

CHARTER OF THE

Belarusian Institute of Arts and Sciences,
Canada

Institut bélarussien des arts et des sciences,
Canada

(BINiM, Canada* or Francišak Skaryna Institute, Canada)



БЕЛАРУСКІ ІНСТЫТУТ НАВУКІ І МАСТАЦТВАЎ КАНАДЗЕ ІМЯ ФРАНЦІШКА СКАРЫНЫ

1. The Belarusian Institute of Arts and Sciences, Canada (hereafter, the BINiM, Canada) is an organization of scholars, writers, artists, and other representatives of Belarusian culture in Canada, united by plowing the fields of Belarusian studies and culture for the purpose of dissemination and advancing such studies and culture in Belarus, Canada and abroad.
2. The BINiM, Canada is a non-profit organization. The activities of the BINiM, Canada membership shall be based on volunteer work while any profits, grants, and donations to the BINiM will be used in promoting its aims and objectives, by:
 - a) assisting scholars in their study of Belarusian topics,
 - b) assisting writers and artists in their work on Belarusian themes,
 - c) assisting Belarusian performances of individuals and groups.
3. The BINiM, Canada will use the following methods and dissemination to achieve its goals:
 - a) meetings of the BINiM, Canada at which ideas will be exchanged, experiences shared, scholarly papers read; performances and expositions take place, etc.
 - b) presentations of new books and other publications pertaining to Belarusian themes and related studies. Recognized scholars (non-members of the BINiM) may present their findings and studies related to Belarus proper. Surveys, reports, book reviews on matters of interest may also be presented and or discussed.
 - c) broadcasting, public speaking, representation at meetings of other scholarly and community societies.

I. BINiM, CANADA OFFICIAL/WORKING LANGUAGES

4. In addition to Canada's official languages, Belarusian is the working language of the BINiM, Canada membership.

II. MEMBERSHIP

5. Active membership shall be open :
 - a) to any bona fide educator contributing to Belarusian studies: professor, lecturer, instructor, teacher or researcher on a regular appointment in a recognized educational or government institution in Canada.
 - b) to any person with sufficient (recognized) education and experience promoting the field of Belarusian immigration to Canada and other academic and/or cultural areas related to Belarus.
 - c) to any person with sufficient (recognized) education and experience promoting causes of Belarusian diaspora in Canada, Belarusian history, literature, language, arts, classical and folk music.
 - d) to any person with experiences of working in advancing Belarusian theater, visual arts and craftsmanship, as well as other scholarly and cultural activities related to Belarus.
 - e) Any member may resign by expressing his/her wish in writing to the Academic Secretary or the Treasurer, or directly at the General Meeting.
 - f) Active members are obliged to pay annual membership fees in due term.
 - g) Honorary President who may be elected at the General Meeting for 3-year term.
 - h) Voting privileges are open to all active members and honorary members.
6. Associate membership shall be open to university students who intend to work in the field of Belarusian immigration to Canada, history, culture, art, literature, language, and other academic and/or cultural areas related to Belarus.
7. The Executives may suspend the privileges of any member for a reasonable cause until the next general meeting of BINiM, Canada, where a simple majority vote will decide whether the membership should be canceled or reinstated.

III. THE GENERAL MEETING and the BINiM, Canada, EXECUTIVE TEAM

8. The General Meeting must be convened at least once every three years, and shall include the election of the Executive team.
9. The Executive Team of the BINiM, Canada shall be the governing body and consists of:
 - a) President, elected at the General Meeting, reports to the membership at least once every three years or by a request of a simple majority.
 - b) Vice-President (reports to the President and the membership).
 - c) Academic Secretary.
 - d) Treasurer (both Academic Secretary and Treasurer reports to the President and act as Registrars of the BINiM, Canada).
 - e) Past Presidents.

f) *Chairs of Working Groups:*

1. Chair of the academic group (responsible for organizing the BINiM's, Canada participation in scholarly conferences, congresses, and other events in Canada and abroad).
 2. Chair of the writers-poets group (responsible for organizing presentations of books of prose and poetry as well as readings).
 3. Chair of the classical music and folk performance groups and individuals.
 4. Chair of the visual art and craftsmanship group.
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10. The quorum of the General Meeting shall be constituted by one half of active members present in person or via electronic media, or via proxy. No more than *one* proxy per active member is allowed for voting.
 11. A vacancy on the Executive team caused by the death, resignation, removal or incapacity to act shall be filled as soon as practicable by a member of the BINiM, Canada appointed by the President or collectively by the Executive team until the next General Meeting.
 12. The Vice President will act as President in case the President is incapacitated and no longer able to fulfil his duties.
 13. The Executive meetings of the BINiM, Canada may be called at any time by the President and/or the Academic Secretary and the Treasurer.
 14. If, owing to distance, it is impractical to hold such meetings, the business of the BINiM, Canada may be conducted by correspondence, e-mail or electronic media. Decisions and voting can be considered and conducted electronically.
 15. The President, the Academic Secretary and the Treasurer shall be empowered to take action on all routine matters.
 16. Each Chair of the Working groups shall submit an individual report at the General Meeting every three years or submit their data to the President.
 17. In all matters not specifically covered by constitutional clauses, the President and the Secretary, and the Treasurer upon consultation with the Executive Team may take provisional action until the next meeting of the BINiM, Canada; the membership shall be informed by e-mail of such actions.
 18. To amend the Charter, two thirds of the Members present at the meetings in person, or via electronic media, or via proxy will be required. No more than *one* proxy per active member is allowed for voting.

IV. INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

19. The income shall consist of:
 - a) membership fees.
 - b) income from concerts, exhibitions, etc.
 - c) income from the sale of publications.
 - d) grants and donations from public and private institutions and from individuals.

22. Active members will be required to pay an annual membership *fee of \$30 by October first of each year* or upon the request of the Treasurer. Honorary President and Honorary member are exempt from paying membership fees.

23. Membership shall be cancelled for two years' arrears in dues without reasonable cause after two written reminders, with automatic readmission upon paying back membership.

*The Charter of the BINiM was approved during the General meeting
on September 2, 2017 in Toronto.*