

June 1, 2026

Proposed Revisions to the By-laws for AmbCanada

AmbCanada's bylaws were approved at our first Annual General Meeting (AGM), held on June 22, 2022. After four years of experience working under the by-laws, the Board of Directors is proposing a set of revisions to the by-laws for adoption by the membership at this year's AGM. Many of the revisions to the text are small improvements in procedures or wording of the text for clarity. The following are the substantive changes to the by-laws proposed for adoption.

1. Rewording of the Purposes of AmbCanada

Article 2 of the by-laws specifies two objectives for AmbCanada.

The first is: *to build and serve the community of colleagues whose careers included serving abroad as senior-level Canadian government diplomats.*

We propose rewording this as: *to build and serve the community of colleagues who share the experience of leading a Canadian diplomatic mission abroad.*

This places the emphasis on the experience of leading a Canadian diplomatic mission as the common denominator for becoming a regular member of AmbCanada, rather than being a *senior-level Canadian diplomat*, which is less precise and more open to interpretation.

The second objective is: *to reinforce Canadians' understanding of the work of Canada's diplomats and the value of a professional foreign service and how these contribute to the well-being of Canada and Canadians.*

We propose to reword this as: *to increase public awareness of the importance of diplomacy and the value of a professional foreign service to Canada's security, prosperity and well-being.*

The proposed new wording is more concise and easier to communicate to external partners and the public at large.

2. New Category of Spousal Members

AmbCanada has always included spouses or partners of regular members in its activities. We have also long had the category of Associate Members for spouses whose late partners were members and who wish to remain connected to AmbCanada. The latter group of spouses pay a discounted membership fee; the former do not. However, the absence of a formal category of Spousal Members, separate from Associate Members, causes confusion between the two. It also means that spouses are not captured in our directory and thus we cannot communicate directly with them through our membership management system.

We therefore propose in Article 3 to create a new category of Spousal Members separate from Associate Members, as follows:

Any spouse or partner of a current Regular Member is welcome to become a Spousal Member of the Association. Spousal Members do not pay a fee as their membership is included in the regular membership of their spouse or partner. They are encouraged to participate in all the activities of the Association. They have all the privileges of membership as Regular members except the right to vote in the Annual General Meeting. They may serve on the Board or any of its committees as non-voting members provided that they are not employed in the federal public service.

3. Changes to the Officers of the Board

Article 7 of the current by-laws specifies that the Board will have five officers: President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Membership Secretary. In practice, we have not appointed a Secretary or a Membership Secretary in the four years since the by-laws were adopted. The minute-taking function of the Secretary has been done by existing Board members on a rotating basis and the functions of the Membership Secretary have been done by the Membership Services Committee.

We propose therefore to delete the reference to the Membership Secretary from the by-laws and to make it optional for the Board to appoint a Secretary. We also propose some simplifications to the mandate of the Vice-President which better reflect how the role has evolved in practice over the past four years.

4. Changes to Terms for Officers of the Board

Article 7 of the current by-laws states the President and Vice-President serve a two-year term which can be renewed only once, while the Treasurer and the other two officers serve a single three-year term. We propose to put the President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary (if there is one) all on a two-year term which can be renewed up till the end of their six-year tenure as Board members. This will provide greater consistency and flexibility to the Board in appointing members who are willing to serve in these Officer positions.

5. Provisions for Removal of an Officer of the Board

The current by-laws are silent on how an Officer might be removed by the Board. We propose adding a self-explanatory paragraph to Article 11 specifying the procedures to be followed in the event that the Board needs to remove one of its Officers.

This set of revisions will be tabled for approval at the June 18, 2026 AGM.