**Legislation Committee Report**

**March 17, 2022**

At the ACER-CART Executive meeting on January 14, 2022 a question was raised about the Executive members’ term of office. Specifically the question was why not have a two year term versus the present one year term.

The Legislation Committee met via ZOOM on March 4, 2022 to review the ACER-CART By-Laws and the question on term of office.

**BACKGROUND**

The ACER-CART Constitution and By-Laws have specific language on Executive members term of office.

The ACER-CART Constitution states the following:

*ATICLE 10: ELECTIONS*

 *1. ELECTION GUIDELINES*

1. *The Officers shall be elected annually, by secret ballot, at the Annual*

*General Meeting.*

 *e) Each officer shall hold office until the adjournment of the next AGM.*

The ACER-CART By-Laws state the following:

 *BY-LAW 8: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE*

 *8.03 The Officers shall hold office for one year from the date of the election.*

**LITERATURE**

The Committee conducted a quick Google search on the issue and could not find specific references to one year term versus a two year term for officers in non-profit organizations. There was information on advantages and disadvantages to fixed terms of office and I provide the following for discussion purposes.

**ADVANTAGES**

1. Share the opportunity – one of the organizations goals should be to continually involve more and more people in the organization, get them to know what we do, turn them into advocates and increase our base of support.
2. Build leadership – help members develop leadership skills and raise awareness of and provide opportunities to change and improve the group dynamics.
3. Benefit from fresh perspectives – bring in new ideas to the organizations decision making process and provide new skill sets to reflect the organizations changing needs.
4. Increase your opportunities – new members mean more contacts, new relationships, new connections and new opportunities.
5. Provide a respectful and efficient mechanism for the exit of passive, ineffective board members.

**DISADVANTAGES**

1. Potential loss of institutional, organizational memory as well as expertise or insights that have benefited the organization over time.
2. Need for additional time and resources to rebuild the cohesiveness of the Board.
3. The need for Nominations Committee to dedicate more time to the identification, recruitment and orientation of new board members.
4. Potential loss of in depth knowledge and understanding of history and context of the organization.
5. Potential loss of fervent supporters of the organization and its mission.

**CONCLUSION**

The Legislation Committee notes the value of a one year term of office, as well as a two year term of office. The Committee is not prepared to provide a recommendation as it believes there needs to be a fulsome discussion from all Executive members before making a decision. If the decision is made to change the present term of office there will be the need to make changes to the ACER-CART Constitution and By-Laws at a future Annual General Meeting.

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