

## MEMBERSHIP

### GENERAL

201.

- a. Except as hereinafter otherwise provided, to become a member of the Legion one must become a member of a branch.
- b. The approved categories of membership are: Life, Ordinary, Associate, Affiliate Voting and Affiliate Non-Voting.
- c. Members of the Canadian Forces may be accepted as military members at large in the Dominion Command special branch.
- d. Subject to the provisions respecting Tuberculous Veterans' Section, no person may be a member of more than one branch of the Legion at the same time (see Sections 224-226).

202

- a. No person who:
  - i. advocates the destruction by force of the duly constituted government of the country where the branch may be;
  - ii. advocates, encourages or participates in subversive action or subversive propaganda;
  - iii. has been convicted of any serious criminal offence involving either violence or sexual misconduct of any type;
  - iv. has been convicted of an offence under s 419 of the Criminal Code of Canada (Stolen Valour), National Defence Act, RCMP Act or a similar offence in another country;
  - v. has been convicted of either theft, fraud or misappropriation of Poppy Funds, Legion funds or Legion Property; or

- vi. has previously been expelled from the Legion or had their membership revoked, shall be permitted to become a member of the Legion.
- b. Any member of the Legion who
- 1) while a member,
    - i. advocates the destruction by force of the duly constituted government of the country where the branch may be;
    - ii. advocates, encourages or participates in subversive action or subversive propaganda;
    - iii. is convicted of any serious criminal offence involving violence or sexual misconduct of any type;
    - iv. is convicted of an offence under s 419 of the Criminal Code of Canada (Stolen Valour), National Defence Act, RCMP Act or a similar offence in another country; or
    - v. is convicted of either theft, fraud or misappropriation of Poppy Funds, Legion funds or Legion Property; or
  - 2) who was untruthful in a material part of their application for membership, may be summarily expelled from the Legion by the Dominion President pursuant to Article 418.

- c. Notwithstanding paragraphs (a) of this section, the Dominion President may waive any breach of (a) and permit the applicant to become a member where;
    - i. the seriousness of the activity described in (a);
    - ii. the circumstances surrounding the activity; or
    - iii. sufficient time has passed such that the activity engaged is no longer indicative of the character of the applicant and therefore; do not justify denial of membership.
  - d. When determining whether to expel a member under (b), the Dominion President shall consider the factors set out in 202 (c).
203. All matters dealing with this article shall be submitted by the branch to the provincial president who shall provide any comments and then forward to the Dominion President.
204. Any member leaving, suspended or expelled from membership in the Legion, shall have no claim upon the Legion or against any of its officers or officials.
205. No member of the Legion may sign in or bring into any Legion premises any person who was expelled from the Legion. Further, no member of the public who has been expelled from the Legion may enter any Legion premises.

## CATEGORIES OF MEMBERSHIP

### ORDINARY MEMBERS

206. Ordinary membership is open to any Canadian citizen or Commonwealth subject who is of federal voting age and whose service was terminated under conditions other than dishonourable or for reasons of misconduct and who served or is serving in:
- a. the Canadian Forces or His Majesty's Forces, including Regular or Reserve Forces under class "C" service; or
  - b. the Forces or Underground Forces of any of His Majesty's allies in any war, conflict or police action in which Canada was involved (Provincial or Dominion Command approval is required for underground service); or
  - c. an actual theatre of war in any of the non-military services, during any war in which Canada was involved (i.e. Merchant Navy); or
  - d. His Majesty's Reserve Forces including Cadet Instructors on Cadet Cadre, for not less than one year; or
  - e. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police or The Royal Newfoundland Constabulary, for not less than one year; or
  - f. the Forces of a country while that country was a member of NATO or NORAD in alliance with Canada; or
  - g. the Forces of the United States; or
  - h. the Vietnam War in the Forces of the United States, Australia, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea or South Vietnam and who was a Canadian citizen or Commonwealth subject at time of service; or
  - i. the Canadian Coast Guard as an officer or crew member, and who has two or more years of active service on the high seas or inland waterways; or
  - j. a city, municipal or provincial police force, as a police officer, for not less than one year.

## **ASSOCIATE MEMBERS**

207. Associate membership is open to any Canadian citizen or Commonwealth subject, who is of federal voting age and who is not eligible for ordinary membership, and who:
- a. is the child, adopted child, stepchild, grandchild, sibling, niece, nephew, widow/er, parent, or spouse (as defined in these by-laws), of a person who is or was eligible to be an ordinary member; or
  - b. is the spouse, parent or sibling of an associate who qualified under Subsection 207.a. or Subsection 207.c. to h. In the case of divorce or legal (documented) separation, a spouse who is an associate member through marriage to an associate member, retains the right to membership unless such membership lapses; or
  - c. is the child of an associate member; or
  - d. served as a Cadet civilian instructor for not less than 3 years; or
  - e. served in The Royal Canadian Sea, Army or Air Cadets, for not less than 3 years; or
  - f. served as an officer in the Navy League of Canada, for not less than 2 years; or
  - g. served below the rank of officer, in the Polish Forces after WWII, and whose services were terminated under conditions other than dishonourable or for reasons of misconduct; or
  - h. served in a city, municipal, volunteer, unorganized territories, provincial or federal Emergency Response Service for not less than one year.

## **AFFILIATE VOTING MEMBERS**

208. Affiliate voting membership is open to any Canadian citizen or Commonwealth subject who is of federal voting age and who is not eligible for ordinary or associate membership.

## AFFILIATE NON-VOTING MEMBERS

209.

- a. Affiliate non-voting membership is open to any citizen from an Allied country, excluding Canada and the Commonwealth, who is of federal voting age and who is not eligible for ordinary, associate or affiliate voting membership and who supports the purposes and objects of The Royal Canadian Legion. Affiliate non-voting members shall have the same rights as all other members except the rights to vote and hold office.
- b. A member admitted under Subsection (a) is not permitted to apply for voting status, unless otherwise qualified.

**Note:** Affiliate Non-voting members are allowed to attend branch meetings and participate in debates but cannot enter into the voting process, including motions.

## MEMBERSHIP IN USA BRANCHES/POSTS

210. Membership in USA Branches/Posts is only open to Canadian citizens and Commonwealth subjects who meet the eligibility criteria stated in Sections 206-208, as well as United States citizens who meet the criteria stated in Sections 211-213.

## ORDINARY MEMBERS - USA BRANCHES/POSTS ONLY

211.

- a. Ordinary membership is open to any United States citizen who is of federal voting age and whose service was terminated under conditions other than dishonourable or for reasons of misconduct and who served or is serving in:
  - i. His Majesty's Forces in any conflict in which Canada was involved; or
  - ii. the Forces or Underground Forces of any of His Majesty's Allies in any conflict in which Canada was involved (Zone or Dominion Command approval is required for underground service); or

- iii. the United Nations or Commonwealth police action in Congo, Gaza, Cyprus or in any other area that may be specified by Dominion Command; or
  - iv. the Forces of the United States and who is the parent, spouse or child of a person who is or was eligible to be an ordinary member; or
  - v. the Forces of the United States in a theatre of war under the command of a Commonwealth Naval, Military or Air Force Commander, for not less than three months. Members admitted under this section shall not exceed 30% of the total branch membership.
- b. A member admitted under Subsection 211.a. is permitted to transfer membership to a branch of the Legion in Canada. However, a mandatory change of membership category, to Affiliate non-voting, would be required

## **ASSOCIATE MEMBERS - USA BRANCHES/POSTS ONLY**

212.

- a. Associate membership is open to any United States citizen, who is of federal voting age and who is not eligible for ordinary membership, and who:
  - i. is the child, adopted child, stepchild, grandchild, niece, nephew, spouse, widow/er, sibling or parent of a person who is or was eligible to be an ordinary member in a United States branch/post, pursuant to Section 211; or
  - ii. is the spouse, parent or sibling of an associate member who qualified under Subsection 212.a.i or Subsection 212.a.iii. In the case of divorce or legal (documented) separation, a spouse who is an associate member through marriage to an associate member, retains the right to membership unless such membership lapses; or
  - iii. is the child of an associate member.
- b. A member admitted under Subsection 212.a. is permitted to transfer membership to a branch of the Legion in Canada. However, a mandatory change of membership category, to Affiliate non-voting, would be required.