



Shared Path Consultation Initiative

Membership Policies

January 1, 2020

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1. Classes of Membership

The Shared Path will have three primary classes of membership: Associate Members, Members, and Full Members to distinguish between and ensure that members eligible to vote and accept nominations for positions on the Board of Directors may do so, after the appropriate period of consecutive membership has passed.

Associate Members in good standing will automatically become Members or Full Members at the next renewal period following completion of the required number of years of consecutive membership: two (2) years for Members and three (3) years for Full Members. Upgrades will be reflected on new membership cards once dues are processed. No additional membership fees will apply.

1.1. Associate Member

Associate Members are the main class of membership in the Corporation. An Associate Member is eligible for all benefits listed in Section 2 below. After two (2) consecutive and uninterrupted years of membership, an Associate Member in good standing will become a Member and eligible to vote in Board elections. After three (3) consecutive and uninterrupted years of membership, a Member in good standing will become a Full Member, eligible to be nominated for a Board Director position.

1.2. Student Member

The Shared Path supports students interested in furthering our purposes and objectives. Student Members will receive the same benefits as Associate Members (see Section 2) for a lower membership fee. To receive and maintain the reduced rate, Student Members must be enrolled at an accredited post-secondary institution and submit proof of enrolment with their annual renewal payment. Upon completion of their studies, Student Members are encouraged to renew their membership in the Shared Path as an Associate Member. A Student Member in good standing will be eligible to vote in Board elections after two (2) consecutive years of membership as a Student, Associate, or combination of both.

1.3. Complimentary Member

The Shared Path may offer one-year Complimentary memberships to certain individuals at its discretion. A Complimentary Member is eligible for all benefits listed in Section 2 for a period of one (1) calendar year from the date of issue. At the conclusion of one (1) year, individuals granted a Complimentary membership will have the option to become an Associate Member by paying the applicable dues. After two (2) consecutive years of membership (at the Complimentary or Associate levels), individuals will be eligible to become a Member and vote in Board elections. After three (3) consecutive years of

membership, (at the Complementary or Associate levels), members in good standing may become Full Members, eligible to be nominated for positions on the Board of Directors.

1.4. Honorary Member

At their discretion, the Board reserves the right to offer Honorary lifetime memberships to distinguished individuals and others who have made outstanding contributions to the organization. Honorary members are eligible for all benefits listed in Section 2, will have voting rights, and may be nominated to the Board of Directors.

1.5. Memberships for Organizations

The Shared Path welcomes other organizations to become members. The annual membership fee varies based on the type of organization (see section 3.1 for details) and allows access for 3 employees to the members’ portion of website, the online resources library, newsletter, working groups, and other benefits listed in Section 2. Additionally, all employees of the member organization are eligible for discounted events fees. A Member Organization in good standing will be eligible to vote (one vote) in Board elections after two (2) consecutive years of membership.

2. Membership Benefits

The Shared Path is continuously working to enhance the benefits available to its members. For the 2021 calendar year, benefits associated with all classes of membership include:

Research and Information Sharing	Access to an online Resource Library including members-only resources
	Opportunities to participate in research on engagement and consultation
	Quarterly newsletter, reports and other information
Connecting and Networking	Private online Member gallery and forum
	Contact privileges through a member profile and listserve
	Partnership support, guides and tools
	Invitations to special events (workshops, roundtables and networking events)
	Discounts on events and workshops
Support and Influence	Championing policy reform and the benefits of consultation and engagement at all levels of government
	Organizational representation on our website
	Eligibility for Directorships and/or participation in the Shared Path working committees
Education and Training	Membership card

2.1 Accessing Member Benefits

Upon activation of membership, new members will be sent an email containing a one-time login password to the members portion of the Shared Path website. Once logged in, members will be able to change their password, access their account, update their member profile and download and print a membership card. Members can access the Online Resource Library, member profiles, and other exclusive areas by going to the Shared Path [website](#), clicking on the MEMBER LOGIN button and entering their email address and password.

3. Membership Dues and Period

3.1. Current Rates for Membership

The current annual dues for membership, as determined by the Shared Path Board of Directors, are as follows*:

Individual Memberships	
Associate Member, Member & Full Member	\$35.00 annually
Student Member	\$15.00 annually
Complimentary Member	No charge
Honorary Member	No charge
Memberships for Organizations	
Educational Institution	\$300.00 annually
Corporate/government	\$500.00 annually
Not-for-profit, Indigenous Organization/Community	\$150.00 annually

* The Shared Path reserves the right to change membership dues and benefits from time to time, without notice.

3.2. Payment of Membership Dues

Individuals can become members of the Shared Path by following the instructions on our [website](#). Members can renew online directly and pay with a debit or credit card by following the instructions in registration and renewal reminder emails. Individuals wishing to pay by cash, cheque, e-transfer, PayPal (debit & credit cards) or money order (member pays fees), should contact admin@sharedpath.ca to arrange an alternate payment method. Receipts will be e-mailed to the address on file when payments are received in full and processed. Memberships will be activated within five (5) business days following receipt of payment.

3.3. Membership Period

All Shared Path memberships follow the calendar year beginning January 1st and ending on December 31st. Memberships are renewed annually. Memberships purchased on or before September 30st will expire on December 31st of that year while memberships purchased on or after October 1st will be prorated until January 1st.

3.4. Membership Renewal

Renewal notices and reminders will be sent to registered members by email in December and January. Following the expiry of their membership on January 1st, members will have 30 days to make a full payment.

If full payment is not received within 30 days, a final reminder will be sent after which membership will be suspended and the individual will be considered "not in good standing." All associated rights and privileges will be revoked until full payment is received. If payment is not received by February 1st, members will be considered 'lapsed' and their records archived for tax purposes.

3.5. Refund of Membership Dues

Membership dues will not be refunded under any circumstances.

4. Termination of Membership

Members may opt to terminate their membership in the Shared Path at any time. The Board also reserves the right to terminate a membership as set out in the Corporate By-law 3.04 *Termination of Membership* and 3.05 *Discipline of Members*:

3.04 Termination of Membership

Membership in the Corporation is terminated when:

- (a) the individual Member dies;*
- (b) the Corporate Member is dissolved or otherwise ceases to exist;*
- (c) the Member ceases to maintain the qualifications for membership set out in section 3.01;*
- (d) the Member resigns by delivering a written resignation to the President in which case such resignation shall be effective at the time the written resignation is sent to the President or at the time specified in the resignation, whichever is later.*
- (e) the Member is removed as a Member of the Corporation in accordance with section 3.05;*
- (f) the Member's term of membership expires; or*

(g) *the Corporation is liquidated or dissolved under the Act.*

Subject to the Articles, upon any termination of Membership, the rights of the Member automatically cease to exist.

3.05 Discipline of Members

The Board may suspend or remove any Member from the Corporation for any one or more of the following grounds:

- (a) violating any provision of the Articles, By-laws, or Operating Policies of the Corporation;*
- (b) carrying out any conduct which may be detrimental to the Corporation as determined by the Board in its sole and absolute discretion; and/or*
- (c) for any other reason that the Board in its sole and absolute discretion considers to be reasonable, having regard to the purposes of the Corporation.*

In the event that the Board proposes that a Member should be expelled or suspended from Membership in the Corporation the President shall provide twenty (20) days' notice of suspension or removal to the Member and shall provide reasons for the purposed suspension or removal. The Member may make written submissions to the President in response to the notice received within such twenty (20)-day period. In the event that no written submissions are received by the President, the President may proceed to notify the Member that the Member is suspended or removed from membership in the Corporation. Where written submissions are received in accordance with this section, the Board will consider such submissions in arriving at a final decision and shall notify the Member concerning such final decision within a further twenty (20) days from the date of receipt of the submissions. The termination shall be effective as of the date on which the final notification is sent to the Member.

5. Membership Transferability

Memberships are not transferrable from one individual to another.

6. Membership Privacy

We are committed to earning your confidence by demonstrating our commitment to privacy. The Shared Path's Privacy Policy is consistent with the Canadian Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act ("PIPEDA"). The Privacy Policy is available on our website.

7. Questions?

If you have any questions about membership in the Shared Path or about supporting our organization, please contact us at: admin@sharedpath.ca. Our mailing address is:

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