

SSS Governance Report to 2024 GAMM – Cheryl Hewitt, Will Kujala, Bill Carroll

At the GAMM in 2022, some members raised issues about the reasoning behind and process of approving SSS Affiliate Memberships. Affiliate Memberships were suspended pending a full exploration of the issues raised.

As we considered the membership issues, the Executive realized that our constitution was silent on how to fill vacant positions on the Executive, on some issues relating to quorum, on who approves memberships, when a member is not in good standing, and more.

In the fall of 2023, the Governance Committee and Executive discussed feedback from the June 2023 GAMM and considered the options open to us. This work took somewhat longer than we'd hoped. We were not able to meet the timelines set out in the motion adopted at the 2023 GAMM, so we decided to present proposed new bylaws to the 2024 GAMM rather than an earlier Special General Meeting.

SSS is now a registered non-profit society in BC, a requirement in order to open a Vancity Credit Union account. As a nationally registered charity, we do not need to comply with very many of the provisions of the BC Societies Act, but we found that their model bylaws covered a lot of the gaps and questions raised by both members and Executive. The Executive agreed to use the model bylaw format, integrating our current bylaws, recommended changes to provisions in those bylaws, and new items from the model bylaws.

The Executive wished to share proposed amendments well in advance of to the GAMM on June 18th, 2024. We therefore invited all members to a Member Meeting by Zoom on April 29th, circulating the draft bylaws two weeks in advance. The April meeting was not a decision-making session. Members at that meeting did not raise any concerns about the proposed bylaws.

We look forward to presenting this new set of bylaws to you at the GAMM.