



OATA Board of Directors Approves By-Law to Authorize Membership Transfers

At the OATA AGM held on April 5, 2014, several members raised concerns about the Membership Transfer By-Law amendment that had been approved by the Board and brought to the AGM for ratification as per the requirements of the *Corporations Act (Ontario)*. As a consequence, the new Board re-examined the wording of the By-Law amendment at its meeting on April 30. In doing so, the Board reviewed the audiotape of the discussion at the AGM. Regrettably, those who spoke to the Motion at the AGM didn't always use a microphone and so their points may not have been captured.

Nevertheless, from the audio tapes and from Board members' recollection, those who spoke against approval of the By-Law amendment did so on two grounds: One, that the wording of the amendment was unclear. Two, that CATA recognizes or is affiliated with athletic therapy organizations around the world and not just in Canada and that CATA recognizes voting members around the world, as well. The By-Law amendment as drafted was perceived as excluding individuals in such circumstances.

With respect to the concern about clarity, each Board member carefully reviewed the text of the By-Law amendment and found it sufficiently clear. Three changes were made, however. In two cases, "Association" was replaced by "Corporation" in order to be consistent with the rest of OATA By-Law #1. "CATA-recognized association" was replaced with the phrase "CATA Regional Chapter" for consistency with the terminology used in CATA's By-Laws.

(905) 946 – 8080

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With respect to the second concern, CATA's By-Laws recognize and list only seven "Regional Chapters" and they are all located in Canada (CATA By-Laws, clause 3.2). CATA's By-Laws do recognize "Certified International Voting" Members (clause 3.3.1.2), but do not define who or what those members are. Should those members be members in good standing of the OATA, the OATA Membership Transfer By-Law would not affect them in any event. The OATA By-Law applies only to OATA members who transfer to another CATA-recognized association.

CATA's By-Laws do not provide for inactive membership status. The OATA's By-Laws do because, as was explained that the AGM, the OATA is bringing its membership policies into line with those of RHPA Colleges in order to ease the transition to RHPA regulation.

With all of these considerations in mind, the Board approved the By-Law amendment as follows:

"3.8. Membership Transfers: The Secretary may grant Inactive Status to any Certified Member who becomes a member of another CATA Regional Chapter if proof of such membership is presented to the Secretary to the Secretary's reasonable satisfaction. Inactive membership status granted to such membership transferees may continue indefinitely. Said Inactive Member may return to Certified Member status in the Corporation without additional payment, other than the applicable membership fee, if his membership with the other Regional Chapter has been continuous since the granting of Inactive Status by the Corporation. Proof of continuous membership must be provided to the Secretary and the Inactive Member must satisfy the requirements for Certified Membership in the Corporation at the time of application."



As per the *Corporations Act (Ontario)* this By-Law is now in force and effect, but will be brought before the next AGM for ratification.

For anyone who still has concerns or questions about this By-Law, please contact the OATA Secretary at [oatamembership@gmail.com](mailto: oatamembership@gmail.com)