



# National Newcomers' Council of Canada

## History of the National Newcomers' Council of Canada

In May 1978, the National Newcomers' Council of Canada (the "Council") was formed. Its aims are:

- (a) to act as an advisory body to member clubs;
- (b) to provide an up-to-date Register of paid-up member Newcomers clubs and their Alumnae clubs;
- (c) to facilitate the exchange of ideas between clubs;
- (d) to promote and/or publicize Newcomers organizations; and
- (e) to supply information and assistance to people wishing to establish a Newcomers or Alumnae club.

The **National Newcomers' Council of Canada** is not a governing body. Each Newcomers Club is self-administered with its own By-Laws and the Council does not interfere with the running of these clubs. The Council shall supply information, guidelines and advice as requested by interested individuals or clubs.

### Qualifications of Members and Dues

Those Clubs eligible for active membership in the Council shall be any Newcomers Club, or any Alumnae or Grad groups of a Newcomers Club.

Those individuals eligible to become associate members of the Council shall be any person whose term with a Newcomers Club has expired, but for whom there is no Alumnae group to move up to. Also, any person who was formerly a member in good standing of a Newcomers Club or Alumnae Club and who moves to a place where there is no Newcomers Club is eligible for the status of an associate member.

Council membership dues are to be paid annually on or before the 30<sup>th</sup> day of June. Dues are not refundable.

Upon payment of dues, each member club shall be entitled to:

- appear in and receive the Council's Register
- receive a copy of the Council's Constitution and By-Laws;
- receive copies of the helpful information put out by the Council;
- receive each Newsletter published by the Council;
- send delegates to attend the Annual General Meeting (upon payment of registration fees);
- receive ONE vote at the Annual General Meeting. Associate members receive NO vote at the Annual Meeting.

### Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting is held in October of each year. Each Club may send as many representatives to the Annual General Meeting as they wish. Registration fees cover the cost of the meeting place and include a luncheon. Registration forms for the Annual Meeting are usually forwarded to all Clubs with the August newsletter of each year. Election of Council's Executive Officers takes place at the Annual Meeting. For further information concerning the **NATIONAL NEWCOMERS' COUNCIL OF CANADA**, please contact: THE REGISTRAR/TREASURER, National Newcomers' Council of Canada

In 1977, Marg McFarlane, President of London Newcomers Alumnae, and her committee, got the ball rolling for a National Registry of Newcomers Clubs. She contacted as many clubs convenient to Toronto as she could and held the first meeting in the Bank of Montreal Board Room on King Street in Toronto. There were 17 clubs represented at that meeting and a committee of 4 was appointed for one year. They were:

- Joan Weir, Director and Advisor – Oshawa Newcomers Club
- Donna Simpson, Treasurer – Oakville Newcomers Club
- Marg McFarlane, Registrar – London Newcomers' Alumnae
- Janette Reid, Publicity – Thornhill Newcomers' Alumnae

These four ladies met for regular meetings anywhere on the first or second floors of the Royal York Hotel that they could find a quiet corner.

The next meeting was held in the Canada Trust Board Room, 110 Yonge Street, Toronto, on Wednesday, May 3, 1978, as the Bank of Montreal Board Room wouldn't hold the 54 women that attended. The four volunteers agreed to stay on for another year as they were very excited about the response and felt they had only just begun!

By April, 1979 before the second meeting, 23 clubs from across Canada belonged to National - 4 in British Columbia., 2 in Alberta, 1 in Saskatchewan, 14 in Ontario, 1 in New Brunswick and 1 in Nova Scotia. In these early years they were selling gold plated stick pins and charms, and clubs were also selling their cookbooks at these meetings. Some clubs that started up in the 1960's and 1970's formed Alumnae groups and by the early 1980's some Alumnae groups had already joined National. The early Council meetings usually ran from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and were held on weekdays. In 1981 the meeting was at Chelsea Inn in downtown Toronto.

Through the years similar issues kept coming up – how to prevent being sued, pros and cons of being incorporated and whether to allow men in the clubs. In the beginning Welcome Wagon and Council were entwined but that relationship has mostly stopped – Welcome Wagon is a business and Newcomer Clubs are strictly non-profit social clubs.

Since the beginning in 1978, it has been emphasized that National Council is not a governing body, but a source of information, guidelines and advice for all clubs across Canada.

During the 1980's, information kits were sent out to those wishing to start Newcomer and Alumnae clubs and By-Laws were instituted.

By 1983, 49 clubs had joined Council. In 1987, the Annual Meeting was held at Howard Johnson Hotel in Toronto. A hospitality social gathering the evening before the Annual Meeting was initiated and the meeting was held on a weekend.

Up to 1987, the Annual Meeting was held in May. After extensive discussion, it was decided May was not a good time to have an Annual Meeting as most clubs were winding down their events and their executives were changing hands at that time. It was felt that a fall meeting would be more conducive for better attendance.

By 1988, the title President had replaced Director/Advisor and the AGM was held in Mississauga, Ontario on September 24. Burlington Newcomers Clubs in Ontario hosted the 1989 meeting on September 23. The by-laws were amended to change the Annual Meeting to October every year, and also any other by-laws that were affected by the change.

In 1990, Brantford Newcomers hosted the October 20 meeting.

In 1993, the National had its first annual meeting outside of Ontario in Halifax, Nova Scotia. It was here that the concept of billeting came into full force. It was to try to accommodate as many people and thus their clubs, financially, to make it to the meeting.

Over the years, the National has evolved into a very professional organization to assist all current and future clubs. In 1994, Judy Giles from Beaconsfield, Quebec designed the logo which can be freely used by the member clubs.

When we started, correspondence was done on manual typewriters with some ditto or gestetner copying. Long distance telephone calls were perhaps short and sweet because of the expense. Most correspondence was done by regular mail. Today clubs are corresponding mainly by e-mail to keep in touch, not just across Canada, but worldwide. We're now receiving club newsletters by e-mail which saves time and money for the clubs. We also have a website where anyone can get information about our member clubs.

[www.nationalnewcomerscouncil.ca](http://www.nationalnewcomerscouncil.ca)

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