

Quinte West Chamber of Commerce

Membership Policy

Approved: April 30, 2013

This membership policy is in compliance with Article 3 & 4 of the Chamber By-laws.

Article III - Membership

- Section 8 - All businesses including sole proprietors, corporations, firms, partnerships, joint ventures, associations, foundations, not-for-profit organizations, trade or professional organizations who are directly or indirectly engaged or interested in trade, commerce or the economic and social welfare of the District shall be eligible for membership, upon application to the Chamber of Commerce, and subsequent approval by the Directors. *Employees of members in good standing are entitled to participate in Chamber programs and services.* The Board reserves the absolute right to qualify or disqualify applications for membership in its own discretion and to set the terms of application as deemed appropriate from time to time.
- Section 9 - Associations, Corporations, Societies, Partnerships or Estates may become members of The Chamber but the voting power of such memberships shall, in each such case, be assigned to individuals who represent the above so mentioned.
- Section 10 - A policy for membership eligibility criteria shall be determined by the Membership Committee and approved by the Board. This policy shall be reviewed on an annual basis.
- Section 11 - Membership shall continue from time of admittance until a member has resigned in accordance with the provisions of those By-Laws or has been removed from the roll of members by action of the Board.
- Section 12 - The Board may remove from the roll of members the name of any new member failing to pay their annual dues within thirty days of their admission or any other member who fails to pay such dues within three months of the date they fall due. Upon such action by the Board, all privileges of membership shall be forfeited.
- Section 13 - Persons who have distinguished themselves by some meritorious or public service may be appointed by the Board as an Honorary Member, such recognition shall be an honorary life membership. Honorary membership shall include all the privileges of active membership except that of holding office, with exemption from the payment of annual dues.
- Section 14 - Any member of the Chamber may be expelled by two-thirds vote of the Board. Any member of the Chamber may be expelled for breach of the By-Laws and or policies of the Chamber.

Article IV - Dues and Assessments

- Section 15 - The Annual dues payable by the members of the Chamber shall be set by the Directors.
- Section 16 - Other Assessments may be levied against all members, provided they are recommended by the Board and approved by a majority of the members present at a general meeting of the Chamber. The notice calling such general meeting shall state the nature of the proposed assessment.

Determination of Membership

1. Your application and documents will be reviewed by the membership committee or delegate for eligibility as outlined in our By-laws. The Quinte West Chamber of Commerce maintains an open membership policy and welcomes all businesses located within Quinte West or doing business within Quinte West. Membership is primarily directed at companies, partnerships or other trading bodies (Corporate Memberships) but Individual Memberships are available when the business is not able or eligible or if the individual is retired from business but wants to continue a membership with the Chamber. Individual Memberships have no voting rights and can not sit on the Board of Directors. The Membership Committee will notify the applicant in writing of its decisions following receipt of properly completed applications.
2. Upon approval, you will receive an invoice for membership dues which should be paid within 30 days of receipt of invoice.
3. Membership becomes effective only upon receipt of membership dues.
4. Membership is valid for the calendar year in which the application is approved (i.e., all memberships expire on December 31st). The Quinte West Chamber prorates memberships as they come in throughout the year.
5. Memberships may be transferred but are not refundable. Membership transfers must be approved by the membership committee.
6. The Board of Directors shall have the right, at its sole discretion upon the written request of any applicant, to review the decisions of the Membership Committee.
7. A principal owner of a member business is eligible for a 50% reduction of fees for their additional businesses. The largest business with the most employees pays the regular fee and any additional businesses get a discount.

Membership Renewal Policy

1. Membership fees, once paid are valid until December 31st each year and are automatically renewed on a calendar year basis unless a member resigns.
2. The membership committee will review each membership on a yearly basis. Upon approval, member will receive a notice and an invoice for membership renewal which should be paid within 30 days of receipt of invoice.
3. From time to time, Corporate Members may be requested to provide copies of currently valid company license documents and or any other pertinent documents required for ongoing membership approval.
4. Matters relating to membership eligibility criteria and related policy will be addressed clearly and available in writing to members.
5. Members whose membership fees are outstanding greater than 30 days may not be entitled to attend events until renewal is paid.
6. Corporate Members with membership fees outstanding greater than 90 days and having been sent proper notice may have their membership cancelled and their profile removed from the Chamber's member database, website or other directory. In such case that there is ongoing discussion related to renewal or payment not yet finalized, the case will be handled on its individual merits.
7. Membership application received from any company whose past Chamber membership has lapsed for any reason will proceed as for new membership

- applicants. If any membership benefits are offered to long term continuing members based on the number of years of membership, then length of membership will be calculated from the date since which current membership has been continuous over years (not any prior date or period).
8. If the Membership Committee decides not to renew any membership, they will notify the member in writing of its decisions as soon as practicable. The member will be given an opportunity to discuss the matter with the Committee.
 9. The Board of Directors shall have the right, at its sole discretion upon the written request of any member, to review the decisions of the Membership Committee.

Honorary Members

1. Honorary memberships in the Chamber may be conferred by the Board of Directors upon persons who have distinguished themselves in public or business affairs or have been of special service to the Chamber and its mission and purposes.
2. Such honorary membership shall be granted to the individual and not the company and will be based on the unique circumstances of each relationship.
3. Honorary members shall have all the rights and privileges of active members but shall not be required to pay dues.

Privacy Statement

1. The Chamber is committed to protecting the privacy of members' personal information. This commitment applies with respect to information that we collect through the regular course of doing business with the Chamber.
2. Company profile information included on your Chamber application is published in our Printed Directory, available on line through the Chamber website and in our Electronic Directory. Changes can be made to this public profile at anytime to maintain the confidentiality of contact information you do not want made public.
3. More details can be found in the Chamber's complete privacy policy which is available upon request.

Logo Use

1. The Chamber licenses its membership logo for display only by Chamber members in good standing.
2. Images may be reproduced on your printed materials but may not be modified in any way.
3. If the logo is used on your company's website it should be linked to the Chamber's website at www.quintewestchamber.on.ca
4. Any other use of the image requires prior written permission from the Chamber manager.
5. Downloading and displaying a Chamber membership logo constitutes your acceptance of these terms.