This membership policy contains important information for any **organization** interested in becoming a member or a current member. The policy outlines the membership categories, applicable fees, benefits, eligibility criteria, procedures, and forms.

**Categories of Membership:**

As per the bylaws, there are two categories of organization membership:

* Full Members – must be provincial Deaf associations; except when there is no provincial association, there can be up to two local Deaf associations (see the bylaws for further information).
* Organizational Members – national, regional, or local Deaf associations.

**Membership Dues:**

The membership dues (fees) shall be determined by the CAD-ASC Board of Directors. Members shall be notified in writing or via electronic means of the membership dues.

* Full Members: $300/year
* Organizational Members: $75/year

All memberships begin with the fiscal year (April 1st) and run to the end of the same fiscal year (March 31st). If a member fails to renew its membership 45 days before the Annual General Meeting, it shall automatically cease to be a member of CAD-ASC.

Membership fees are not refundable.

**Membership Benefits:**

Full Members can send up to two representatives, and Organization Members can send one representative to the CAD-ASC AGM. Each affiliate will have voting privileges as described in the CAD-ASC bylaws, including the opportunity to submit motions and propose amendments to the bylaws, subject to CAD-ASC rules and timelines.

* Receive regular updates and announcements.
* Receive annual reports, minutes, and other documents before the Annual General Meeting.
* 15% percent discount on all CAD-ASC publications and merchandise.
* 15% discount for events such as conferences, workshops, training, town-hall meetings, and other activities for up to two members of the organization’s Board of Directors (i.e., not members of its general membership).
* May be invited to join committees, task forces, and/or strategic teams (limit one representative to each committee).

**Eligibility Criteria:**

All membership applications must be accompanied by payment in full of the appropriate membership fee.

All members must support CAD-ASC’s mission and vision that represents and advocates for Sign language rights, human rights, and equality of accessibility for Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hearing Canadians who use Sign languages.

Organization Members must be based in Canada. Organizations in other countries are not eligible to affiliate with CAD-ASC.

CAD-ASC is a civil society organization that supports the principles and practices of inclusion, diversity, and equality. In any category of membership, any member may be refused membership and/or have their current membership revoked if it is determined that they have violated these principles and practices in any situation, whether private or public.

As stated in CAD-ASC bylaws, Section II, Membership; 6., Membership Classification:

“The membership of the Corporation shall consist of such Full Members, Organizational Members, and Individual Members whose application for admission to the membership has been received and approved in its sole discretion by the Board of Directors of the Corporation in each fiscal year.”

**Procedures:**

1. All applications are to be submitted to the CAD-ASC office. Applications must use the official membership form.
2. The CAD-ASC office acts as a screening body to ensure that applications meet membership requirements, including eligibility criteria, the completed written form, and payment in full of the appropriate fee.
3. The CAD-ASC office presents the screened applications to the full Board of Directors on at least a monthly basis. The office will attach a recommendation for acceptance or rejection to each application.
4. The Board of Directors shall review and vote upon all applications as presented by the office. All decisions are final and may not be appealed. Any applicant who has been rejected for current-year membership may apply again in the following year.

Approved: February 2021

Note: This policy will be automatically changed to accommodate any change in the bylaws.