

By-laws of ContraMontreal

1. General

1.1. Name

1.1.1. The name of this organization is ContraMontreal.

1.2. Purpose

1.2.1. The purpose of the organization is to:

1.2.1.1. Hold folk dances, particularly contra dances, in the Montreal area.

1.2.1.2. Encourage the development of contra dancers, musicians and callers.

1.2.1.3. Build the contra dance community in Montreal.

1.2.1.4. Foster connections with other contra dance communities in Canada and the United States.

1.2.1.5. Foster connections with other folk dance and traditional music communities in Montreal.

1.3. Events

1.3.1. Events held by the organization shall generally be open to the public.

1.3.2. The organization may hold private events.

1.3.3. The organization may hold events on behalf of other organizations.

1.3.4. The organization, by vote of the organizing committee, may ban individuals from attending its events.

1.3.5. The organization may immediately expel individuals from an event for any reason.

1.4. Language

1.4.1. The organization chooses to conduct its affairs in English.

1.4.2. The organization may choose to hold events in any language.

2. Organizing Committee

2.1. Definition

2.1.1. The organization shall be run by an organizing committee.

2.1.2. The organizing committee shall be made up of people called organizers.

2.2. Organizers

2.2.1. The organizing committee shall be made up of between six and twelve organizers.

2.2.2. If the size of the organizing committee falls below six, the organizing committee shall appeal to the community to find new organizers.

2.2.3. Organizers may join the committee at any time with the consent of the existing committee.

2.2.4. Organizers may leave the committee at any time.

2.2.5. Organizers may be removed from the committee by vote of the organizing committee.

2.3. Duties

2.3.1. Organizers must read, understand, and agree to enforce these by-laws.

- 2.3.2. Organizers must support the organization in its mission.
- 2.3.3. Organizers must follow the organization's code of conduct at its events.
- 2.3.4. Organizers must follow the organization's code of conduct when representing or discussing the organization in public, including at other dance events and on the internet.

3. Officers

3.1. Definition

- 3.1.1. Officers are organizers with some additional responsibility.
- 3.1.2. All offices must be filled at all times by exactly one organizer.
- 3.1.3. Organizers may only hold one office at a time.
- 3.1.4. The organizing committee may temporarily designate another organizer to fulfill some or all of an officer's duties.

3.2. Terms

- 3.2.1. Officers must be elected by vote of the organizing committee in August or September.
- 3.2.2. Officers will hold their position for one year terms, starting on October 1.
- 3.2.3. Outgoing officers may choose to resign after the election in which case the incoming officer will serve the remainder of the term.
- 3.2.4. Officers may be elected to and serve an unlimited number of terms.
- 3.2.5. Officers may resign from their office at any time, and may optionally remain an organizer.
- 3.2.6. Officers may be removed from their office by vote of the organizing committee, and may optionally be kept as an organizer.

3.3. President

- 3.3.1. The president serves as chief executive of the organization.
- 3.3.2. The president calls organizer meetings and facilitates these meetings.
- 3.3.3. In extraordinary circumstances, the president may, with the agreement of at least two other organizers, act in a way that both preserves the continuity of and is in the best interests of the organization, even if it conflicts with some of these by-laws.

3.4. Secretary

- 3.4.1. The secretary will take notes at all meetings.
- 3.4.2. The secretary will record the results of all votes in these notes.
- 3.4.3. The secretary will make these notes available to other organizers.
- 3.4.4. The secretary will maintain the list of organizers and officers.

3.5. Treasurer

- 3.5.1. The treasurer will record all financial transactions of the organization.
- 3.5.2. The treasurer will produce financial reports for the organization.

4. Meetings

4.1. About

- 4.1.1. Organizer meetings shall be called by the president, or by the agreement of any other three organizers.
- 4.1.2. No quorum shall be required to hold a meeting.

4.2. Votes

- 4.2.1. Votes may be proposed by any organizer.
- 4.2.2. A majority of all organizers must be present in order to hold a vote.
- 4.2.3. A majority of all organizers, including those absent, must vote yes in order for a vote to pass.

5. Finances

5.1. Fiscal Year

- 5.1.1. The organization will begin its fiscal year on August 1st.
- 5.1.2. The treasurer will prepare a financial report to be presented after the conclusion of the fiscal year.

5.2. Expenses

- 5.2.1. The organization will only spend any profits received toward the furtherance of the goals listed in Section 1.2 Purpose, or to ensure the continuation of the organization.
- 5.2.2. All expenses must be authorized by two organizers, at least one of whom is either the president or the treasurer.
- 5.2.3. The president and treasurer must be authorized signatories. Any other organizers may be appointed to be an authorized signatory. Any one authorized signatory may conduct transactions approved as in Section 5.2.2.
- 5.2.4. All incomes and expenses must be reported immediately to the treasurer.
- 5.2.5. The organization may, by vote of the organizing committee, request the reimbursement of any unreasonable or unauthorized expense from the person responsible for such expense.

5.3. Equipment

- 5.3.1. The organization may own physical assets such as sound equipment.
- 5.3.2. Organizers and other community members may, with the organizing committee's permission, borrow the organization's equipment for personal use, provided it is not currently in use by the organization and that it is returned in the same condition. The organization may charge a rental fee for this equipment.
- 5.3.3. The organization may borrow equipment from organizers and other community members and may, with the organizing committee's permission, pay a rental fee for the equipment.

5.4. Pay

- 5.4.1. Organizers shall not be paid for their work as an organizer, but may receive other small benefits such as free admission to events.
- 5.4.2. The organization may pay others for their work, including musicians, callers, and sound technicians. Organizers may be hired and paid for these positions, but shall not be paid more than a non-organizer would be paid.

5.5. Liquidation

- 5.5.1. In the case that the organization is dissolved, the organization shall attempt to redistribute its assets to the community by hosting free events. If this is not possible, or for assets that cannot be distributed in this way,

assets may be distributed among organizers and other community members.

6. Liability

6.1. The organization will purchase reasonable insurance for its organizers and events.

7. Establishment

7.1. The organization has existed without by-laws since at least the year 2000.

7.2. These by-laws were voted on by the existing organizers of ContraMontreal on 10 September 2025.

7.3. These by-laws will take effect on 10 September 2025.

7.4. The organizers as of this date are listed below.

8. Amendments

8.1. These by-laws may be amended by the passing of a vote by the organizing committee.

8.2. These by-laws may be dissolved or replaced with the unanimous consent of the organizing committee.

Organizers:

Jacob deGroot-Maggetti

Marie-Michèle Fournier

Neil Guertin

Jen Jack

Grace Hendrickson-Jones

Claude Richard

Nicholas Smith

Emily Thomason

Jonathan Werk