

## ■ Delegate's Responsibility

**A**s a delegate to the 19th Regular Meeting of the Members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada (SDACC), you are invested with power to vote and make all decisions during the session; therefore, your role is very important.

Please read and become familiar with the material in this book, paying special attention to the SDACC Bylaws and the Rules of Order. The most important points regarding the role of the delegate as found in Article VI of the Bylaws are as follows:

### Article 6:02 Meeting of the Members:

- a. Regular Meeting of the Members (“Regular Meeting”): the Members of the Corporation shall hold a Regular Meeting every five years at such time and place as the Board shall determine, and shall:
  1. Elect a Nominating Committee;
  2. Elect a standing Bylaws Committee;
  3. Receive reports for the past five years;
  4. Elect the Board of Directors;
  5. Elect the officers;
  6. Elect, or refer to the Board for election, the directors and associate directors of departments/ services, undertreasurers and associate or assistant treasurers;
  7. Consider and act on proposed changes to Bylaws;
  8. Transact such other business as may come before the Meeting;

### Article 6:05 Voting Procedures:

- a. Each delegate shall be entitled to one (1) vote.
- b. Delegates must be present in person at any Meeting of the Members in order to be eligible to vote. There shall be no voting by proxy.
- c. The Chair has the privilege of voting.
- d. The voting on all matters of business shall be by secret ballot, voting card, show of hands, voice vote or by electronic voting devices. A change in the voting procedure can be initiated either by the ruling of the Chair or by a majority vote of the delegates, in compliance with the GC Rules of Order.
- e. Voting shall be by show of delegate cards, by electronic means or, if so voted by the delegates, by secret ballot.
- f. A tie vote is a lost vote.
- g. Except as provided in clauses 14:01, 17:01 and 20:01 of these Bylaws, business arising at any Meeting of the Members shall be decided by a majority vote of the delegates present and voting.

**“Delegates to a conference session are not chosen to represent merely the church or conference. They should view the work as a whole, remembering their responsibility for the welfare of the worldwide work of the Church. It is not permissible for church or conference delegations to organize or attempt to direct their votes as a unit. Nor is it permissible for the delegates from a large church or the conference to claim preeminence in directing affairs in a conference session. Each delegate should be susceptible to the direction of the Holy Spirit and vote according to personal convictions. Any church or conference officer or leader attempting to control the votes of a group of delegates would be considered disqualified for holding office.”** — Seventh-day Adventist Church Manual, pp. 114-115

As a delegate, you will elect the three SDACC officers, the undertreasurer, General Vice President, three department directors, and two services directors. Included in this book are the position descriptions for each position. Some years ago, the SDACC divested itself of many departments that were perceived to be a duplication of those provided by the North American Division (NAD). Education, Communication and Public Affairs Religious Liberty (PARL), however, have been preserved because they are considered vital for the functioning of the SDACC.

The SDACC is unique among NAD unions because it covers the territory of a whole country with various provincial laws and requirements. Therefore, services that are generally provided by the NAD for the other unions such as health benefits and retirement, must be provided by the SDACC. These services are vital to the workers throughout Canada. It is due to the encompassing scope of these services that the directors in charge have been elected every quinquennium by the delegates in session. ▶

