



*CONSTITUTION
Of
The HINDU CULTURAL CENTRE
Of
LONDON, ONTARIO, CANADA*

January 01, 2005

PREFACE

Hindu religious services in London, Ontario were initiated on a weekly basis in January 1971. These services were performed at the homes of the participants. The idea of a community Hindu service gained such momentum that the services were moved to the Students Lounge basement of the Sommerville House and were held every Sunday with the kind permission of the University of Western Ontario. In April 1972, it was proposed and accepted that the group should constitute itself into a formal association designated as the Hindu Cultural Centre, London, Ontario. The founding members of the Centre were:

Dr. S. P. Ahuja, Dr. M. L. Balse, Dr. L. N. Chaudhary, Mr. P. L. Gupta, Mr. V. Kumar, Mr. K. G. Samoojh, Mr. H. K. Sharma, and Mr. R. S. Verma.

Although only the names of the male members of the families are provided above, their spouses played an equally important role also. The Centre became a registered Canadian charitable organization on June 17, 1972 with registration # 0400788-39-17. The current BN/Registration number with Canada Customs and Revenue Agency is: 11895 8297 RR0001with effective date of January 01, 1988.

As the activities of the Centre grew, it was felt that the then constitution needed updating and revision. Consequently, at a General Meeting held in March 1982, several amendments to the constitution were proposed and passed by the majority of the members present. Another major revision was made to the Constitution by the membership at General meeting held on December 11, 1988. The 1988 version of the Constitution was again slightly amended and passed at a meeting of the membership on March 24, 1996.

The Hindu Community continued to grow and through the hard work, dedication and devotion of the members, the Centre purchased two lots of land, known at that time as Lots 10 and 11 on Charterhouse Crescent in the City of London, Ontario, Canada. This was a bold step by the community towards realizing its goal of having its own place of worship. With the grace of the Almighty Lord Vishnu and the generous contributions made by the community of London Ontario and the surrounding regions in both "Labour and Money" the Hindu Cultural Centre at 62 Charterhouse Crescent became a reality in 1990.

The Centre is a Charitable Corporation without Share Capital (Corporation Number 996330) registered with the Ministry of Consumer & Commercial Relations and received its Letters Patent on October 22, 1992. Within the last ten to fifteen years many changes took place in the laws of the land, in the demography of South Western Ontario and in other area as well which

necessitated another review and updating of HCC's Constitution. Also, the need to protect the material and spiritual wealths of the Centre started demanding changes in the constitution that was previously written without any legal input and some of its clauses were subjected to different interpretations by some of our members. As a consequence, the Board created a Constitution and By-laws Committee in the 2003 – 2004 Board year, to review the then Constitution and to recommend changes to it that would eliminate or minimize such discrepancies. The members of that committee were: Mr. Chetram Singh, Chairman & a Past President, Dr. Anand V. Singh, the President, Dr. Mohan Merchea, a Past President, Mr. P. D. Bhandarkar, Dr. Harish Ruparelia a Past Treasurer and Mr. Harry Ramkhelawan, a lawyer who is also a member of HCC. HCC was very fortunate to receive the gratuitous help of Mr. Ramkhelawan who is an experienced lawyer. After many meetings, the form and the content of the 1988 Constitution was changed significantly without interfering with its basic principles. The final draft was submitted to the Board and approved by the Board on September 26, 2004. In keeping with the requirements of the then Constitution, a special meeting of the membership was called solely for the purpose of reviewing and approving this proposed new Constitution. The Board presented this Constitution to the membership on Sunday, November 14, 2004 and after some interesting discussions, it was adopted to take effect from January 01, 2005. All previous versions of the Constitution of the Hindu Cultural Centre of London, Ontario, Canada have been repealed or revoked from that date.

AVS / CS
January, 2005.
London, Ontario, Canada

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CONSTITUTION OF THE HINDU CULTURAL CENTRE LONDON, ONTARIO, CANADA

Article 1 Name

The name of this organization shall be the Hindu Cultural Centre of London, Ontario, hereinafter referred to as the Centre, with head office located at 62 Charterhouse Crescent N5W 5V5 in the City of London, Province of Ontario, Canada, and at such other place as the Board of Directors, may, from time to time, decide. The Hindu Cultural Centre is a Charitable Corporation without Share Capital (Corporation Number 996330) registered with the Ministry of Consumer & Commercial Relations and received its Letters Patent on October 22, 1992. Its objectives are stated in Article 2 below.

Article 2 Objectives.

The objectives of the Centre shall be:

- (a) To promote and preserve the Hindu religious and cultural heritage and strive for inter-religious harmony and understanding among Canadians of all cultural backgrounds.
- (b) To establish places of worship and Hindu Cultural Centres in London and South-Western Ontario.
- (c) To undertake activities conducive to the Hindu way of life.
- (d) To hold religious services regularly embracing the full spectrum of Hindu spiritual beliefs.
- (e) To provide an opportunity for maximum fraternization and cooperation among Canadians of all walks of life and religious beliefs.
- (f) To promote inter-religious harmony and understanding by periodically inviting teachers, theologians and philosophers of different faiths to speak at the Centre and by providing speakers to do likewise elsewhere.
- (g) To celebrate Hindu festivals such as Holi, Ram Navami, Janam Ashtami, Diwali or any other festivals that the Board shall decide.
- (h) To establish and develop a resource library on religion, philosophy, culture, music, art and languages.
- (i) To provide a venue for social functions such as marriage, mundan ceremony, religious and devotional dance and other related activities.
- (j) To organize schools for children to be exposed to the tenets of Hinduism, and to arrange for regular instructions in languages and music of origin in India.

Article 3. Membership

There shall be various categories of membership. These would include but not be limited to the following:

Patron Membership. This shall be open to regular members who have donated ten thousand dollars or more within a period of not more than three consecutive years. The patron member shall have the privilege of a regular member without the liability to pay the annual membership fee.

Life Membership. This shall be open to regular members who have donated six thousand dollars or more within a period of not more than three consecutive years. A life member shall have the same privilege of a regular member without the liability to pay the annual membership fee.

Regular Membership. This shall be the basis of membership of the Centre and shall be open to all persons who believe in and openly profess to believe in the Hindu religion, faith and culture and pay the prescribed membership fee.

Associate Membership. This shall be open to all persons who endorse the objectives of the Centre and who are interested in the Hindu religion and culture. Associate members are not eligible to vote or hold elected office.

Honorary Membership. Those persons who have made a significant contribution to the Centre or to Hinduism in general, may be appointed Honorary members by the Board with the approval of the regular members of the Centre. Honorary members are not eligible to vote or to hold elected office at the Centre, except in their capacity as regular members.

1. Application for the regular membership of the Centre shall be sponsored by at least two regular members who are in good standing.
2. A regular member is considered to be in good standing when his annual membership fee is fully paid up by the due date and who is not in breach of the "Constitution, Bylaws, or Standing Rules of the Centre".
3. The Board of Directors shall have the discretion whether to approve or disapprove an application for membership.
4. The membership year shall be from January 1 to December 31 of each year.
5. A regular member shall be at least eighteen (18) years of age in order to be able to vote at meetings of the Centre.

6. Annual Membership Fee

- (a) The annual membership fee (hereinafter called the “fee”) shall be fixed from time to time by the Board of Directors.
- (b) A single fee shall cover both a husband and wife as regular members who shall each be entitled to vote at meetings of the Centre and be subject to its Constitution, Bylaws and Standing Rules.
- (c) An unmarried person shall pay the same fee as for a married person.
- (d) Commencing in the year 2005, the due date for the payment of the fee shall be January 15 of each year.
- (e) No person shall be allowed to vote at the annual general meeting unless the fee is paid up by the due date.
- (f) A person who has not paid the fee by the due date is deemed to be not in good standing and is not entitled to vote at the annual general meeting, unless the person can show reasonable cause satisfactory to the Board for his failure to pay the fee by the due date and has in fact paid up all outstanding fees, in which case he may be allowed by the Board to vote.

7. Discipline

- (a) A regular member whose conduct is considered by the Board of Directors to be inconsistent with the objectives of the Centre shall be asked by the Board to explain such conduct to the Board in writing.
- (b) Where the regular member is unwilling or is unable to give an explanation satisfactory to the Board, the Board may revoke the membership of that member.
- (c) The Board may expel a regular member if it is of the opinion that it is in the best interest of the Centre to do so.
- (d) A regular member who holds office in an organization that, in the opinion of the Board, competes with the Centre, shall not hold office or be eligible for election to the Board of Directors of the Centre.

Article 4 Assembly Meetings

(1) Annual General Meetings

- (a) The regular members in good standing shall meet in Assembly once each year for the annual general meeting at a time and place appointed by the Board of Directors.
- (b) A notice of the annual general meeting shall be sent to all regular members in good standing at least ten (10) days before the annual general meeting, giving the date, time, place and the business to be transacted at the meeting.
- (c) Prior to the date of the annual general meeting, regular members may nominate other regular members to fill any vacancies for directors on the Board of Directors.

- (d) Each such nomination shall be proposed by a regular member in good standing and be seconded by another regular member also in good standing, provided that a husband shall not nominate his wife or child and vice versa.
- (e) For such nomination to be valid, it must be received by the Returning Officer at least five (5) days before the annual general meeting.
- (f) The returning Officer shall then prepare a list of the nominees, which shall be made available to the regular members at the annual general meeting.
- (g) In the event there is insufficient or no nomination to fill any vacancy on the Board of Directors, the existing Board may nominate regular eligible members, willing to serve as Directors, to fill any vacancy on the Board.
- (h) Such nomination by the existing Board shall be either prior to or on the day of the annual general meeting when such nominee may be voted in as Director.
- (i) Except in the case of the existing Board making any nomination on the day of the annual general meeting, no regular member shall be allowed to nominate others from the floor.
- (j) At the annual general meeting, one third of the regular membership of the Centre shall constitute a quorum. If a quorum is not present, the meeting shall be postponed and regular members shall be given a written notice of the date, time, place and the business to be transacted at the new meeting and those regular members who attend shall constitute a quorum.
- (k) The agenda for the annual general meeting shall include opening prayers, minutes of the previous annual general meeting, business arising from those minutes, a written report from the President and Secretary, written report from the Treasurer, the Auditor's report, motions and resolutions, election of Directors, appointment of Officers for the coming year, any other business and closing prayers.
- (l) Floor amendments may be made at the annual general meeting.
- (m) Proxies are not allowed either for the establishment of a quorum or for the transaction of the business of the Centre.
- (n) The annual general meeting shall be held between February 1 and March 31, each year on a date appointed by the Board of Directors.

(2) Special Meetings

Special meetings of the Assembly may be called by the President or by a majority vote of the Board of Directors to deal with the following matters.

- (a) Matters deemed to be emergency or urgent.
- (b) Matters deemed to be extra-ordinary business, such as the alteration, amendment, repeal or replacement of the Constitution.

(3) Notices of Meetings

- (a) In the case of regular meetings, such as the annual general meeting, ten (10) days' notice is required.

(b) In case of emergency or urgent business, four (4) days' notice is required.

(c) In case of extra-ordinary business, thirty (30) days' notice is required.

Only those matters contained in the notice shall be dealt with at such meetings.

(4) Powers of the Assembly The Assembly shall have the following powers and duties.

(a) To approve the annual report of the President and Secretary, the reports of the Treasurer and the Auditor, Motions and Resolutions.

(b) To alter, amend, repeal, replace or ratify the Constitution submitted to it by the Board.

(c) To adopt an annual budget prepared by the President and Treasurer and approved by the Board of Directors.

(d) To elect directors from the list of nominees submitted by the Returning Officer to fill any vacancy on the Board of Directors.

(e) The Assembly shall vote by secret ballot unless such balloting is waived by the Board of Directors in cases other than the election of Directors.

(f) Unless otherwise expressly stated herein and subject to Article 14 of this Constitution, the powers of the Assembly shall be exercised by a majority vote only, provided that due notice of its meetings shall have been given to all regular members of the Centre.

(g) To approve the appointments of Auditors recommended by the Board.

(h) To act as the final authority on all matters arising at the Centre for which authority has not been given to some other officer or governance body by this Constitution.

Article 5 Board of Directors

1. The Board of Directors of the Centre shall be composed of eleven (11) Directors elected for staggered terms at the annual general meeting of the Assembly.

2. The staggered terms of the Directors shall be as follows:

(a) Four (4) of the Directors shall be elected for three (3) years, four (4) shall be elected for two (2) years and three (3) shall be elected for one (1) year.

(b) The duration of the term of any director shall depend on the term of his election. However, the number of consecutive terms for which any Director shall serve, shall not exceed three (3) years maximum.

3. To be eligible for election or appointment to the Board of Directors, a person must be a regular member of the Centre for at least two (2) years prior to the date of election, in good standing and with conduct in keeping with the objectives and values of the Centre.
4. At no time shall both spouses or either a spouse and their child serve simultaneously on the Board.
5. A member of the Board of Directors who has served for three (3) consecutive years as a Director shall not be eligible for re-election or appointment to the Board unless a year has elapsed since last serving on the Board.
6. The retiring past President of the Centre shall be an ex-officio member of the Board for one year with the privilege to vote at meetings of the Board. Where the incoming President is his spouse, then the ex-officio office shall be vacant.
7. Meetings of the Board.

(a) The Board of Directors shall meet for: (i) regular meetings at least nine (9) times each year; (ii) special meetings as the Board may decide; and (iii) the annual general meeting of the Assembly

(b) Special meetings of the Board may be called by the Secretary on the written request of the President, the Vice-President, or any three (3) members of the Board.

(c) All directors in good standing at any meeting of the Board shall be entitled to one vote and the decision of the Board shall be by majority.

(d) Fifty percent (50 %) of the membership of the Board shall constitute a quorum. If at any meeting of the Board a quorum is not present, the meeting shall be adjourned to another date.

8. Powers and Duties of the Board. The powers and duties of the Board shall include:

(a) To act for the Assembly between meetings of the Assembly.

(b) To consider the annual financial statement submitted by the President and the Treasurer and after approving it, to submit it to the Assembly for final adoption or otherwise at the annual general meeting.

(c) To consider job descriptions and contracts for any staff of the Centre submitted by the President and to approve any guidelines to be used by the President in the supervision of such staff.

(d) To fix the time and place of the annual general meeting and any other meetings of the Assembly or of the Board of Directors.

(e) To pass By-laws and Standing Rules to regulate any matters under the Constitution.

(f) To appoint Standing Committees with their terms of reference and appoint their chairpersons.

(g) To prepare or update the strategic plan for the Centre.

(h) To ensure that the assets of the Centre are properly accounted for.

(i) To promote the interest of Hinduism and Hindu Culture, inter-religious harmony and understanding.

(j) To discipline regular members for behaviour inconsistent with the objectives of the Centre or in contravention of, or in the exercise of its powers under, the Constitution.

(k) To appoint, evaluate, discipline and, where necessary, dismiss all staff of the Centre including the Priest.

(l) To appoint a Standing Committee of five (5) custodians who are regular members of the Centre, in good standing, to administer and maintain the assets of the Centre comprising lands, buildings, fixtures and chattels.

(m) To recommend auditors for the approval by the Assembly.

(n) To carry out such other duties and responsibilities as are customarily associated with a Board of Directors.

(o) Where a Director resigns during a term of office or is removed from office by reason of absence from scheduled meetings of the Board, or dies or becomes incapable, the Board may appoint a regular member, in good standing, in place of such Director, for the remainder of the Board year.

(p) Such other powers and duties as may be conferred on the Board by the Assembly with the acquiescence of the Board.

9. Obligations of the Board. The obligations of the Board shall be:

(a) To comply with the resolutions and decisions of the Board of Directors or of the Assembly.

(b) To contribute their share of time required for the operation and management of the Centre. Where a director is absent for three (3) regular consecutive meetings of the Board without a reason satisfactory to the Board, the Board may, at a special meeting called for that purpose, decide by a majority of the Directors present, to remove the absentee Director from the Board.

10. Authority to Borrow.

For projects that are recommended by the Board and approved by the Assembly, the Board of Directors shall have the authority to borrow monies on the credit of the Centre and to issue, pledge, charge, mortgage or hypothecate properties of the Centre as security for such borrowing, provided such monies are to be used in the best interest of the Centre.

11. The Board of Directors' year shall run from April 1st of one year to March 31st of the following year.

12. The financial year of the Centre shall run from January 1st to December 31st of each year.

Article 6 Officers

(1) The officers of the Centre shall be a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and Assistant Secretary-Treasurer, all appointed from amongst the members of the Board of Directors.

(2) The Board of Directors shall appoint the officers at the annual general meeting of the assembly or within seven (7) days of the annual general meeting of the Assembly.

(3) The appointment by the Board of Directors may be by acclamation or by ballot.

(4) The term of the Officers shall be one year beginning from April 1st of one year and ending on March 31st of the following year.

(5) An Officer may be re-appointed by the Board for two (2) further terms of one (1) year each, provided that he shall not serve for more than (3) consecutive terms.

(6) The Officers shall not be entitled to compensation for holding office.

(7) The powers and duties of the officers shall be as follows.

(a) *President*: The President shall:

- be the principal representative and spokesperson for the Centre;
- preside at all meetings of the Assembly and the Board of Directors;
- ensure that the annual budget is prepared by the Treasurer for submission to the Board of Directors for its approval;
- prepare and present an annual report of the activities of the Centre to the annual meeting of the Assembly,
- supervise the activities of the staff of the Centre within guidelines approved by the Board of Directors;
- receive notice of any substantive business proposed by members for meetings and prepare and cause the proper notice of all meetings to be sent to the regular members for such meetings.

(b) *Vice-President*: The Vice President shall:

- assume the office of President in the event of the resignation of the President;
- assist the President in the duties of that office, as requested by the President, and
- preside at the meetings of the Assembly and the Board of Directors in the absence of the President.

(c) *Secretary*: The Secretary shall:

- keep accurate and up to date records of the meetings of the Assembly and the Board of Directors and shall prepare and submit minutes for approval;
- attend to correspondence on behalf of the Centre;
- ensure that all reports are prepared and filed as required by the various government departments, the Board of Directors or the President;
- perform such other duties as may, from time to time, be assigned by the Board of Directors or the President.
- be the Custodian of all records and files of the Centre.

(d) *Treasurer*. The Treasurer shall:

- cause all monies received by the Centre to be deposited in the Centre's bank account within five (5) days of receipt;
- give receipts for all funds received and keep a proper record.
- ensure that all expenditures are duly authorized by the Board of Directors or the President, and are evidenced by vouchers certified by the President, Vice-President or Secretary.
- cause an accurate set of accounts to be maintained for the Centre and shall, prepare a proposed annual budget.
- prepare for each meeting of the Board of Directors a financial report showing Income and Expenditures and the current financial position of the Centre.
- present statements of Income and Expenditure and a Balance Sheet at the annual general meeting accompanied by a written report of the auditors of the Centre.
- generally perform such other related functions assigned from time to time by the Board of Directors or the President.

(e) *Assistant Secretary/ Treasurer*. The Assistant Secretary / Treasurer shall:

- perform such duties of the Secretary or the Treasurer as may be assigned, from time to time, by the President or the Board of Directors.

Article 7 Management of the Assets of the Centre.

1. The assets of the Centre, comprising the lands, buildings, fixtures and chattels thereon, shall be supervised, managed and maintained by a committee of custodians appointed by the Board of Directors, (hereinafter called the "custodians").
2. The Board of Directors shall appoint five (5) regular members of the Centre, in good standing as custodians.
3. The custodians shall replace the Board of Trustees of the Centre, previously charged with the management of the fixed assets of the Centre.

4. The Board of Trustees is hereby abolished and all titles to property and assets of the Centre previously vested in the trustees of the Hindu Cultural Centre of London, Ontario shall henceforth be vested in the Centre and to be administered by the custodians or as the Board of Directors may, from time to time, otherwise decide.
5. The Board of Directors shall determine the duties and responsibilities of the custodians, their term of office, and may make Bylaws relating to the custodians.
6. The Deed of Trust establishing the terms of the Board of Trustees is hereby revoked and may be replaced by such terms and conditions to be determined by the Board of Directors.
7. The custodians shall serve voluntarily and are not entitled to any compensation for performing their duties as custodians.
8. The custodians shall first obtain the approval of the Board of Directors before undertaking any project or obligation that would create an expense or liability for the Centre.

Article 8 Protection of Members of the Board and its Standing Committees.

1. Members of the Board of Directors and its Standing Committees shall not be liable to the Centre for any costs, charges, expenses, loss or liability which the Centre shall suffer or incur, for, by reason of, arising out of or in any way relating to any act, deed, matter or thing, made, done or omitted to be done by such members in the performance of their duties or functions, or in the performance of any act, deed, matter or thing which such members honestly believed was in the proper performance of their duties and functions as such member of either the Board of Directors or its Standing Committees, provided that such members acted or made such omission honestly, in good faith and without fraud or fraudulent intent.
2. The members of the Board of Directors or any of its Standing Committees shall declare any conflict of interest that may prejudice their participation in their duties and responsibilities with respect to any matters before the Board. Where such conflict of interest may occur, the member so affected, shall declare to the Board or its Standing Committees any likelihood of conflict of interest, and the facts relating thereto, and the Board or its Standing Committee shall then decide if such member may participate any further in the deliberations of the Board or its Standing Committees on such matters.

Article 9 Standing Committees

1. The Board may establish any number of Standing Committees and decide on the number of members of each committee, their duties and responsibilities, their term of office, their dismissal, replacement or re-appointment.
2. The Standing Committees shall include, but not limited to, the following:
 - (a) Finance and Audit; (b) Education and Publications; (c) Temple Services; (d) Constitution and rules; (e) Festivals; (f) Custodians; (g) Elections; (h) Credentials

Article 10 Banking

1. The Board of Directors shall select, from time to time, a Bank at which all banking and financial arrangements shall be transacted.
2. All funds received on behalf of the Centre shall be deposited in the account of the Centre at that Bank, within five (5) banking days of receipt.
3. The Board of Directors shall designate any of the following:
 - (a) The President; (b) The Secretary; (c) The Treasurer; (d) The Assistant Secretary Treasurer to be signing officers of the Centre's bank Account, one of whom shall be the Treasurer. The signing officers shall be responsible for signing all cheques. The President or Vice President, and the Secretary or the Treasurer shall sign all the legal documents of the Centre.
4. The Board of Directors may authorize a Petty Cash account with a fixed sum to be kept in such account for use by the Secretary and/or the Treasurer for payment of small expenses incurred for the Centre.

Article 11 Ancillary Associations

1. The Board of Directors may sponsor the formation of ancillary associations such as a Women Association, Seniors Association, Youth Association, in keeping with the objectives of the Centre.
2. Each such association may appoint its own officers and formulate its own Constitution, Bylaws and Standing Rules, with the approval of the Board of Directors of the Centre.

Article 12 Dissolution

In the event of the dissolution of the Centre, all of its debts shall first be paid and any remaining assets shall be distributed at the discretion of the Assembly, on the recommendation of the Board of Directors, to one or more registered Canadian Charitable Institutions that qualify as such under the Income Tax Act of Canada, in force at that time.

Article 13 Authority

1. The Centre shall be governed by this Constitution, Bylaws and Standing Rules, if any.
2. On any matters not governed by the Constitution, Bylaws and Standing rules, if any, any up to date guide to parliamentary Rules of Order shall be the parliamentary authority for the Centre.

Article 14

A. Amendments to the Constitution

1. Proposed amendments to this Constitution may be submitted to the Assembly by the Board of Directors or by a written petition to the Board signed by at least one-third of the members of the Centre.
2. The Board shall consider the proposed amendments before submitting its recommendations thereon to every member of the Centre, giving them thirty (30) days to consider the proposals and setting a date and time for the Assembly to vote on the said proposals.
3. A two thirds vote of the regular members of the Centre shall be required for the adoption of the amendment.
4. Where, due to inadequate attendance at the meeting of the Assembly called to adopt any proposed amendment to the Constitution, it is impossible to obtain the support of two-thirds (2/3) of the members of the Centre for the amendment, the meeting shall be postponed and a written notice of the date, time, place and business to be transacted at the new meeting shall be given to all members of the Centre allowing them thirty (30) days to consider the proposals.
5. At the new meeting a supporting vote of one-third (1/3) of the members of the Centre shall be sufficient to adopt the proposed amendment. At no time shall

this Constitution be amended by less than one-third (1/3) of the regular members of the Centre, in good standing, voting for the amendment.

6. Unless otherwise provided herein, the amendment shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

B. Bylaws

The Board of Directors may make By-laws and Standing Rules to regulate any matters appropriate thereto under this Constitution.

Article 15 Revocation and Substitution

1. All previous Constitutions, Amendments thereto, Bylaws and Deed of Trust are hereby repealed or revoked and in their place, this Constitution is hereby enacted and substituted.
2. This Constitution shall take effect on January 1st , 2005 upon approval and adoption by the Assembly.

Article 16 Definitions

In this Constitution unless the text otherwise requires:

“Absentee” means a member who is not present to perform his duties at a meeting of the Centre.

“Amendment” includes the power to alter, amend, repeal, revoke, replace or ratify the Constitution.

“Assembly” means the highest-ranking governing body of the Centre composed of all financial members of the Centre.

“Board of Directors” or “Board” means the governing body of the Centre handling all administrative functions.

“Centre” means the Hindu Cultural Centre of London, Ontario, Canada.

“Chair” means the person who presides over or conducts the business of the Centre’s deliberative body.

“Committee” means a body composed of regular members elected, selected, or appointed by the Board of Directors to perform specific tasks for the Centre and to report back to the Board.

“Constitution” means this basic governance document of the Centre.

“Floor amendment” means an amendment proposed by a regular member from the floor to any motions or resolutions.

“Majority vote” means more than half of the votes cast.

“Masculine” means that use of the masculine includes the feminine gender.

“Members of the Centre” for the purpose of Article 14 herein means the total number of regular members on the register of the Centre at any given time, eligible to vote.

“Nomination” means the procedure by which every regular member has the opportunity to nominate another regular member eligible and qualified to hold the elective position in the Centre, pursuant to the provisions of Article 4 (1) herein.

“Parliamentary authority” means any recent recognized book used as a guide and final authority on questions of procedure not covered in the Constitution, Bylaws and Standing Rules.

“Regular Member” means a person in good standing whose fee has been fully paid and is eligible to participate in all activities of the Centre and entitled to vote at meetings of the Assembly.

“Singular” means the use of the singular includes the plural.

“Spouses” means husband and wife.

“Staggered terms” means that the terms of Board or Committee members are arranged in such a way that only a certain portion of the Board members’ terms end in a given year.

“Standing rules” means the rules of the Centre governing matters of procedure that continue from meeting to meeting.

“Term of Office” means the period of time that a Board member serves in office after appointment or election.

End of the Constitution