**BYLAWS**

**[ENGAGEMENT PHYSICIAN NAME]**

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**SOCIETIES ACT**

**Bylaws of [PHYSICIAN SOCIETY NAME]**

# Interpretation

## Definitions

In the Bylaws, unless the context otherwise requires:

**"Address of the Society"** means the address of the Society as filed from time to time with the Registrar in the Notice of Address;

**"Board"** means the board of Directors of the Society;

**"Board Resolution"** means:

1. a resolution passed at a duly constituted meeting of the Board by a simple majority of the votes cast by those Directors who are present and entitled to vote at such meeting; or
2. a resolution that has been submitted to all Directors and consented to in writing by 2/3 of the Directors who would have been entitled to vote on the resolution in person at a meeting of the Board;

**"Bylaws"** means the bylaws of the Society as filed in the Office of the Registrar;

**"Constitution"** means the constitution of the Society as filed in the Office of the Registrar;

**"Directors"** means those individuals who have become Directors of the Society in accordance with the Bylaws and have not ceased to be Directors, and a **"Director"** means any one of them;

**"Electronic Means"** means any system, including but not limited to telephonic, electronic, radio, computer, or Internet-based technology or communications facility that:

* + - * 1. in relation to a meeting or proceeding, permits participants to communicate or otherwise participate as if they were present in person, and
        2. in relation to a vote, permits an eligible voter to cast a vote on a particular matter that adequately discloses the intention of the voter;

**"Medical Staff"** means a member of the Medical Staff Association;

**“MSA”** means Medical Staff Association of [NAME OF FACILITY]

**"Ordinary Resolution"** means an ordinary resolution as defined in the Societies Act;

**"Physician"** means a member of the Medical Staff Association who is duly licensed by the College of Physicians and Surgeons of British Columbia; and is entitled to practice medicine in British Columbia;

**"Registered Address"** of a member means the address of that individual as recorded in the register of members, and may include a fax number and/or email address;

**"Registrar"** means the Registrar of Companies of the Province of British Columbia;

**"Society"** means [NAME OF PHYSICIAN SOCIETY];

**"Societies Act"** means the *Societies Act* (British Columbia) from time to time in force and all amendments to it and in the event of its repeal, all legislation that substantially replaces it;

**"Special Resolution"** means a special resolution as defined in the Societies Act; and

**"Voting Member"** means a Physician who is a member of the Society or another person that has been approved as a voting member of the Society as provided in these bylaws.

# Membership

## Admission to Membership

The members of the *Society* are the applicants for incorporation of the *Society*, and those individuals who subsequently become members, in accordance with the *Bylaws* and, in either case, have not ceased to be members.

## Automatic Member

Except as otherwise provided herein, each member of *Medical Staff* automatically becomes a member of the *Society*.

## Voting Member

All *Physician* members of the *Society* are *Voting Member*s;

Subject to section 2.3(c), all members of the Society that are not Physicians shall be non-voting members.

The Society may, by special resolution, grant voting privileges to members who are not Physicians, and the voting rights of such members shall be the same as the voting rights of other voting members of the society.

A member who is not in good standing shall not have the right to vote at general meetings of the Society.

## Membership Dues

There will be no annual membership dues payable by any member.

## Cessation of Membership

An individual ceases to be a member of the *Society*:

1. automatically upon ceasing to be a member of the *Medical Staff;*
2. by delivering their resignation in writing to any one officer of the *Society* or by mailing or delivering it to the Address of the *Society*;
3. on their death; or
4. upon their expulsion in accordance with the Bylaws or otherwise as permitted under the *Societies Act*.

## Discipline or Expulsion of Member

A member may be disciplined, suspended, or expelled by a *Special Resolution* of the *Voting Member*s passed at a general meeting. The grounds for discipline or expulsion may include, but are not limited to, the failure of any member to comply with their duties under section 2.8 of these Bylaws.

Prior to such expulsion, the *Society* must send a written notice of the reasons for the proposed expulsion to the member.

A member who is the subject of a proposed special resolution of expulsion must be given an opportunity to be heard at a general meeting before the resolution is put to a vote.

## Standing of Members

All members are deemed to be in good standing, except a member who has been suspended in accordance with these Bylaws.

## Duties of Members

## Every member and director must comply with:

### The Societies Act;

### The Constitution and Bylaws:

### All policies and procedures, rules, regulations, and resolutions of the society enacted by the Board: and

### any rules of orders governing the conduct of general meetings and meetings of the Board.

# Meeting of Members

## Time and Place of General Meetings

General meetings of the *Society* must be held at such time and place in British Columbia, in accordance with the *Societies Act*, that the *Directors* decide. The *Directors* may determine that telephonic, electronic, or other communication facilities may be used to enable participation in general meetings.

## Extraordinary General Meeting

Every general meeting, other than an annual general meeting, is an extraordinary general meeting.

## Calling of Extraordinary General Meeting

The *Directors* may, when they think fit, convene an extraordinary general meeting.

## Notice of General Meeting

The *Society* will give not less than 14 days' written notice to each member of a general meeting, but those members may waive or reduce the period for a particular meeting by unanimous consent in writing. Notices of general meetings may be given by email for every member for whom the society has an email address in the register of members.

## Contents of Notice

Notice of a general meeting will specify the place, the day and the hour of the meeting and shall include the text of any *Special Resolution*s to be proposed or considered at that meeting. If the general meeting is an electronic meeting, the notices shall also contain instructions for attending and participating and voting in the meeting.

## Omission of Notice

The accidental omission to give notice of a meeting to, or the non-receipt of a notice by, any of the members entitled to receive notice does not invalidate proceedings at that meeting.

## Annual General Meetings

An annual meeting shall be held at least once in every calendar year.

# Proceedings at General Meetings

## Business at General Meetings

1. Business to be conducted at annual general meetings shall include the following:
2. the adoption of rules of order;
3. the consideration of the financial statements;
4. the report of the *Directors*;
5. the report of the auditor, if any;
6. the appointment and election of *Directors*, as applicable;
7. the appointment of the auditor, as applicable;
8. the other business that, under the *Bylaws*, ought to be conducted at an annual general meeting, or business that is brought under consideration by the report of the *Directors* issued with the notice convening the meeting.
9. Special business is:
10. all business at an extraordinary general meeting except the adoption of rules of order; and
11. all business transacted at an annual general meeting with the exception of business listed above under paragraph 4.1 (a).

## Electronic Participation

The *Board* may determine, in its discretion, to hold any general meeting in whole or in part by Electronic Means so as to allow some or all members to participate in the meeting remotely.

Where a general meeting is to be conducted using Electronic Means, the *Board* must take reasonable steps to ensure that all participants are able to communicate and participate in the meeting adequately.

Persons participating by Electronic Means are deemed to be present at such general meeting.

## Requirement of Quorum

Business, other than the election of Chair and the adjournment or termination of the meeting, must not be conducted at a general meeting at a time when a quorum is not present.

## Loss of Quorum

If at any time during a general meeting there ceases to be a quorum present, business then in progress must be suspended until there is a quorum present or until the meeting is adjourned or terminated.

## Quorum

A quorum at a general meeting is 5 *Voting Member*s.

## Lack of Quorum

If within 30 minutes from the time appointed for a general meeting a quorum is not present, the meeting, if convened on the requisition of members, must be terminated, but in any other case, it must stand adjourned to the same day in the next week, at the same time and place, and if, at the adjourned meeting, a quorum is not present within 30 minutes from the time appointed for the meeting, the members present constitute a quorum.

## Chair

Subject to Bylaw 4.8, the President of the *Society*, the Vice President or, in the absence of both, one of the other *Directors* present, must preside as Chair of a general meeting.

## Alternate Chair

If at a general meeting

1. there is no President, Vice President or other *Director* present within 15 minutes after the time appointed for holding the meeting, or
2. the President and all the other *Directors* present are unwilling to act as the Chair,

the *Voting Member*s present must choose one of their number to be the Chair.

## Adjournment

A general meeting may be adjourned from time to time and from place to place, but business must not be conducted at an adjourned meeting other than the business left unfinished at the meeting from which the adjournment took place.

## Notice of Adjournment

When a meeting is adjourned for 10 days or more, notice of the adjourned meeting must be given as in the case of the original meeting.

## Motions need not be Seconded

A resolution proposed at a meeting need not be seconded, and the Chair of a meeting may move or propose a resolution.

## No Casting Vote

In the case of a tie vote, the Chair does not have a casting or second vote in addition to the vote to which he or she may be entitled as a *Voting Member*, and the proposed resolution does not pass.

## Entitlement to Vote

Each *Voting Member* is entitled to one vote at a general meeting.

## Decisions by Show of Hands

Voting is, at the discretion of the *Board*, either by show of hands, or as otherwise conducted by Electronic Means.

## Voting by Proxy

Voting by proxy is not permitted.

## Resolutions in Writing

An *Ordinary Resolution* or a *Special Resolution* consented to in writing in accordance with the *Societies Act* may be in two or more counterparts, which together will be deemed to constitute one resolution in writing. Such resolution will be filed with the minutes of the proceedings of the *Directors* and will be deemed to be passed on the date stated therein or, in the absence of such a date being stated, on the latest date stated on any counterpart.

## Minutes of General Meetings

The Secretary, or any other officer if no Secretary is appointed, shall ensure that minutes are taken for all general meetings of the *Society* and shall be responsible to arrange for the care and custody of such minutes.

# Directors

## Powers of Directors

The *Directors* may exercise all the powers and do all the acts and things that the *Society* may exercise and do, and that are not by the *Bylaws* or by statute or otherwise lawfully directed or required to be exercised or done by the *Society* in a general meeting, but subject, nevertheless, to

1. all laws affecting the *Society*; and
2. the *Bylaws* and the *Constitution*.

## Director Must be a Physician Member

An individual must be a *Physician* Member of the *Society* to be eligible to be a *Director* of the *Society*.

## Number of Directors

The number of *Directors* is a minimum of 3 and a maximum of 7, as may be determined from time to time by *Ordinary Resolution*.

## Election and Appointment of Directors

Individuals elected to office as Directors of the society will be deemed appointed as Directors at the annual general meeting.

Election of additional *Directors*, if any, will be held at the annual general meeting.

The term of office of *Directors* will normally be for a period of not more oneyear, the same as such *Director’s* term of office for the MSA. For purposes of calculating the duration of a *Director’s* term of office, the term will be deemed to commence at the close of the annual general meeting at which such *Director* was appointed or elected. If, however, the *Director* was appointed or elected at an extraordinary general meeting their term of office will be deemed to have commenced at the close of the annual general meeting next following such extraordinary general meeting.

## Terms of Office.

Subject to section 5.6(b), *Directors* are eligible to be elected or appointed for a maximum of three consecutive terms.

## Election and Appointment of Less than Required Number of Directors

### The *Directors’* term of office shall expire at each annual general meeting when their successors are elected or appointed.

### If a successor is not elected or appointed, the individual previously elected or appointed continues to hold office until the earlier of the date that their successor is elected or appointed or the close of the next annual general meeting.

## Vacancy Among Directors

The *Directors* may at any time and from time to time appoint a *Physician Member* as a *Director* and officer, as applicable, to fill a vacancy in the *Directors* and officer positions, as applicable. A *Director* and officer, as applicable, so appointed holds office only until the conclusion of the next annual general meeting of the *Society*, but is eligible for re-appointment or re-election at the meeting.

## Invalidation of Acts

An act or proceeding of the *Directors* is not invalid merely because there are less than the prescribed number of *Directors* in office.

## Removal of Director

The *Voting Member*s may, by *Special Resolution*, remove a *Director*, before the expiration of their term of office, and may appoint a successor to complete the term of office.

A Director may not be proposed for removal unless at least 7 days written notice of the resolution has been provided to the Director who is proposed for removal, and prior to the vote on the resolution, the Director is given a reasonable opportunity to make representations regarding the proposed removal.

## Ceasing to be a Director

An individual ceases to be a *Director* of the *Society*:

1. upon expiry of their term;
2. upon ceasing to be a member of the *medical staff*;
3. by delivering their resignation in writing to any one officer of the *Society* or by mailing or delivering it to the Address of the *Society*;
4. on their death; or
5. upon their removal.

## Compensation of Directors

A *Director* may be compensated for being or acting as a *Director*.

## Reimbursement of Directors’ Expenses

A *Director* may be reimbursed for all expenses necessarily and reasonably incurred by the *Director* while engaged in the affairs of the *Society*.

# Proceedings of Directors

## Procedures of Meetings

The *Directors* may meet at the places they think fit to conduct business, adjourn, and otherwise regulate their meetings and proceedings, as they see fit.

## Quorum

The *Directors* may from time to time set the quorum necessary to conduct business, and unless so set the quorum is a majority of the *Directors* then in office.

## Chair of Meetings

The President is the Chair of all meetings of the *Directors*, but if at a meeting the President is not present within 30 minutes after the time appointed for holding the meeting, the Vice President must act as Chair, but if neither is present the *Directors* present may choose one of their number to be the Chair at that meeting.

## Calling of Meetings

A *Director* may at any time, and any one officer, on the request of a *Director*, must, convene a meeting of the *Directors*.

## Meeting Attendance

A meeting of the *Directors* may be held by means of a conference telephone call, Electronic Means, or other means by which all the *Directors* agree to participate in that manner and those participating can hear each other. A person participating in a meeting in such a manner shall be deemed to be present at the meeting.

## Waiver of Notice by Absent Director

A *Director* who may be absent temporarily from British Columbia may send or deliver to the address of the *Society* a waiver of notice, which may be by letter, email, or other means, of any meeting of the *Directors* and may at any time withdraw the waiver, and until the waiver is withdrawn,

1. a notice of meeting of *Directors* is not required to be sent to that *Director*, and
2. any and all meetings of the *Directors* of the *Society*, notice of which has not been given to that *Director*, if a quorum of the *Directors* is present, are valid and effective.

## Passing Resolutions

Questions arising at a meeting of the *Directors* and committee of *Directors* must be decided by a majority of votes. *Directors* can pass a *Directors*’ resolution in accordance with section 6.11 of these Bylaws without a meeting if a copy of the resolution is sent to all the *Directors* and each of the Directors then in office consents in writing to the resolution.

## Conflict of Interest

A Director who is required by the Societies Act to leave a directors' meeting due to a direct or indirect conflict of interest, may remain in the meeting to provide clarifying information if requested by one or more other directors.

## No Casting Vote

In the case of a tie vote, the Chair does not have a second or casting vote.

## Motions need not be Seconded

A resolution proposed at a meeting of *Directors* or committee of *Directors* need not be seconded, and the Chair of a meeting may move or propose a resolution.

## Resolution in Writing

A Board Resolution in writing is as valid and effectual as if it had been passed at a meeting of the Directors duly called and constituted. Such resolution may be in two or more counterparts, which together will be deemed to constitute one resolution in writing. Such resolution will be filed with the minutes of the proceedings of the Directors and will be deemed to be passed on the date stated therein or, in the absence of such a date being stated, on the latest date stated on any counterpart.

## Minutes of Directors Meetings

The Secretary or such other person designated shall ensure that minutes are taken for all meetings of *Directors*.

# Committees

## Standing and Special Committees

The *Directors* may create standing and special committees as may from time to time be required. Any such committee will limit its activities to the purpose or purposes for which it is appointed and will have no powers except those specifically conferred by a resolution of *Directors*. Unless specifically designated as a standing committee, any special committee so created must be created for a specified time period only (e.g., working group, task forces, subcommittees). Upon completion of the earlier of the specified time period or the task for which it was appointed, a special committee will automatically be dissolved.

## Delegation to Committees

The *Directors* may delegate any, but not all, of the powers of *Directors* to committees which may be in whole or in part composed of *Directors* as the *Directors* think fit.

## Terms of Reference and Rules

In the event the *Directors* decide to create a committee, it must establish terms of reference for such committee. A committee, in the exercise of the powers delegated to it, will conform to any rules that may from time to time be imposed by the *Directors* in the terms of reference or otherwise.

## Committee Composition

1. The terms of reference for each committee must set out the committee composition.
2. Each committee must include *Physicians* and may include other individuals relevant to fulfilling the committee mandate.

# Officers

## Election of Officers

At the first meeting of the *Directors* following a general meeting at which *Directors* are elected, the *Directors* may elect from among themselves, a President, a Vice President, a Secretary or a Secretary-Treasurer, or such other officer as required, and determine the duties, responsibilities, if any, of such officers. For greater certainty, any *physician* elected to an office of the MSA shall be elected to the same office within the *Society*.

## President

The President presides at all meetings of the *Society* and of the *Directors*.

## Vice President

The Vice President must carry out the duties of the President during the President's absence.

## Secretary

The Secretary shall be responsible for the following:

1. ensuring the issuance of notices of meetings of the *Society* and *Directors*;
2. ensuring there are minutes of all meetings of the *Society* and *Directors*;
3. ensuring the custody of all records and documents of the *Society*; and
4. ensuring the maintenance of the register of members.

## Treasurer

The Treasurer shall be responsible for the following:

1. ensuring the maintenance of the financial records, including books of account, necessary to comply with the *Societies Act* and Income Tax Act, as applicable; and
2. ensuring financial statements are rendered to the *Directors*, members and others when required.

## Combination of Secretary and Treasurer

The offices of Secretary and Treasurer may be held by one individual who will be known as the Secretary-Treasurer.

## Absence of Secretary at Meeting

In the absence of the Secretary from a meeting, the *Directors* must appoint another individual to act as Secretary at the meeting.

## Removal of Officer

An officer shall be deemed removed from their office if he or she is recalled or removed from the same office he or she holds with the MSA. An individual who has been elected or appointed to an office of the *Society*, and who does not hold the same office with the MSA, may be removed as an officer by a resolution passed at a meeting of the *Directors* by a majority of not less than two-thirds of the *Directors* present.

# Borrowing

## Borrowing not Permitted

The *Directors* and officers may not, on behalf of and in the name of the *Society*, borrow, raise or secure the payment or repayment of money, including, but without limiting the foregoing, by the granting of guarantees or by the issue of debentures.

# Execution of Instruments

## Execution of Instruments

Contracts, documents or instruments in writing requiring the execution by the *Society* may be signed by any two of the *Directors*, and all contracts, documents and instruments in writing so signed will be binding upon the *Society* without any further authorization or formality.

# Indemnification

## Indemnification of Directors and Officers

Subject to the provisions of the *Societies Act*, each *Director* and each officer of the *Society* will be indemnified by the *Society* against all costs, charges and expenses reasonably incurred in connection with any claim, action, suit or proceeding to which that individual may be made a party by reason of being or having been a *Director* or officer of the *Society*.

## Indemnification of Past Directors and Officers

To the extent permitted by the *Societies Act*, the *Society* will indemnify and hold harmless every individual heretofore now or hereafter serving as a *Director* or officer of the *Society* and that individual's heirs and personal representative, by reason of being or having been a *Director* or officer of the *Society*.

## Advancement of Expenses

To the extent permitted by the *Societies Act*, all costs, charges and expenses incurred by a *Director* or officer with respect to any claim, action, suit or proceeding may be advanced by the *Society* prior to the final disposition thereof, in the discretion of the *Directors*, and upon receipt of an undertaking satisfactory in form and amount to the *Directors* by or on behalf of the recipient to repay such amount unless it is ultimately determined that the recipient is entitled to indemnification hereunder.

## Approval of Court and Term of Indemnification

The *Society* will apply to the court for approval, if required, to ensure that the indemnities herein are effective and enforceable. Each *Director* and each officer of the *Society* on being elected or appointed will be deemed to have contracted with the *Society* upon the terms of the foregoing indemnities.

## Indemnification not Invalidated by Non-Compliance

The failure of a *Director* or officer of the *Society* to comply with the provisions of the *Societies Act*, or of the Constitution or these *Bylaws* will not invalidate any indemnity to which he or she is otherwise entitled under this part.

## Purchase of Insurance

The *Society* may purchase and maintain insurance for the benefit of any or all *Directors*, officers, employees, or agents against personal liability incurred by any such individual as a *Director*, officer, employee or agent.

# Notices to Members

## Method of Giving Notice

A notice may be given to a member either personally, by electronic mail, or by mail to the member at the member’s Registered Address.

## When Notice Deemed to Have Been Received

A notice sent by mail is deemed to have been given on the second day following the day on which the notice is posted, and in proving that notice has been given, it is sufficient to prove the notice was properly addressed and put in a Canadian post office receptacle.

## Entitlement to Notice

Notice of a general meeting will be given to

1. every member shown on the register of members on the day notice is given, and
2. the auditor, if one has been appointed by the *Society*.

No other person is entitled to receive a notice of a general meeting.

# Bylaws

## Activities Carried on Without Purpose of Gain

The activities of the *Society* will be carried on without purpose of gain for its members and any income, profits or other accretions to the *Society* will be used in promoting the purposes of the *Society* as set out in the Constitution.

## Entitlement of Members to Copy of Constitution and Bylaws

On being admitted to membership, each member is entitled to, and upon request, a *Director* of the *Society* will provide him or her, without charge, a copy of the Constitution and *Bylaws* of the *Society*.

## Special Resolution Required to Alter or Add to Constitution and Bylaws

The Constitution and the *Bylaws* must not be altered or added to except by *Special Resolution* and with prior consent of the British Columbia Medical Association (doing business as Doctors of BC).

# Restrictions on Distribution Upon Wind-up or Dissolution

## Wind-up or Dissolution

Upon winding-up or dissolution of the *Society*, the funds and property remaining after the payment of all costs, charges and expenses properly incurred in the winding-up or dissolution, including the remuneration of the liquidator, and after payment to employees of the *Society* of any arrears of salaries or wages, and after payment of any debts of the *Society*, will be distributed to Doctors of BC acting on behalf of the Specialist Services Committee.