



Canadian Herpetological Society Société d'herpétologie du Canada

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

January, 2014

CONSTITUTION

I: Name

The organization shall be called the “Canadian Herpetological Society” (in French: Société d’herpétologie du Canada; abbreviated as CHS/SHC), hereinafter referred to as “the Society”.

II: Mission

The Society shall be devoted to fostering scientific research on amphibians and reptiles and, in recognition of the inherent value of all native amphibians and reptiles, conserving Canada's native species of amphibians and reptiles and their ecological and evolutionary functions in perpetuity.

III: Purposes

1. To promote herpetological research, including investigations relevant to the conservation of amphibian and reptile populations in Canada, and to disseminate the results.
2. To promote public education programmes and community projects that further public awareness and knowledge of the biology and conservation of Canadian reptile and amphibian populations.
3. To promote projects that support the conservation, creation and/or restoration of amphibian and reptile populations and habitats.
4. To promote closer cooperation and understanding among and between amateur and professional herpetologists so that they may work together in common cause to better understand and conserve Canada’s amphibians and reptiles.

IV: Governance

The Society shall be governed by a Board of Directors (hereinafter referred to as “the Board”).

V: Bylaws

The Society shall establish bylaws to regulate its organization and procedures.

VI: Non-profit charitable status

The Society shall carry on without purpose of gain for its members, and any profits or other accretions to the Society shall be used solely to promote its objectives as permitted by law.

VII: Amendments to the Constitution

Amendments to the Constitution of the Society must be approved unanimously by the members of the Board and shall be ratified by vote of the assembled membership of the Society at its next available general meeting.

VIII: Dissolution

The Society may dissolve itself by unanimous consent of the Board, provided it has no outstanding debt.

BYLAWS**I: Activities of the Society**

In furtherance of its stated purposes the Society shall foster herpetological research and conservation by:

1. Supporting the development and use of standardized and statistically meaningful protocols for monitoring amphibian and reptile populations,
2. Supporting the creation, restoration and preservation of habitat to maintain healthy amphibian and reptile populations in Canada,
3. Providing opportunities for discussion and the dissemination of herpetological information by any appropriate means, including meetings, workshops, publications and the internet,
4. Maintaining co-operative links with organizations, agencies and institutions whose activities benefit the conservation of amphibians and reptiles, both inside and outside Canada,
5. Disseminating the results of herpetological research, such as thesis abstracts, notices of relevant research papers and original research, among Society members,
6. Promoting and/or organizing advanced seminars, workshops and/or conferences devoted to herpetological research,
7. Publishing, to the extent possible, books and articles devoted to herpetological research and conservation, and/or,
8. Pursuing any other activities relevant to its mission.

II: Officers

1. The Board shall ordinarily consist of 11 members but not less than 7, as follows:
 - i. **President**
 - ii. **Vice-President** (President-elect)
 - iii. **Past-President**
 - iv. **Treasurer**
 - v. **Secretary**
 - vi. **Director (Research)**
 - vii. **Director (Conservation)**
 - viii. **Directors-at-large**
2. The term of office of the President of the Society is two years. Upon completion of the two-year term of office of the President, the Vice-President (President-elect) will

assume the office of the President. The outgoing President will assume the office of Past-President for two years. The outgoing Past-President is eligible for renewal of office for one additional three-year term as a Director-at-large if he or she has served for less than nine consecutive years.

3. The term of office of a Director other than the President, Vice-President and Past-President shall be three years, renewable twice. Renewal of office shall require at least a 2/3 majority vote from all remaining Directors.
4. After having served on the board for three consecutive terms, Directors are eligible for re-election to the Board after a one-year absence, but will not be re-elected for an additional two years if other candidates are available to fill board vacancies.
5. Should the President leave office before the end of the normal two-year term, the Vice-President shall assume the office of President and an election may be called in order to fill the office of Vice-President.
6. Should a Director other than the President leave office before the end of the normal three-year term, an election may be called in order to fill the vacancy.
7. Any Director may be removed from office by a 3/4 majority vote of the remaining Directors.
8. Directors give of their time freely to the Society without monetary compensation.

III: Elections of Officers

1. Election of the Vice-President (President-elect).
Any Board Member may put forward the name of any other Member of the Society in good standing to fill the office of Vice- President, provided the nominee consents in writing. The winning candidate will require the most votes (plurality vote) from the membership.
2. Appointment of Directors
Any Member of the Society in good standing may put forward the name of any other Members of the Society in good standing, with approval by the board, to fill a Board vacancy. The winning candidate will require the most votes (plurality vote) from the membership.
3. Elections
Elections may take place at the AGM or electronically. The membership will be notified prior to an election and there will be a set period of time during which the membership may cast their votes.

IV: Committees:

1. Standing committees:
 - 1a. Standing Committees, appointed by the President, are as follows:
 - i. Awards and Scholarships Committee**
 - ii. Membership Committee**
 - iii. Nominating Committee**
 - iv. Outreach and Volunteers Committee**
 - v. Management and Publications Committee**
 - vi. Meetings and Workshops Committee**
 - vii. Conservation Committee**

viii. Research Committee

- 1b. Standing Committees may be dissolved or redefined, or new Standing Committees may be organized by the President with the approval of the Board, as the need arises.
- 1c. Chairs of Standing Committees shall be appointed by the President, subject to the approval of the Board.
- 1d. The Board may define the duties and tasks to be performed by the Standing Committees
2. Ad hoc committees may be appointed by the President to undertake specific tasks.
3. Any member of the Society in good standing may be a member and/or Chair of any committee aside from the Nominating Committee, which is composed only of Board members.
4. Committees shall report to the Board.

V: Meetings:

1. The Society shall hold meetings as it deems advisable.
2. An Annual General Meeting of the membership shall be conducted during which the business of the Society may be discussed, including reports from the committees and Society's financial statement, and elections may be held.
3. The Society may organize workshops on particular subjects relevant to its mission. These may be held in conjunction with meetings of the Society.
4. The Convener of Meetings is the Chair of the meetings and workshops committee
5. Each Annual General Meeting shall have a Local Organizing Committee for the purpose.

VI. Membership

1. Anyone who is interested in the objectives of the Society is eligible for membership. Membership can be attained by application to the Treasurer.
2. A membership fee, at a rate determined by the Board, will be charged to belong to Society.
3. To be a Member in good standing a person must not be in arrears for dues. The fiscal year to which a membership term applies is the same as the calendar year.
4. The Society may recognize Honorary Members.
 - 4a. Honorary Members of the Society include:
 - i: All holders of the Michael Rankin Distinguished Canadian Herpetologist Award or Blue Racer Award.
 - ii: Any other person the Society decides to so honour, in which case a nomination for honorary membership, accompanied by a rationale for the honour, must be presented at an Annual General Meeting by the nominator.
 - 4b. Honorary Members do not pay dues.

VII. Amendments to the Bylaws:

Bylaws for the conduct of the business of the Society may be enacted, amended, or repealed by a 2/3 majority vote of the Board and shall be ratified by vote of the assembled membership of the Society at its next available general meeting.

VIII: Publications

1. **The Canadian Herpetologist**
The Society shall support and contribute to The Canadian Herpetologist as its official newsletter and information bulletin.
2. **Special Publications**
The Society may undertake to produce and publish special publications on subjects relevant to its mission.

IX: Awards

The Society may give awards to deserving persons in light of its mission. Rules for awards, including eligibility, choice of awardee, value and content of the award, etc., may be set by the Board. Awards include:

- i. **Michael Rankin Distinguished Canadian Herpetologist award** - presented to an individual in recognition of life-time achievement in the study of amphibians and reptiles in Canada.
- ii. **Blue Racer award** - presented to an individual in recognition of cumulative contributions to research and conservation of amphibians and reptiles in Canada
- iii. **Silver Salamander award** - presented to an individual or an organization in recognition of a specific contribution to the conservation of amphibians and reptiles in Canada
- iv. **Best student platform presentation award**
- v. **Best student poster award**
- vi. **CHS/ SHC scholarship** - awarded annually to students conducting research to support amphibian and reptile conservation in Canada
- vii. **President's Prize** - awarded annually for the best article written by a student and published in The Canadian Herpetologist [\$100]
- viii. **Travel Award** – awarded in aid of student travel to the annual meeting of the Society

X: Finances

The Society's net revenues from membership fees, donations and other sources shall only be used for expenses in furtherance of the Society's mission. These expenses may include the publication of a newsletter and the funding of awards, as determined by the Board.

XI: Dissolution

Upon the dissolution of the Society, the assets remaining after the payment of all costs, charges and expenses, including the remuneration of a liquidator, and after the payment of any debts of the Society, shall be distributed to one or more charitable institutions for the purpose of conserving amphibians and reptiles or their habitats, upon recommendation by the Board.