

## Proposed 2021 SAPD Bylaws

### Why review the bylaws?

Bylaws are the core governing rules and regulations of any organization. They provide a framework for a well managed and responsibly governed organization. They're a little hard to read, and certainly not exciting, but a necessary part of good governance.

A review and re-writing of the SAPD bylaws was last performed in 2014. In 2020, the SAPD Board of Directors created an *ad hoc* Bylaw Committee to review the bylaws and suggest changes.

The existing 2014 bylaws, the proposed 2021 bylaws, and a Change Document outlining the revisions, have been posted on the SAPD website for review by all members. The Phone Committee will be in contact with members who do not receive communication through email, and the documents will be provided to them on request.

### What are the proposed changes to the bylaws?

Revisions were made to update language and make the bylaws flow better. Please look at the three documents for a full understanding of all the changes.

The major proposed changes relate to the following 3 issues:

1. Like many things in the last 12 months, one of the major motivations for this review was Covid-19 related. We wanted to ensure that the SAPD bylaws clearly allowed the Board of Directors and the membership to meet electronically, if necessary.
2. We also noted how alternating between a male and female President each year and having 4 males and 4 female Board members have created challenges for the Nominating Committee in Board recruitment. These requirements are important to our history, but would be more appropriately part of our SAPD Policies and Procedures. They have been removed from the proposed 2021 bylaws and added to the Policies and Procedures.
3. With declining membership and volunteerism, the issue of how to increase membership and involvement has been an ongoing discussion for many years. The Bylaw Committee considered ways to open our membership to interested people who would not otherwise be eligible to be part of the SAPD.

We all know people who do not meet the 1890 date, but consider themselves to be from pioneer families, as they have spent over a century in helping to establish Alberta as the amazing Province that it has become. There are also people who have been in Southern Alberta for a shorter time; fascinated by the stories of our pioneer ancestors and eager to be involved in the work to preserve them.

We have proposed the creation of a Friend Member to be added to the other membership categories – open to anyone who supports the Objects of the SAPD. Like

Associate Members, a Friend Member will not have voting rights unless they are serving on the Board of Directors.

### What can I do?

Please take a minute (or two!) to reflect on some of the proposed changes to the 2014 bylaws. Compare the proposed 2021 bylaws to the 2014 bylaws by using the Change Document.

The proposed 2021 bylaws will be voted on by the SAPD membership at the SAPD 2021 Annual General Meeting in October. A final draft must be sent to the members in September. We want to make sure that everyone has the opportunity to provide their feedback to the Bylaw Committee and Board, and any changes can be made before August.

We have set up multiple opportunities for you to meet with the Bylaw Committee at the Memorial Building to provide your feedback or to discuss your concerns: \*

Sunday, May 30 <sup>th</sup>	between 11:30 – 2:30
Sunday, June 13 <sup>th</sup>	between 11:30 – 2:30
Sunday, June 27 <sup>th</sup>	between 11:30 – 2:30

*\* please note that we will be following whatever AHS Covid-19 protocols are in place at the time. Although we plan to meet in the Building, we may have to go outside, break into small groups, or have people wait their turn to enter the Building. Your patience is appreciated.*

If you have questions or concerns and are unable to meet with the Bylaw Committee during those times, please feel free to email the President directly at [president@pioneersalberta.org](mailto:president@pioneersalberta.org).

Your input is very important to this process. We look forward to hearing from you.