

THE PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND FIDDLERS SOCIETY INCORPORATED

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

**REVISED
OCTOBER 2006**

The Prince Edward Island Fiddlers Society Incorporated

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

October 2006

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The Prince Edward Island Fiddlers Society Incorporated

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

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SECTION 1

Name and Status

The organization

- (a) will be called the Prince Edward Island Fiddlers Society, hereinafter called the “The Society”
- (b) is a body corporate, and, subject to any restrictions noted in these by-laws, has all of the powers of a company incorporated under the *Companies Act*, R.S.P.E.I. 1988, C-14.

SECTION 2

Statement of Values

Whereas the members of the PEI Fiddlers Society believe that the unity and fellowship in The Society will flow from each members love for this music as a gift from a loving God who desires our happiness and from a reverence and respect for this music as it flows from the heart and the hand of a particularly inspired composer, the members support the following constitution and by-laws.

SECTION 3

Aims and Objectives

The aims and objectives of The Society are as follows:

- (a) to be devoted to old time fiddle music; and, in particular, to play, perform and record tunes that have become part of the heritage of our Island. These tunes of our heritage may have varied origins; (Scottish, Acadian, or Irish). Our repertoire will not be limited in any way, and will include waltzes, hornpipes, clogs, reels, jigs, marches or any form that old time music presents, both new and old, with special consideration to those tunes written by Prince Edward Islanders and Society members;
- (b) to encourage people of all ages to take up this challenging art form and thus ensure that it will be passed on to future generations. The Society will encourage and support

beginner fiddlers to learn and play old time fiddle music, either by reading music or “by ear”. We will encourage all fiddlers to improve technically and musically through lessons, practice sessions and performances, and we will endeavor to promote and support all teachers of fiddle music;

(c) to provide a climate of mutual understanding, love, and trust among fiddlers of all ages and of both sexes;

(d) to encourage the sharing of music, sharing of expertise, mutual support and fraternity;

(e) to encourage members to be grateful for having the talent for music and for the privilege of giving others the enjoyment of it; and

(f) to attempt to recognize extraordinary talent in any fiddler and encourage and support that talent.

SECTION 4

Structure of Executive

(1) The Executive of The Society is composed of five persons, elected to hold office as President, First Vice-President, Second Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer respectively. If one of these five positions does not include a representative from a Chapter or region, a representative from the Chapter or region without representative will be appointed.

(2) The Executive will formulate policy, assess the by-laws to ensure that they reflect the growth of The Society, and in general, be concerned with assisting the Chapters or other fiddle groups to operate successfully.

(3) Terms of the members of the Executive will be 2 years. Elections, when required, will take place at the Annual General Meeting in October. Officers may hold office for not more than two consecutive terms without being replaced for at least one year, but may remain part of the Executive in another office.

(4) A quorum of four (4) will be necessary for an executive meeting.

(5) All business or information concerning The Society will be firstly directed to the President.

SECTION 5

Duties of Executive Officers

(1) The President:

(a) shall become familiar with the by-laws of The Society and shall review the minutes of the previous two annual meetings to be reminded of the essence and character of The Society, to ensure proper recording of minutes, and that important correspondence and media clippings are being properly maintained and to identify unfinished business;

(b) shall call executive and general meetings of The Society as the need arises, and shall call the Annual General Meeting in October. The President will ensure that the Notice of Meeting and the agenda for general and executive meetings, and the Annual General Meeting are distributed to the executive four (4) weeks prior to such meetings. The President will also make every effort to notify all members of The Society of general meetings and the Annual General Meeting through The Society newsletter, public notices, mail or e-mail;

(c) shall encourage good liaison and communication within The Society as a whole;

(d) shall decide when the present by-laws are not meeting the needs of The Society and initiate revisions;

(e) shall attempt to pay an informal visit to a Chapter or Region during a practice session or other gathering each year. The President shall endeavor to organize one informal gathering of The Society per year alternating the location;

(f) shall present a President's Report at the Annual General Meeting, summarizing the year's activities, and, together with the reports of the Chapter representatives, will ensure an accurate historical record of The Society is kept; and

(g) shall set goals for The Society, either in terms of musical advancement or national and international performances, and to ensure the establishment of a repertoire of common sets of tunes to be played in performances.

(2) The First Vice-President/Music Committee Chair:

(a) shall become familiar with the by-laws of The Society;

(b) shall act on the request of, or in the absence of the President, and in the event of the resignation of the President, shall assume the office of the President until the next Annual General Meeting;

(c) shall work with the President and become familiar with the activities of The Society.

(d) shall be responsible for overseeing the music committee established pursuant to section 6, which will be tasked with the assembling of music for sets of common tunes and to make them known and distributed to the membership and to fiddlers in each Chapter or region;

(e) shall assist with any special events hosted by The Society, recommending common sets of tunes to be played, notifying all Chapters and Regional Representatives of the music program while allowing ample time to practice; and

(f) may encourage the more advanced fiddlers to teach and provide workshops.

(3) The Second Vice-President/Membership Committee Chair:

(a) shall become familiar with the by-laws of The Society; and

(b) shall develop strategies for increasing the membership in The Society by working with representatives in each Chapter or Region to invite fiddlers of all styles and ages and fiddle accompanists to join The Society.

(4) The Secretary:

(a) shall become familiar with the by-laws of The Society;

(b) shall notify members of the time, date and place of meetings;

(c) shall record the minutes of Executive, General and Annual General meetings;

(d) shall archive letters, documents, photographs and newspaper clippings of historic importance with respect to fiddling and traditional music; minutes of meetings; the documents of incorporation; life members and The Island Fiddler newsletters;

(e) shall report to each issue of the newsletter, The Island Fiddler, on meetings within The Society;

(f) shall maintain all reports generated by Society officials. Each year's activities will be maintained separately and will include those documents necessary to maintain continuity within The Society as follows: the President's report, the First Vice-President/Music Committee's report, the Second Vice-President/Membership Committee's report, the Treasurer's report, Chapter representative reports, minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting and a report from the editor of the newsletter with a copy of each edition published during the year;

(g) shall report to the media on any general meetings and special events; and

(h) shall prepare and submit the Annual Return for Part II (Non-Profit) Companies to the Office of the Attorney General, *Consumer, Corporate and Insurance Services*.

(5) The Treasurer:

- (a) shall become familiar with the by-laws of The Society;
- (b) shall maintain a bank account in the name of The Society;
- (c) shall maintain accurate and up-to-date records of revenue and expenses;
- (d) shall pay approved bills and expenses;
- (e) shall be responsible for printing and distributing Society membership cards;
- (f) shall present a Treasurer's report to the Annual General Meeting or at the request of the President;
- (g) shall maintain an annual record of members, including regional Chapter membership and e-mail addresses;
- (h) shall be responsible for identifying potential sources of revenue for The Society, including grants, donations, newsletter advertising and potential for performance fees and extending appreciation on behalf of The Society as well as informing as to how the funds were used;
- (i) shall transfer authority for the bank account to the incoming treasurer;
- (j) shall be responsible for possession, care and control of the corporate seal of The Society; and
- (k) shall, with one other executive member (President or First or Second Vice-President), have authority to sign all cheques and other legal or financial documents.

SECTION 6

Annual General Meetings

- (1) The fiscal year of The Society will run from October 1st to September 30th of the following year.
- (2) The Society will hold its Annual General Meeting during the month of October on a date and place determined by the Executive.
- (3) The quorum for the Annual General of The Society will be ten (10).
- (4) The Annual General Meeting shall consist of a business meeting, and if possible, a social gathering and a music practice session.
- (5) Every effort will be made to hold the Annual General Meeting in different areas of the Island as determined by the Executive.
- (6) The Executive will appoint a nominating committee which will determine those officers who wish to stand for re-election and provide nominations for those offices that will be vacated.
- (7) Nominees for Executive office must be present at the time of the election or have otherwise signified their intentions in writing.
- (8) Nominations may also be made from the floor.
- (9) Nominees must be members in good standing i.e. membership has been paid up-to-date.
- (10) Each member will have one vote. A majority vote by ballot or show of hands shall constitute the election.
- (11) All officers shall take office at the end of the meeting at which they are elected.
- (12) Written reports of the year's activities will be presented by the President, First Vice-President, Second Vice-President, Treasurer, and representatives from each Chapter/Region.
- (13) Based on the financial position of The Society, the Executive will recommend the amount to be charged for membership in The Society for the upcoming year.
- (14) Membership renewal will be available at the Annual General Meeting.

SECTION 7

Chapters

(1) The Society includes authorized Chapters located in Island communities, making it convenient for fiddlers to attend practices and meetings regularly. New Chapters may be added, with the approval of The Society, as and when interest arises.

(2) Each Chapter shall be identified as the name of the Chapter, followed by the "P.E.I. Fiddlers Society".

(3) Each Chapter shall:

(a) devise ways and means of raising funds to support its own activities, and revenue generated at these activities will go to support the Chapter;

(b) choose their own officers, schedule their own meetings, performances, practices and music lessons;

(c) maintain its own guidelines or by-laws in accordance with the constitution and by-laws of the P.E.I. Fiddlers Society; and

(d) remit a portion (percentage) of their membership fees to The Society as determined by a vote by members at the Annual General Meeting of The Society.

SECTION 8

Music Committee

(1) A Music Committee is to be established by the Executive, and it shall be chaired by the First Vice-President of The Society.

(2) The Music Committee shall be responsible for maintaining common sets of tunes for performances by The Society.

(3) Members of the Committee shall be appointed by the Chair, as required, and will be comprised of at least one representative from each Chapter and/or Region. The membership of the Committee shall not normally exceed five (5) members and not normally less than three (3) members. Every effort will be made to ensure adequate representation from every Chapter/Region.

SECTION 9

Membership

- (1) Any group or organization may become a member of The Society upon approval of the Executive.
- (2) The fee for membership in The Society shall be established at the Annual General Meeting in October.
- (3) The revenue from the memberships will go to the support of The Society.
- (4) Individual or group memberships can be obtained at the Annual General Meeting; membership cards will be available from the Treasurer of The Society. Memberships can also be renewed at any time by contacting the Treasurer of The Society.
- (5) If, after the ninth month (June) of a fiscal year a new member wishes to join The Society, they may be issued a membership card at the existing fee, which will also be valid for the next fiscal year.
- (6) If dues are not paid in a timely manner, members may be removed from the membership list, and membership terminated.
- (7) Chapters will be requested to remit a portion of their own individual membership fees to The Society to assist The Society to carry out its activities. The amount of this remittance as a percentage of Chapter membership fees will be determined at the Annual General Meeting.

SECTION 10

Public Appearances - Society

- (1) All public appearances of The Society as a whole shall be approved by the Executive of The Society.
- (2) All such appearances shall be coordinated by the President, in conjunction with the First Vice-President and the Music Committee.
- (3) The Society may perform in, but is not limited to, those events, concerts, festivals or celebrations of historic or cultural significance or for a charitable organization.
- (4) The Society will encourage public appearances such as at charitable benefit concerts or in nursing homes by any fiddler or small group of fiddlers in their own name or as members of a Chapter unless it is a performance initiated by The Society.
- (5) A minimum of fifteen (15) fiddlers should be present to appear in the name of The Society at a public performance.
- (6) Revenue received at Society sponsored events will go to support The Society.

SECTION 11

Newsletter - The Island Fiddler

- (1) The Island Fiddler is the quarterly newsletter of The Society.
- (2) Those responsible for the newsletter shall be member volunteers who will fill the roles of Editor, Assistant Editor, Distribution Manager and Advertising Manager.
- (3) The Editor shall be appointed by the President who, in turn, shall appoint an Assistant Editor, Distribution Manager and Advertising Manager.
- (4) The Editor shall have sole responsibility for content and format of each issue.
- (5) The Assistant Editor shall assume the responsibility of the Editor should the Editor vacate the position.
- (6) The Distribution Manager shall be responsible to ensure that all members and Chapters are provided with a copy of the newsletter.
- (7) The Advertising Manager shall solicit advertising, government grants or other forms of revenue.
- (8) It shall be the aim of The Society to provide the newsletter free to all members.
- (9) The Treasurer shall record the financial expenses and revenues of the newsletter separately from The Society's other activities.

SECTION 12

Web Site

- (1) The Society shall maintain a web site (funds permitting) for the purpose of informing the general public about its activities and those of its chapters, for sharing archived information pertaining to The Society and for publication of the newsletter.
- (2) The domain name shall be registered as **peifiddlers.com**.
- (3) Those responsible for the web site shall be member volunteers who will fill the roles of webmaster, and chapter content advisors.
- (4) The webmaster shall be appointed by the President.
- (5) Each chapter president shall appoint a member to oversee web site content for that chapter.

- (6) The webmaster shall be responsible for registering the domain name.
- (7) The webmaster shall be responsible for the maintenance of the web site.
- (8) The Treasurer shall ensure timely payments to the service provider and to the domain name register agency.

SECTION 13

Life Members

- (1) Criteria for Life Membership in The Society will be:
 - (a) automatic induction of Society members, who have been members for at least ten (10) years, at age 65; or
 - (b) automatic induction of Society members who have been members for twenty (20) years (cumulative); or
 - (c) induction of Society members who have made exceptional/outstanding contributions to Island Fiddling, by nomination by another member and upon approval of the Executive of The Society.
- (2) Honorary Life Membership will be open to anyone residing in P.E.I. on the recommendation of a Society member and approval of the Executive of The Society.
- (3) Recognition of approved Life Members and Honorary Life Members will be announced at a date and location to be determined by the Executive.

SECTION 14

Amendments to Constitution, By-Laws and Dissolution

- (1) Any amendments to this constitution may be adopted only by the majority of the membership of The Society at an Annual General Meeting of The Society provided that written notice of this amendment is given to the members of The Society two weeks prior to the meeting.
- (2) In case of dissolution of The Society, the remaining assets after payment of all debts and liabilities shall be distributed to another recognized non-profit, charitable organization in the Province of Prince Edward Island, at the discretion of the executive.