



International Ombudsman Institute
Institut International de l'Ombudsman
Instituto Internacional del Ombudsman

North American Region / Région de l'Amérique du Nord

RULES FOR THE NORTH AMERICAN REGION OF THE IOI

Whereas the International Ombudsman Institute (the "IOI") is the only internationally recognized body that is comprised "parliamentary/legislative -classical type" Ombudsman in the world.

Whereas in Canada and the United States of America, a number of Ombudsman institutions have been created at the national, provincial, state, territorial, and local or city level to investigate complaints of unfair treatment by public sector bodies and officials.

Whereas in 1996, the membership of the IOI voted pursuant to the IOI By-Laws and resolved to create regional IOI groupings within its membership. The North American Region of the IOI was formally established at that time. The objective was to allow members to participate more fully in the IOI and provide a platform for the members of the respective IOI Regions to communicate more effectively and share information and experiences in their respective jurisdictions.

Now therefore this document records the rules for the operation of the North American Region and the election of its Directors, including a Regional President, as adopted by the Ombudsman of the Region on **August 27, 2019** and supersedes any and all of the previous rules of the North American Region.

1. The members of the Region shall be those Ombudsman of the Region who have been admitted to membership of the IOI and are in good standing.
2. The organization of the Region's affairs shall be the responsibility of the Directors of the IOI elected to represent the Region. The Directors shall by agreement between them determine their own procedures.
3. The Regional President shall act as Chairperson of meetings of members of the Region dealing with IOI matters.
4. The Directors may make such rules as are necessary to ensure the smooth functioning and operation of the Region as are not inconsistent with any of the proceeding rules or any By-laws of the Institute.



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5. The Directors may determine what regional initiatives should be undertaken subject to first ascertaining the views of members of the Region by such means as the Directors consider to be most appropriate in the circumstances.
6. The members may by a majority vote, alter, amend or add to these rules at any time and from time to time.
7. The Directors shall arrange for an annual meeting of members of the Region.

Regional Board Elections

8. By a date set by the Secretary General of the IOI, each Region or the Secretary General, if the Regional President is standing for re-election, will invite written nominations for candidates for the Regional Board members' positions (directors). The North American Region currently operates with three (3) directors in accordance with the IOI By-Laws. These directors not only serve as the North American Region's Board but also on the IOI Board of Directors.
9. Each candidate must be in good standing, nominated and seconded using a specific nomination form that will be provided by the IOI. Once an election is called nominations will need to be received within twenty-eight (28) days.
10. Each nomination must be accompanied by a brief (250-word maximum) statement setting out the candidate's career achievements and outlining their aspirations for the IOI, if elected. It may be possible to include multimedia in the nomination statement, depending on the tools used for the election process. On closure of the nomination period the Regional President or Secretary General if the Regional President is standing for election, will prepare a list of properly nominated candidates.
11. Members will be invited to vote for up to three (3) directors. Voting will close fourteen (14) days after commencing. In the event of a tie, the candidates with equal votes will be placed on a list and a further election will be conducted.
12. Once the Regional directors are elected, elections can take place for the Executive Officers (as per the IOI election process). It is only after this election that the North American Region will hold its election for its Regional President.



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Election of Regional President

13. If the current Regional President intends to run, it is the Secretary General who will invite nominations for the Regional President. There will be 14 days to submit nominations. If not, the Regional President will invite the nominations.
14. Only Directors who are not elected as Executive Officers of the IOI are eligible for nomination.
15. To be nominated, a candidate must be in good standing, nominated, and seconded. Each nomination is to be accompanied by a brief statement setting out the candidate's career achievements and aspirations for the IOI if elected (candidates can rely on a previous statement).
16. If there is only one candidate, there will still be a process for a yes/no vote so that they are endorsed.
17. Prior to every General Assembly, there will be an Election Committee struck. The regional ballot will be overseen by the North American Regional representative on the Election Committee.

Casual Vacancies

18. A Director shall resign his/her office as a Director on vacating office as an Ombudsman.
19. Any vacancies caused by the death, resignation or retirement of a Director shall be filled by the remaining North American Directors or the Secretary General by holding an election, or by the remaining North American Region Directors appointing another North American Region voting member who is in good standing with the IOI. If the vacancy is within twelve (12) months of the next planned election, this position may be left vacant.

Amendment to the Rules

20. The Regional Directors may make such rules as are necessary to ensure the smooth functioning and operation of the Region and as are not inconsistent with any of the preceding rules or any By-Laws of the IOI.



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21. The members may by a majority vote, in writing, to alter, amend or add to these rules at any time and from time to time.