



FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE CNE / CNEA
ENCLOSURE TO THE MEMBER ORGANIZATION APPOINTMENT LETTER

Member Benefits & Opportunities

Your organization can help shape the future of the CNE Association and the CNE event as a Member Organization and through your Member representative “Appointee”.

Your **representative Appointee** will:

- receive CNE (the ‘Ex’) event admission credentials and be able to provide feedback on the CNE event
- receive regular CNE newsletter communication updates
- be eligible to run for election to the CNEA Board of Directors or CNEA Executive positions (exception: municipal section / section 1 of the association)
- participate on CNEA Committees, Sub-Committees and Task Forces
- attend and vote at CNEA Annual Meeting(s)
- be invited to attend CNEA member engagement & networking events
- receive corporate CNE discounts for the Ex and/or other associated events or partnerships
- receive other CNEA Member benefits that are offered
- help be a CNE champion/ambassador

As a **CNEA Member**, your organization will:

- be invited to showcase your organization free of charge during the Canadian National Exhibition fair (in late summer) at the CNEA Membership Booth. A separate communication will be sent regarding this benefit. Please note that the establishment of the booth is dependent on sufficient demand by Member Organizations. Reservations for the booth are taken on a first come, first serve basis.
- receive regular CNE newsletter communication updates
- receive corporate CNE discounts for the Ex admission tickets and/or other associated events or partnerships
- be offered an opportunity to coordinate community tickets for communities-in-need associated with your organization
- be invited to attend CNEA networking events e.g., exhibits or speakers
- receive other CNEA Member benefits that are offered

**CNEA membership benefits are dependent on factors including but not limited to the CNEA’s ability to offer various benefits and invitations to events.*

Annual Meeting(s) & Appointee Attendance

There is at least one general meeting for the CNEA Membership each year. Please take note of the meeting details and meeting attendance requirements.

The CNEA By-Laws Article VI, Section 6.5 states:

Every Member and Member organization's representative appointed by an association, society or other body is expected to attend in person the Annual Meeting and any Special Meetings of the Association. If a Community-at-Large Member or an organization's representative fails to attend at least one-half of the meetings over a four-year period, the Community-at-Large Member or the association, society or other body must submit a letter of explanation to the Corporate Secretary for consideration by the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall review the explanation and determine whether the representative of the association, society or other body will be permitted to continue as that Member's representative, or the Member will be asked to appoint a replacement representative. Alternatively, the Executive Committee may recommend to the Board the removal of the association, society, or other body as a Member of the CNEA. In the case of a Community-at-Large Member, the Executive Committee may accept the explanation and retain the Member's status or recommend to the Board the removal of the Community-at-Large Member. The Board shall make the final decision on any removal recommendations.

The CNEA Membership organization appointees are invited to attend the Annual Meeting and vote on the Board elections and any other matters brought forward for a vote. Additional representatives from each CNEA Member Organization are welcome to attend but are requested to RSVP and do not have voting rights. There are no proxy votes.

Governance Structure

The CNE is governed by the Canadian National Exhibition Association (CNEA), a not-for-profit and an Agricultural Society without share capital incorporated by a Special Act of the Legislature of Ontario. The CNEA and its volunteer Board of Directors operate under the jurisdiction of both this provincial act, *An Act respecting the Canadian National Exhibition Association*, and the *Agricultural & Horticultural Organizations Act of Ontario*.

CNEA Strategic Plan

In 2017, the CNEA initiated a strategic planning process to set out a direction for the organization. The plan set a path on exploration of programming and revenue diversification for the CNEA, while respecting its roots as an agricultural society, showcasing the organization's history with and continued commitment to the promotion of innovation, and striving to be best in class in all aspects of governance and management. The 2017 Strategic Plan is outdated. A 2024 Strategic Plan is near completion and would be rolled out at the annual meeting. The 2017 Strategic Plan included the following:

Vision: Inspiring Canadians. Creating memories.

Mission: To enrich our community by celebrating the past, showcasing the present, and promoting the future.

Values: Fun, respect, stewardship, accountability, embrace learning and innovation, loyal to our history and traditions, client focused excellence, inclusivity, diversity, accessibility and reconciliation.

Board of Directors: Elections and Eligibility

Each Member Organization 'Appointee' is eligible to nominate or be nominated as a Director of the CNEA Board of Directors (with the exception of those in the municipal section of the membership who are appointed, per the CNEA Act & By-Laws).

Further information about structure, eligibility and election process will be communicated directly to all new and returning CNE Association Member Appointees in the lead up to Board elections to take place at the Annual Meeting (currently held in the spring of each year).

Governance changes forthcoming

The Board has approved governance changes in order to modernize the organization through the CNEA Act. These changes are yet to be effective as they need to be presented and approved through the Ontario private legislation process with the final step, approval by the Provincial Legislature. Communications will be rolled out to membership when applicable.

Mandate

CNEA objects are expressly referred to in the CNEA Act. The objects are broadly defined to include exhibitions established either permanently or periodically for the promotion of industries, arts, and science generally. The Act lists a number of express activities including activities related to animals, vegetables, and minerals; activities related to products, wares, goods, merchandise, machinery, inventions and processes of manufacture; paintings and statuary; livestock competitions; and such other exhibitions that support the objects defined under the Act. Building upon the list of exhibition activities, the CNEA Act also highlights entertainment and amusement authorizing exhibition by means of music, shows or other attractions. The Association is given typical corporate powers to enter into contracts, own or lease property, develop grounds, etc. to facilitate such exhibitions. It is also expressly authorized to lease to third parties to facilitate the holding of exhibitions. An umbrella clause provides the Board with the authority to "do such other matters and things as will be in conformity with the objects and purposes of the Association".

Under the CNEA Act, the CNEA is deemed to be an "agricultural society" that is subject to the Agricultural and Horticultural Organizations Act ("AHOA"). Section 28 of that Act describes the objects of an agricultural society, which include encouraging awareness of agriculture and improving the quality of life of persons living in agricultural communities by:

- Conducting research and develop supporting agricultural programs
- Staging agricultural exhibitions
- Conserving natural resources
- Beautifying agricultural communities
- Conducting activities and providing facilities to enrich rural life
- Conducting or promoting horse racing

The Agricultural & Horticultural Organizations Act of Ontario objects also include matters such as eradication of pests and encouraging youth involvement in agricultural activities.

Highlights of the annual CNE Event Program include:

- Entertainment
- Concerts
- The Farm
- Food
- Shopping
- Rides
- Games
- Kids' World programming
- Exhibits
- Park Entertainers & interactive experiences
- CNE Gaming Garage
- A three-day Air Show (on Labour Day Weekend)

Stay In Touch

The CNE website is www.theex.com and more about the governance structure and Board can be found here: <https://www.theex.com/our-organization/> .

You are encouraged to keep in touch and help get the word out about the CNE by connecting with us online on the various social media channels:

- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/TheEx>
X: <https://twitter.com/letsgototheex>
Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/letsgototheex/>
YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/CNEToronto>
TikTok: <https://www.tiktok.com/@letsgototheex>

Additional contacts in your organization can request to be added to the CNEA e-newsletter communications with a request to the Corporate Secretariat.

As of April 2024.