

BRITISH COLUMBIA HUMANIST ASSOCIATION

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LOCAL GROUP POLICY

Adopted: August 16, 2017

Amended: March 6, 2018

Purpose

The Humanist community across British Columbia consists of numerous groups of diverse composition and structures. In its effort to fulfill its mission to serve the educational needs of Humanists and to provide opportunities for fellowship, study and service, the Board of the BC Humanist Association (BCHA) agrees the following local group policy to support Humanist groups in communities across the province.

Guidelines

Local Groups shall conduct their affairs so as not to conflict with any provisions of the law, the policies or the bylaws of the BCHA. Local Groups may be legally distinct from BCHA, but shall publicly identify their relationship with the BCHA.

Formation

Any group of five or more members of BCHA in good standing may petition the Board to form a Local Group. The petition shall include the names of the members forming the group, the name of the member to be designated as Local Group Coordinator, and the proposed name of the group. The Board will review and act upon Local Group petitions as soon as possible. A simple majority vote of Directors is required to authorize formation of a Local Group. Group names shall be appropriate to the group's normal meeting location and include the word "Humanist" unless otherwise approved by the Board.

Benefits

The BCHA will provide Local Groups with:

- Event listings on its website, bchumanist.ca, and in BCHA email newsletter
- Model bylaws, should the Local Group choose to incorporate
- Advice and support on building a membership and hosting events
- Connections with local media

- Promotion of local events & news on BCHA social media channels
- Opportunities to raise local campaign issues
- Opportunity to apply for BCHA grants and funding (at the future discretion of the Board)

Operations

Local Groups will establish their own rules and procedures, including the method of choosing the Local Group Coordinator and the establishment of other officer positions. The Local Group Coordinator shall be responsible for ensuring that the Group's activities conform to the bylaws of the BCHA and to other policies and procedures established by the Board. The Coordinator's primary point of contact with the BCHA is the Executive Director or their delegate. Whenever the Local Group Coordinator is replaced, the incoming Coordinator will inform the Executive Director of the BCHA of their acceptance of the position.

A Local Group may, at its discretion, appoint any member to be that Group's representative to the Board. If the appointee is not a Director, the Board shall invite them to attend all open Board meetings as a non-voting representative.

Dissolution

Local Groups can discontinue their relationship with the BCHA:

- According to their democratic procedures, if any, or else through a petition signed by a majority of BCHA members in the geographic area; or
- By a majority vote of the BCHA Board.