

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

**Dancing To Eagle Spirit Society is dedicated to the healing and  
Empowerment of aboriginal and non-aboriginal two-spirit individuals  
and their allies**

**The society seeks to**

**Honour the dignity of the individual, building personal and community**

**Self esteem by addressing physical, emotional, psycho-social, and**

**Spiritual needs, using traditional Native American ways and culture.**

## **PHILOSOPHY**

**Whereas** many aboriginal and non-aboriginal two-spirited persons of diverse family backgrounds suffer intense alienation from self and from society, evidenced by addictions, involvement in sex trade, promiscuity, physical and sexual abuse, broken families and crime

**Whereas** rapidly expanding social changes in recent times has left many two-spirited individuals displaced, disadvantaged, dependent and alone, ostracized from their families, social support groups or society at large

**Whereas** many two-spirited individuals who wish to effect major change in their lives feel powerless and defeated due to chronic unemployment, poverty, mental and physical health problems, and

**Whereas** two-spirited individuals often need help to break the cycle of abuse and systemic and religious discrimination,

### **Dancing TO Eagle Spirit Society acknowledges:**

- That each individual has the right to their own beliefs and expression
- That each individual has the right of respect of self, and expression

### **Dancing TO Eagle Spirit Society resolves to:**

- Maintain a healing centre offering a variety of complementary healing modalities, to meet the diverse needs of two-spirit people and their allies at various stages of healing
- Provide access to all two-spirit and their allies persons irrespective of race, colour, creed
- Build family and community on Native American teachings
- Promote and encourage self reliance and independence
- Promote respect of the individual and the place of others in the circle of life
- Promote an intimate contact with all creation
- Actively Promote the establishment of Two-spirit Ceremonies in BC and Canada

# HERE SET OUT, IN NUMBERED CLAUSES, THE BYLAWS OF DANCING TO EAGLE SPIRIT SOCIETY

## PART I - INTERPRETATION

1. (1) In these bylaws, unless the context otherwise requires,
  - (a) “Elder” means spiritual advisor
  - (b) “Tribal Council” means the directors of the Society for the time being
  - (c) “General Council” means the registered members of the Society
  - (d) “Chief” means the President of the Society
  - (e) “Vice Chief” means the Vice President of the Society
  - (f) “Society Act” means the Society Act of the Province of British Columbia from time to time in force and all amendments to it,
  - (g) “registered address” of a member means the address as recorded in the register of members,
  - (h) “Organization” means a legal or commercial entity, which includes a corporation, society, foundation, partnership or association.
  - (i) Two Spirit persons mean someone who is Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender or Transsexual
  - (j) Allies means all other people who support Two Spirit people
- (2) The definitions in the society Act on the date these bylaws become effective apply to these bylaws.
2. Words importing the singular include the plural and vice versa; and words importing a male person include a female persona and a corporation.

## PART 2 – MEMBERSHIP

3. **A)** The members of the Society are the applicants for incorporation of the Society and shall be called the General Council and all other subsequent applicants for membership who have met the criterion set within these bylaws shall be called a member of the General Council.  
**B) Membership Criteria & Expulsions:**
  - You are a self –identified two spirited individual
  - You are an ally of the Two Spirit Community
  - You believe and support the Philosophies & Missions statement of Dancing To Eagle Spirit
  - You agree to conduct yourself within the parameters established as acceptable by the membership, and understand that any infringement of these principles may

- result in disciplinary action deemed necessary and that you may appeal these actions at the Tribal council level.
- There are no membership fees
  - Upon approval for membership by the general council you make a financial donation to the Society in what ever amount you want
  - That you practice your spirituality in the Native American Way
4. Every General Council member shall uphold the constitution and comply with these bylaws.
  5. The Elder will be appointed by the general council
  6. The Elder will remain the Spiritual Advisors for as long as the general council wants.
  7. The General council will elect its Tribal Council
  8. The first membership dues shall be by donation and after that the annual membership dues shall be what ever donation a member is capable of donating on a yearly basis
  9. **A person shall cease to be a council member of the Society**
    - (a) By delivering a resignation in writing to the Secretary of the Tribal Council of the Society or by mailing or delivering it to the address of the Society
    - (b) On death or in the case of an organization on dissolution
    - (c) On being expelled by special resolution at a general meeting of the general council. A brief statement of the reason or reasons for the proposed expulsion shall accompany the notice of special resolution for expulsions and the member who is the subject of the proposed resolution for expulsion shall be given an opportunity to be heard at the general council meeting before the special resolution is put to vote,
  10. (1) A Tribal council member may be demoted by a special resolution of the elders passed at a general council meeting.
    - (2) A brief statement of the reason or reasons for the proposed demotion shall accompany the notice of special resolution.
    - (3) The person who is the subject of the proposed resolution for demotion shall be given an opportunity to be heard at a general council meeting before the special resolution is put to a vote.
  11. All general council members are in good standing except a member who has failed to donate in a current annual membership fee drive or any other subscription or debt due and owing to the Society and the general council member is not in good standing so long as the debt remains unpaid up to and including the day of the following AGM. If the fees are not paid at the AGM immediately following that AGM the General Council members will be banished from the Tribe for a period of time determined by the Elder.

### **PART 3 – MEETINGS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS**

12. General Council meetings of the Society shall be held at the time and place, in accordance with the Society Act, that the elected Tribal Council decides. There will be at least two general Council meetings per year.
13. Every General Council meeting, other than an Annual General Council Meeting, is an Extraordinary General Council Meeting.
14. The Tribal Council may, when they think fit, convene an Extraordinary General Council Meeting.
15. (1) Notice of a General Council Meeting shall specify the place, day and hour of the meeting, and in case of special business, the general nature of that business.  
(2) The accidental omission to give notice of a General Council Meeting to, or the non-receipt of a notice by any of the council members entitled to receive notice does not invalidate proceedings at that meeting.
16. The first Annual General Council Meeting of the Society shall be held not more than eighteen months after the date of incorporation and after that an Annual General Meeting shall be held at least once in every calendar year and not more than 15 months after the last preceding Annual General Meetings.

#### **PART 4 – PROCEEDINGS AT GENERAL COUNCIL MEETINGS**

17. Special business is:
  - (a) All business at an Extraordinary General Council Meeting except the adoption of the rules of order; and
  - (b) All business transacted at an Annual General Council Meeting except:
    - 1 the adoption of the rules of order
    - 2 consideration of the financial statements
    - 3 report of the elected Tribal council
    - 4 report of the auditor, if any,
    - 5 election of the Tribal Council
    - 6 appointment of the auditor, if required,
    - 7 Other business that, under these bylaws, ought to be transacted at an Annual General Council Meeting, or business that is brought under consideration by the report of the Tribal Council, issued with the notice convening the meeting.
  - (c) No business, other than the Elders Prayer and the adjournment or termination of the meeting, shall be conducted at a General Council Meeting at a time when a quorum is not present.
  - (d) If at any time during a General Council Meeting there ceases to be a quorum present, business then in progress shall be suspended until there is a quorum present or until the meeting is adjourned or terminated.
- A quorum is 3 General Council members present or a greater number that the council members may determine at a General Council meeting.

- If within 30 minutes from the time appointed for a General Council meeting a quorum is not present, the meeting, if convened on the requisition of council members, shall be terminated; but in any other case, it shall stand adjourned to the same day in the next week, at the same time and place, and if, at the adjourned council meeting, a quorum is not present within 30 minutes from the time appointed for the meeting, the council members present constitute a quorum.
- Subject to bylaw 18, in the absence of the Chief or the Vice-Chief, the Elders may appoint someone to preside as chairperson of a General Council Meeting.
- **If at a General Council Meeting,**
  - (a) there is no Chief, Vice-Chief or other Tribal Council member present within 15 minutes after the time appointed for holding the council meeting; or
  - (b) the Chief, Vice-Chief and other Tribal Council members present are unwilling to act as chairperson,
  - (c) then the Elders can choose an Elder to become the chairperson.

A general council meeting may be adjourned from time to time and from place to place, but no business shall be transacted at an adjourned council meeting other than the business left unfinished at the council meeting from which the adjournment took place.

- (2) When a General council meeting is adjourned for 10 days or more, notice of the adjourned council meeting shall be given as in the case of the original meeting.
  - (3) Except as provided in this bylaw, it is not necessary to give notice of an adjournment or of the business to be transacted at an adjourned General Council meeting.
18. (1) No resolution proposed at a General council meeting need be seconded.  
(2) The chairperson of a meeting or the Elder may move or propose a resolution.  
(3) In case of an equality of votes, the Elders have a second or casting vote in addition to the vote to which the chairperson may be entitled as a member, and the proposed resolution may be passed or defeated.
19. (1) A general council member in good standing present at a general council meeting is entitled of one vote.  
(2) Voting is by show of hands.  
(3) Voting by proxy is not permitted.

## **PART 5 – TRIBAL COUNCIL**

20. (1) The Tribal Council may exercise all the powers and do all the acts and things that the Society may exercise and do, and which are not by these bylaws or by statute, or otherwise lawfully directed or required to be exercised or done by the Society in a general council meeting, but subject nevertheless to:
- (a) all laws affecting the Society,

- (b) these bylaws; and
  - (c) rules not being inconsistent with these bylaws, which are made from time to time by the Society in General Meeting
- (2) No rule made by the Society in General Council Meeting invalidates a prior act of the Tribal Council that would have been valid if that rule had not been made.
21. The Elder advises the Tribal Council.
22. (1) The Chief, Vice-Chief, Secretary, Treasurer, and up to 7 other persons shall form the Tribal Council of the Society.
- (2) The Tribal Council shall be composed of at least 3 persons or a greater number as may be determined from time to time at a General Council Meeting.
23. (1) The Chief shall hold office for a term of 2 years, and shall retire at the second annual general council meeting after being elected, when a successor shall be elected.
- (2) All Tribal Council members, except for the Chief, shall hold office for a term of one year, and shall retire from office at the next Annual General Council Meeting, when successors shall be elected.
- (3) Tribal Council members may be elected to consecutive terms.
- (4) All General Council members running for Tribal Council positions shall declare the position for which they seek to be elected.
- (5) If a position on the Tribal Council becomes vacant, or is vacant at the end of an Annual General Council Meeting, the Elder may appoint a person to the position.
- (6) The Tribal Council may at any time ask the Elders to appoint a General Council member to fill a vacancy on the Tribal Council, without regard for the cause of the vacancy.
- (7) An election may be by acclamation, otherwise it shall be by ballot.
24. The General council members or the Elders may, by special resolution, remove a tribal council member before the expiration of the term of office, and may elect a successor to complete the term of office.
25. No Tribal Council member shall be remunerated for being or acting as a Tribal Council member, but a Tribal council member shall be reimbursed for all expenses necessary and reasonably incurred while engaged in the conduct of the business of the Society.

## **PART 6 – PROCEEDINGS OF THE TRIBAL COUNCIL**

26.
  - (1) The Tribal Council and the Elders may meet at the places they think fit to dispatch business, adjourn, and otherwise regulate their meetings and proceedings as they see fit.
  - (2) The quorum necessary to conduct business shall be three (3) and this quorum shall always consist of at least two members of the Tribal Council and one of the Elders.
  - (3) The Chief shall be the chairperson of all meetings of the Tribal Council, but if at a meeting the Chief is not present within 30 minutes after the time appointed for holding the meeting, the Vice Chief shall act as chairperson, and if neither the Chief nor the Vice-Chief is present the Elder shall act as the chairperson.
  - (4) A Tribal Council may at any time convene a meeting, and the Secretary, on the request of the Tribal Council, shall convene a meeting of the Tribal Council.
27. The first meeting of the Tribal Council shall be held immediately following the election or appointment of a Tribal Council at an Annual General Meeting or other General Council meeting of members or any meeting of a Tribal Council at which Tribal Council members are appointed to fill vacancies on the council.
28. A Tribal Council member who is absent temporarily from British Columbia may send or deliver to the address of the Society a waiver of notice, which may be by letter, telegram, telex, fax, or cable and email of any meeting of the directors and may at any time withdraw the waiver, and until the waiver is withdrawn:
  1. No notice of meetings of the Tribal Council shall be sent to that Council member, and
  2. Any and all meetings of the Tribal Council of the Society, notice of which has not been given to that Council member, shall be valid and effective if a quorum of the Tribal Council is present.
  3. Meetings of the Tribal council can be moderated on the Chat line of the group. When such is exercise then a record of this meetings shall be printing and part of the minutes of the next meeting.
  4. Decision of the Tribal council can be made by emailing each other and the record of this be printed out and kept as a record of consensus.
29.
  - (1) Questions arising at a meeting of the Tribal Council of Dancing To Eagle Spirit Society shall be decided by a majority of the votes.
  - (2) In the case of an equality of votes at a meeting of the Tribal Council, both the Elder and the Chief shall have second or casting votes.
30. No resolution proposed at a meeting of Tribal Council need be seconded.
31. The Elders, and/or the Chief, may move or propose resolutions at a meeting of the Tribal Council.



## **PART 7 – DUTIES OF THE TRIBAL COUNCIL**

32. (1) The Chief shall preside at all meetings of the Society and the Tribal Council.  
(2) The Chief is the Chief Executive Officer of the Society and shall supervise the other elected members of the Tribal Council in the execution of their duties.  
5. The elders are the Spiritual Advisors and can attend all Tribal Council meetings.
33. The Vice-Chief shall carry out the duties of the Chief in the absence of the Chief.
34. The secretary shall:
- (1) Conduct the correspondence of the Society
  - (2) Issue notices of meetings of the Society and the Tribal Council,
  - (3) Keep minutes of all meetings of the Society and the Tribal Council,
  - (4) Have custody of all records and documents of the Society except those required to be kept by the Treasurer,
  - (5) Have custody of the common seal of the Society, and
  - (6) Maintain the register of members.
35. The treasurer shall:
- (1) Keep the financial records, including books of account, necessary to comply with the Society Act, and
  - (2) Render financial statements to the Tribal Council, General council member and others when required.
36. (1) The offices of the Secretary and Treasurer may be held by one person who shall be known as the Secretary-Treasurer.  
(2) When a Secretary-Treasurer holds office the total number of elected council shall not be less than 3 or such number as may have been determined from time to time pursuant to bylaw 24 (2).
37. In the absence of the Secretary from a meeting, the Tribal Council shall appoint another person to act as Secretary of the meeting.
38. The elders shall advise and guide on spiritual matters.

## **PART 8 – SEAL**

39. The Tribal Council may provide a common seal for the Society and may destroy a seal and substitute a new seal in its place.
40. The common seal shall be affixed only when authorized by a resolution of the Tribal Council and then only in the presence of the person prescribed in the resolution, or if no persons are prescribed in the presence of the Tribal Council

## **PART 9 – BORROWING**

41. In order to carry out the purposes of the Society the Tribal Council may, on behalf of and in the name of the Society, raise or secure payment of repayment of money in the

manner they decide, and in particular by without limiting the forgoing, by the issue of debentures.

42. No debenture shall be issued without the sanction of a special resolution.
43. The general council members may by special resolution restrict the borrowing powers of the Tribal Council, but a restriction imposed expires at the next annual general meeting.

#### **PART 10 – AUDITOR**

44. This part applies only where the Society is required or has resolved to have an auditor.
45. The Tribal Council who shall also fill all vacancies occurring in the office of the auditor shall appoint the first auditor.
46. At each Annual General Council Meeting the Society shall appoint an auditor to hold office until the auditor is re-appointed or a successor is appointed at the next Annual General Meeting.
47. An auditor may be removed by ordinary resolution.
48. An auditor shall be promptly informed in writing of appointment or removal.
49. The auditor must attend general council meetings.

#### **PART 11 – NOTICES TO COUNCIL MEMBERS**

50. A notice may be given to a member, either personally or by mail to the member's registered address.
51. A notice sent by mail shall be deemed to have been given on the second day following that on which the notice is posted, and in proving that notice has been given it is sufficient to prove the notice was properly addressed and put in a Canada Post mail receptacle.
52. (1) Notice of general council meeting shall be given to:
  - (a) Every council member shown on the register of members on the day notice is given, and
  - (b) The auditor if Part 10 applies.(2) No other person is entitled to receive a notice of general council meeting.

#### **PART 13 – BYLAWS**

53. On being admitted to membership, each council member is entitled to and the Society shall provide without charge, a copy of the constitution and bylaws of the Society
54. These bylaws shall not be altered or added to except by special resolution of the General Council, which are present at the General council members meeting. The special resolution shall be passed by 60% of the general council members present.
  - Such resolution becomes effective on the date of its acceptance by the registrar as being in compliance with the Society's Act.