

Canadian Osteopathic Association

CONSTITUTION

Article I NAME

The name of this organization shall be the Canadian Osteopathic Association. It shall hereinafter be referred to as the COA.

Article II MISSION

The mission of the COA shall be to represent and advance the interests of the osteopathic medical profession (osteopathy) across Canada.

Article III PURPOSE

1. The COA will promote the advancement of the healing arts by all legitimate methods of study, research and practice.
2. The COA will promote and protect the interests and influence of the osteopathic medical profession with all appropriate public and private organizations and individuals.
3. The COA will facilitate original research and investigation into the healing arts, with a special interest in the study and application of the principles and practice of osteopathic medicine. Results will be collected and published for the benefit of the profession and humanity.
4. The COA will promote the recognition and advancement of osteopathic undergraduate and postgraduate medical education.
5. The COA will promote professional and social interactions amongst its membership.
6. The COA will assist in the formation and development of geographic divisional associations, and such other divisions as may be deemed appropriate.
7. The COA will maintain such facilities and hire such personnel as are deemed appropriate and necessary to accomplish its purposes.
8. The COA and its divisions will operate on a not-for-profit basis.

Article IV DESCRIPTION

The COA shall be a federation of divisional associations within provincial or other geographic boundaries chartered by this Association. Any such provincial or other osteopathic association may be chartered as a divisional association of the COA upon approval of the Board of Trustees. The constitution, by-laws, code of ethics and organizational structure of such divisions shall conform generally with those of the COA. The Board of Trustees shall have the authority to issue charters provided that no other osteopathic medical association chartered by the COA exists in the same geographical area.

Any amendments to the by-laws of such divisional associations shall be submitted for approval to the Board of Trustees of the COA which shall determine whether they would continue to conform generally with those approved for the COA.

Article V MEMBERSHIP

Section 1: Full membership in the COA can be attained by Doctors of Osteopathic Medicine (Doctors of Osteopathy) only through membership in a divisional association, or by approval of the Board of Trustees. Membership in a divisional association shall constitute, at the same time, membership in the COA.

Section 2: Only graduates of a College of Osteopathic Medicine approved by the Board of Trustees are eligible for Full Membership.

Section 3: The election to membership shall be in the matter prescribed in the COA Bylaws.

Section 4: Membership classification shall be:

- Full Members
- Life Members
- Honorary Members
- Associate Members
- Affiliate Members

Section 5: Dues for membership are specified in the Rules and Regulations as may be updated from time to time on approval of the Board of Trustees.

Section 6: Only Full Members, Life Members, Honorary Members shall be eligible to vote and hold office in the COA.

Article VI BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Section 1: The Board of Trustees shall constitute the principal executive body of the COA.

Section 2: The Board of Trustees shall be elected by and represent the membership of the Divisional Associations.

Section 3: All standing and special committees shall be considered subcommittees of the Board and responsible to it.

Section 4: The Board shall elect from amongst itself a President, Vice-President, President-Elect, and Secretary/Treasurer who along with the Past-President shall form the Executive Officers of the COA.

Section 5: Duties of the Board shall include:

1. Administration of the funds of the COA
2. Authorization of expenditures
3. Approval of applications for membership
4. Audit or delegate auditing of the books of the COA
5. Appoint Executive Officers.
6. Co-ordinate the activities of the committees.
7. Authorize the hiring and supervision of personnel and facilities as required to fulfill the mandate of the COA

Section 6: Quorum for the meetings of the Board shall be two-thirds of the members.

Section 7: Method of Election, duties and terms of office for the Trustees will be specified in the Bylaws.

Article VII MEETINGS

Section 1: The annual general meeting of the COA shall be held at a place and time designated by the Board of Trustees.

Section 2: Regular meetings will be held as deemed necessary by the Board or the President of the COA. Such meetings may be held using electronic methods of communication.

Section 3: Special Meetings may be called upon the receipt of a written request representing 30% of the voting membership and/or two thirds of the divisional societies to the Secretary/Treasurer. A notice of such meeting will be sent to all members one month prior to the meeting. Such meetings may be held using electronic methods of communication.

Article VIII AMENDMENTS

Section 1: The Constitution may be amended by the voting members at any Annual General Meeting by two-thirds' majority vote. Proxy votes will be permitted.

Section 2: The Bylaws may be amended by the voting members at any Annual General Meeting by two-thirds' majority vote. Proxy votes will be permitted.

Section 3: Proposed amendments to the Constitution and/or Bylaws shall be presented to the voting members and filed with the Secretary/Treasurer at a date not less than two months prior to the Annual General Meeting.

Section 4: The Secretary/Treasurer will mail to each member a copy of the proposed amendment(s) to the constitution or Bylaws.

Section 5: The Rules and Regulations may be amended by a simple majority vote at any regular meeting of the Board of Trustees. The proposed amendment may be presented and passed at the same meeting.

Section 6: In any matters where there is a conflict between the Constitution, the Bylaws, and the Rules and Regulations, the Constitution and Bylaws shall prevail, in that order.

Article IX FINANCES

Section 1: The fiscal year of the COA shall be from January 1 to December 31.

Section 2: The raising of funds for conducting the affairs of the COA may be by;

- a. Annual membership dues as provided in the Bylaws.
- b. Special Assessments when determined by the Board of Trustees.
- c. Voluntary contributions or gifts.
- d. Any other manner approved by the Board of Trustees.

Article X CODE OF ETHICS

Section 1: All members of the COA will be expected to be knowledgeable of and to abide by the Code of Ethics as defined by the Canadian Medical Association as well as their respective provincial College of Physicians and Surgeons, as amended from time to time.

Section 2: Failure to abide by such Code(s) of Ethics may result in loss of membership and related privileges in the COA.