



MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

The Ontario AIDS Network (OAN) is a province-wide coalition of diverse community-based organizations. The Members and Affiliates of the OAN work together to establish a just and effective response to HIV and AIDS in Ontario.

Through policy development, advocating, supporting, and caring, we enhance the ability of our Members and Affiliates to continue to improve the quality and length of life of those infected and affected by HIV and to prevent the spread of HIV.

THE BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

OAN Regular Membership status has a number of benefits, including:

- The ability to participate fully as an organizational partner in the provincial response to HIV/AIDS
- The opportunity to receive training within the OAN's annual training roster including: HIV Support Workers' workshop, Board Chairs' workshop, the Board Chairs and Executive Director joint training workshop, Middle Managers' workshop, the Executive Directors' workshop and the Leadership Symposium (travel, meals and accommodation costs will be covered by the OAN)
- Access to training and support on HR issues through our Ontario Resource for ASOs in HR (OPRAH) program
- Networking with other organizations doing similar work in similar communities
- Community development with other organizations who share similar goals and philosophy
- The right to attend and to vote at OAN Regular Members' meetings.

THE ENTITLEMENTS OF BEING A REGULAR MEMBER

OAN membership carries the following entitlements:

- New organizations are entitled to be welcomed and to receive adequate orientation to the OAN
- Regular Members are entitled to fully participate at OAN meetings and have a right to vote
- Regular Members are entitled to nominate organizations for membership in the OAN
- Members are entitled to documentation of OAN meetings, including minutes, membership lists, and mailing lists

THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF MEMBERSHIP

Members of the OAN commit to the following responsibilities:

1. To designate two representatives (one of who must be HIV+) who will commit to regularly attending OAN meetings, preferably for a minimum of one year, one of whom has reasonable decision-making authority on behalf of the member
2. To abide by the By-law of the Ontario AIDS Network as approved by the Members of the Ontario AIDS Network
3. To pay the annual Regular Membership fee one year in advance; such fee will be determined by the OAN Board of Directors
4. To designate representatives to sit on OAN committees with a frequency consistent with the member's experience, resources, and location
5. To host or share hosting of OAN meetings with a frequency which is appropriate to the member's experience, resources, and location
6. To provide support for provincial fundraising initiatives in a manner that is appropriate to their experiences, resources, and location
7. To meet the obligations they take on as a Regular Member of the OAN

CRITERIA FOR MEMBERSHIP

Regular Membership is available only to a non-profit/charitable organization that meets all of the following requirements:

1. Its head office is located in Ontario.
2. It is an autonomous entity with management and oversight by its board of directors that is accountable to members of the organization, not to any other public or private body.
3. Its main objective is to provide a just and effective response to HIV/AIDS, improve life for people infected with and affected by HIV/AIDS, and prevent the spread of the virus.
4. It accepts the scientific evidence that HIV is a contributing factor to the development of AIDS.
5. It is accountable to the community it serves.
6. Its board of directors is openly elected by the broader community in which it is located.
7. It supports the OAN's mission, vision and values statement contained within the strategic plan.

8. It has a significant volunteer component.
9. There is a demonstrated commitment to the Greater and Meaningful Involvement of People with HIV (the GIPA & MIPA Principle).

THE MEMBERSHIP PROCESS

The following applies to organizations applying for membership in the Ontario AIDS Network:

1. An application shall be in writing, signed and submitted to the Board of the OAN.
2. The applicant must be nominated by 3 Regular Members in good standing within the same region in which the head office of the applicant is situated.
3. The applying organization works with a nominating member to determine whether it meets OAN membership criteria.
4. The applying organization submits the required documents (see Application Form) to the OAN. This must normally be done at least two months before the OAN meeting at which the organization is applying for membership.
5. The OAN Board shall review all applications to determine eligibility based on qualification requirements set out in Section 3.01(a) of By-Law #5.
6. If the OAN Board is satisfied that the applicant meets all of the requirements, the OAN Board may endorse the application and recommend the application be presented to the Regular Members for approval at an Annual General Meeting of the Regular Members.
7. The OAN sends out notification to the Regular Members that the organization is applying for membership with the Annual General Meeting agenda.
8. As required by the OAN By-Law #5, the prospective Regular Member will submit payment for the annual Regular Membership fee in advance.
9. At the OAN meeting, one of the three (3) nominating Regular Members introduces the applying organization which is encouraged to speak on its own behalf and a vote is taken.
10. A 2/3 (two-thirds) majority vote of those Regular Members present is needed for the application to be successful.

Ultimate responsibility for deciding whether an organization may become a member of the OAN lies with the membership of the OAN.

APPENDIX 'A'

Responsibilities of the Nominating Members

1. To counsel the applicant organization in view of the OAN Regular Member criteria and to assist the applicant in preparation of all of the required materials to support the application being submitted 60 days in advance of the OAN's Annual General Meeting of Members.
2. To submit a letter to the OAN's Board of Directors demonstrating how the organization has met the criteria for Regular Membership.
3. To introduce the organization at the OAN meeting where membership is requested and to speak in support of their application.

Only Regular Members of the OAN may nominate organizations for Regular membership.

For more information, please contact:

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