nominations (not clear who the nominator would be) – whether the organization nominator is the delegate or representative of an organization. Would need to be clarified as whether any board member is sufficient, or any member of those organizations would be sufficient. Could also be done via Elections Committee checking with the President (delegate / representative) of the nominating/seconding organization. This may be better captured via the prospective Policies & Procedures.

- 13.4: term length clarification for NEB appointees (“If a replacement National Executive Board Member is appointed during a non-election year, then their position must be re-appointed at the next AGM”).
- 24.7.3: Membership Committee responsibility to review “suitability” of applicants for membership. Consistency with application form (esp. for individual membership) with fee submission based on vetting (based on criteria for 7.2.1). May be something more suitable for Policies and Procedures. Need to look at one-year horizon of individual membership.
- 20.12.2: Motions – question about requirement for 90 days. Why 90 days? (different for AGMs with 60 days) Discourages new issues on the table. These arise from. Generally dealing with some of these “bigger picture” issues will be subject to further discussions in the NEB then the National Council.