

Introduction to Incorporation

At the upcoming 2009 Annual General Meeting, members will be asked to consider a motion to incorporate the Canadian Friends Historical Association through the Ontario Historical Society. More and more historical associations, large and small, are incorporating to ensure long-term stability for officers and members.

The following are frequently asked questions about incorporation:

What?

Incorporation is the creation of a separate and legal entity recognized by government.

Why?

Incorporation:

- Protects the Executive and membership from debts or liabilities incurred by the Association.
- Legally recognizes and protects the name of the Association.
- Allows the Association to pursue grants from provincial and federal governments.
- Assures donors of the legal status and stability of the Association

Why incorporate through the OHS?

Incorporation is a time-consuming and potentially costly process in Canada. Affiliation in the Ontario Historical Society, under Section 10 of the 1899 act that created the OHS, allows for the automatic incorporation of such organizations.

How?

To apply for an OHS affiliation, CFHA must submit among various documents:

- A formal resolution passed at a General Meeting requesting affiliation.
- A copy of the Association's constitution and by-laws.
- A list of the Officers of the Association.

How much does it cost?

The OHS affiliation fee is a one-time fee of \$450.00, which includes a one-year affiliate membership in the OHS.

What role does the OHS play in CFHA?

The OHS has no formal role in the management or oversight of CFHA. It is a repository of the legal entity, and provides on-going management support to the Association. As an affiliated society, CFHA is responsible for keeping the OHS updated on its activities. CFHA will have further responsibilities to the provincial government (as it does federally as a result of CFHA's charity status).