

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I: NAME

1. The organization shall be known as the Canadian Women Economists Network/Réseau de Femmes Économistes.

ARTICLE II: OBJECTIVES AS A MISSION STATEMENT

Canadian Women Economists Network/Réseau de Femmes Économistes (CWEN/RFÉ) was founded in 1990 to address the networking needs of women economists and to promote the advancement of women in the economics profession.

As a network of economists, CWEN/RFÉ's objectives are:

1. To create an opportunity for women economists to meet and discuss issues of common interest at the Canadian Economics Association meetings.
2. To ensure appropriate representation of women economists and their interests in professional activities and forums.
3. To improve employment opportunities for Canadian women economists.

ARTICLE III: LANGUAGES

1. English and French are the official languages of the Network. Either language may be used in its publications and at its meetings.

ARTICLE IV: MEMBERSHIP

1. Membership is open to all individuals who are interested in the objectives of the Network.

ARTICLE V: EXECUTIVE AND GOVERNANCE

1. The Executive Committee shall be composed of at least six and no more than nine elected members who shall be elected by the CWEN/RFÉ membership. The elected positions are President, President-Elect, Vice President, Treasurer/Secretary, CEA Liaison, Communications Officer, and Members-at-Large. In addition, the Past-President will be a voting member of the Executive.
2. Elected members shall normally serve for three-year terms, which shall overlap in such a way that, approximately one-third of the membership changes annually. Normally, members shall not serve for more than six successive years.
3. The term of the President shall be for one year. Normally, the same person shall not serve as President for more than two terms.
4. The President-Elect will normally become President in the following year. The Vice-President will normally become President-Elect in the following year. Any vacancies in these posts will be filled as discussed in Article VI.

ARTICLE VI: NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS

1. Vacancies on the CWEN/RFÉ Executive shall be advertised by way of electronic announcement distributed on the CWEN/RFÉ list serve and posted on the CWEN/RFÉ web page.
2. Nominations shall be submitted to the CWEN/RFÉ Executive at least one month before the annual general business meeting of CWEN/RFÉ.

3. The Executive Committee shall bring all nominations received to the notice of CWEN/RFÉ members. The Executive Committee may solicit more nominations in order to provide, to the extent feasible, a reasonable distribution along geographic, racial, ethnic and linguistic lines.
4. The CWEN/RFÉ members in attendance at the annual general business meeting of CWEN/RFÉ shall elect the members of the Executive Committee from the final list of nominees. If there is more than one candidate for any position, members in attendance will vote by secret ballot. The candidate attracting the most votes will be elected. If there is only one candidate for a position, that candidate will be elected by acclamation.
5. When a casual vacancy occurs on the Executive Committee, the Executive shall elect a replacement to serve the remainder of the term. A casual vacancy may be advertised at any time, and the election may take place at any Executive meeting.

ARTICLE VII: DUTIES OF OFFICERS

1. The President of the Network shall preside at all meetings of the Network and the Executive Committee. The President, with the assistance of the executive, shall be responsible for organizing both the CWEN/RFÉ sessions at the CEA meetings as well as the CWEN/RFÉ luncheon, or designating persons to organize such. The President shall perform other duties in furtherance of the objectives of the Network as may be required, subject to approval of the Executive Committee. In the absence of the President, the President-Elect shall assume the presidential responsibilities.
2. The Secretary-Treasurer shall, subject to the direction of the Executive, keep records of the Network, receive and have custody of the funds, present an annual financial statement to the Executive, and perform other duties as may be assigned. The financial year for the network will be May 1 to April 31, and the financial report prepared by the Secretary-Treasurer before the Canadian Economics Association annual meetings.
3. The Communications Officer shall hold primary responsibility for publication and distribution of information about the Network and of other information of interest to its members, and for maintenance of the website.
4. The CEA Liaison will normally be a member of the CEA executive, and shall be the Network's primary contact and liaison with affiliated organizations, including but not limited to the Canadian Economic Association executive.
5. The Executive shall have charge of the general interests of the Network, shall call the annual and any special meetings, appropriate money, appoint committees and their chairs with appropriate powers, have general responsibility for the communications of the Network, and in general possess the governing power of the Network.

ARTICLE VIII. CWEN/RFÉ FUNCTIONS

1. Organization of sessions at the Canadian Economics Association annual meetings.
2. Organization of a CWEN/RFÉ luncheon and luncheon speaker at the Canadian Economics Association annual meetings.
3. Maintenance of a webpage for publication of news of Network activities, opportunities (including job opportunities) and resources of interest to women economists.
4. Maintenance of an electronic mail network to provide easy and low-cost communication among subscribers interested in issues concerning Canadian women economists.
5. Communication of network activities to its membership.
6. Periodic surveying and monitoring of the status of women economists in Canada.
7. Continuous consideration and exploration of new ways to facilitate and promote the goal of gender equity in the Canadian economics profession.
8. Pursuit and maintenance of active connections with affiliated organizations within Canada and internationally.

ARTICLE IX. MODE OF OPERATION AND VOTING PROCEDURES

1. CWEN/RFÉ will hold one annual general business meeting at the meetings of the Canadian Economics Association.
2. Ten members of CWEN/RFÉ shall be deemed a quorum and a majority vote shall control its decision with the exception of constitutional amendments as described in Article XII, Section 2.
3. Voting by the membership may be conducted electronically. Any member may request a secret ballot. In the absence of any request to vote by secret ballot, the vote shall be public. Secret voting shall be conducted by the distribution of an electronic ballot to be printed off and returned by post in a double envelope.
4. The Executive Committee shall hold at least one meeting a year. This meeting may be held in person at the annual meetings of the Canadian Economics Association or it may be conducted electronically via e-mail.
5. Voting of the Executive Committee shall follow those procedures established for the membership, as described in Article IX, Section 3.
6. A majority of the Executive Committee shall control its decisions.

ARTICLE X. REPORTING

1. The CWEN/RFÉ Executive shall submit its annual report to the membership at the annual business meeting.

ARTICLE XI. FEE STRUCTURE

1. Annual membership fees will be determined by the executive and posted on the website before the annual meeting.

ARTICLE XII. AMENDMENTS

1. Proposed changes to this constitution must be moved and seconded by members of CWEN/RFÉ, and published on the CWEN/RFÉ website at least one month before the annual general business meeting at which the proposed change is considered.
2. Amendments shall be adopted when approved by at least two thirds of those members in attendance.

Passed by the Executive April 16, 2010; pending approval by the membership at the annual meeting on May 28, 2010.