

## **Background to Update of Articles June 2025**

The Articles for the Estate Planning Council of Vancouver ("EPCV") have been amended from time to time, but the core aspects of the membership categories and how voting at general meetings of the EPCV is carried out have not been scrutinized for decades.

As professional designations have changed within industries (such as the shift in the accounting industry designations that formerly included separate designations for all of CAs, CPAs, and CGAs) and as the number of life members has expanded, it has become clear that the existing Articles of the EPCV no longer align with the realities of our member industries, members' professional designations, and the growth in life membership.

The core concepts captured in the changes are as follows:

1. Changes to membership categories and qualifications have been adjusted to reflect:
  - a. Current accreditations and the flexibility to accommodate new designations in each category as they arise.
  - b. Reallocation of numbers of members per category to reflect those categories that have been historically and consistently:
    - i. under-filled (such as Designated Others, Private Bankers, and Gift Planners), and
    - ii. those that have experienced material industry growth (such as Trust Company Representatives), and
    - iii. new designations (such as Family Enterprise Advisors).
2. Changes to the Life Membership category to create flexibility for situations that align with the existing spirit of life membership but not the historical letter, such as those who may have relocated to the metro Vancouver area later in their career.
3. Clearly entrench the EPCV's commitment to a respectful and safe environment by way of the addition of an express provision to this commitment and the ability to terminate a membership for failure to respect this core value.
4. Add clarity to what constitutes quorum for voting at general meetings of the EPCV.

The current wording is unclear as to whether it captures all life members who do not pay to attend a particular meeting. Life members hold membership status whether they pay or not, and, for meetings they wish to attend, may choose to pay for a particular year in the same manner as non-life members or pay to attend a particular meeting.

When the EPCV was started, the interaction of life membership with voting at general meetings was not a material consideration, as there were no life members. The longer the EPCV is in existence, and the more life members there are, the more it creates uncertainty for voting compliance in that, if non-paying members are included in computing quorum, it may not be possible to reach quorum at general meetings.

The proposed change is intended to increase certainty by clearly setting out that quorum for general meetings is  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the members in good standing, which does not include:

- a. Honorary members, or
- b. Life members who have not paid to attend the subject meeting.