



Quebec Farmers' Association

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Incorporation

The formation of an association under the name of "Quebec Farmers' Association," for the study, defence and promotion of the economic, social and moral interests of its members, was authorized by the Provincial Secretary on April 4, 1957.

Notice appeared in Official Gazette No. 17 for the year 1957.
(Professional Syndicate Act)

These by-laws make obsolete any previous by-laws.

The enclosed by-laws are those approved by the membership attending the Annual General Meeting held November 2, 2007, at Macdonald College, Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue, Quebec.

Constitution and By-laws

Section One: Name

1. The name of the association shall be "*L'association des fermiers du Québec*," also known as the "Quebec Farmers' Association."

Section Two: Objectives

2. To develop and maintain an organization that will be the united voice of the English-speaking rural people of Quebec.
3. To provide maximum membership participation in policy development and execution.
4. To increase net farm income and rural standards of living.
5. To promote and encourage better understanding and exchange of views and ideas between agricultural groups and urban business and industrial groups and organizations throughout the Province of Quebec.
6. To work with all farm organizations, government agencies, cooperatives, public officials, business, labour, church and other groups for the advancement of agriculture and study of questions of vital interest to rural people in Canada.

7. To interact regularly with the *Union des Producteurs Agricoles, Agropur, the Coopérative Fédérée de Québec* and the Canadian Federation of Agriculture for the benefit of all Quebec farmers.
8. To coordinate county and provincial farm organization activities through our Directors and fieldpersons to achieve maximum results.
9. To organize affiliates as may be necessary to carry out the stated principles of this organization.
10. To maintain and improve our communication and cooperation with provincial and national media.
11. The collection and administration of funds for Quebec Farmers' Association.
12. The ownership and administration of funds for Quebec Farmers' Association.

Section Three: Assessment and Membership

13. Every owner, tenant or operator of a farm property or persons with an interest in agriculture, upon payment of a minimum annual fee of \$1, and subject to the approval of the executive, may become a member of the Quebec Farmers' Association. The annual fee shall be approved at the Annual meeting and shall be renewable every year. Any change in the fee is effective December thirty-first of that year.
14. A spouse of a member shall be eligible for QFA membership for an amount approved at the Annual General Meeting.

Section Four: The Board of Directors

15. The Quebec Farmers' Association shall be managed by a Provincial Board of Directors consisting of not less than nine plus the Past President,.
16. Each branch shall elect two Provincial Directors at their branch's annual meeting.
17. Two directors may be nominated by the general membership. Nominations must be received by the Executive Director at the Provincial Office by October 1st. Each nomination must be endorsed by the signatures of 5 members in good standing and a written indication by the individual that if elected he or she will serve. If more than two candidates are nominated, then an election will be held at the annual general meeting by members present.
18. The Board of Directors may appoint, from time to time up to three (3) "Directors-at-large." Their term of appointment will be until the next annual meeting. There shall be no limit on the number of terms such directors may be appointed.

19. A finance committee shall be formed at the first Directors' meeting and the Vice-President shall automatically be Chairman of the Finance Committee.
20. An executive Council shall be formed consisting of the President, Vice-President, and past president and up to four Provincial Directors elected by secret ballot by the Board of Directors at the time of the annual general meeting (AGM). Also sitting on the Executive Council but without voting privileges shall be the Executive Director.
21. The provincial Board of Directors shall meet a minimum of three times a year with a quorum of one-third of the present provincial Board. Meetings may be held face to face or by other means
22. All Provincial Board of Directors shall be residents of Quebec and QFA members in good standing.
23. The QFA will invite one representative of young Quebec farmers to sit on its board with full voting privileges.

Section Five: Voting Principles

24. The Executive Director shall sit as a member of the Board and all committees but shall not have voting privileges.
25. The President has only tie-breaking voting privileges.
26. Each club is allowed to elect two alternates who shall substitute with full voting privileges in the absence of their club's regular Provincial Director from a Provincial Board Meetings.

Section Six: General Meeting

27. The Annual General Meeting will be held each year in the month of November, with the date to be set at least ninety (90) days in advance by the Board of Directors.
28. The annual general meeting (AGM) is open to all members. Voting privileges at the meeting shall be restricted to paid-up members.
29. At the General Meeting a report will be made to the membership by the President of the Board of Directors on activities during the past year and future plans. A financial statement will also be submitted.
30. The Quebec Farmers' Association fiscal year shall be from April first of one year to March thirty-first of the following year.
31. Special meetings of the Quebec Farmers' Association members may be called at any time for specific purposes by a motion of a majority of the Board of Directors or by the Executive Council.

Section Eight: Personnel

32. The business of the Association shall be managed by the Executive Director who shall serve as its chief executive officer. The Executive Council appoints the Executive Director and evaluates his/her performance. The Executive Director has responsibility for hiring part-time, full-time, temporary and permanent employees, as well as consultants. He/she shall determine terms of engagement and shall evaluate their performance. All employees and contractors shall report to and take direction from the Executive Director or his/her designate. The Board of Directors shall set personnel policies from time to time, as needed.

Section Nine: Amendments

33. Notice of amendments to the Constitution shall be submitted in writing to the Executive Director and President at least three weeks in advance of the Annual General Meeting. Amendments to the Constitution will become effective when approved by 2/3 of members present and voting at the AGM.