

Statutes of the Association Atheist Freethinkers (AFT)

Adopted at the first annual general meeting, 13th July 2011

(disponible aussi en français)

Name & Address

The name of the association is:

- "Libres penseurs athées" in French; or
- "Atheist Freethinkers" in English.

The abbreviated name of the association is:

- "LPA" in French; or
- "AFT" in English.

The association has been registered with the Québec *Registraire des entreprises* since 19th July 2010.

The Québec enterprise number (NEQ) of the association is: 3366721051

The postal address of the association is:

Atheist Freethinkers
P. O. Box 58556, Station Complexe Les Ailes
Montréal, Québec H3B 5K4 Canada

The email addresses of the association are: AFT@atheisme.ca and LPA@atheisme.ca

Goals

The goals of the association are the following:

1. to promote philosophical materialism, atheism, critical thought and secularism; and
2. to defend atheists and other nonbelievers against religious denigration.

The detailed goals of the association are expressed in its statement of principles.

Statement of Principles

The "Atheist Manifesto" included with this document, signed by the seven founding members and adopted by them in 2010, constitutes the statement of principles of the association. In case of any difference in meaning between the Manifesto in English and the French version "Manifeste athée", the French version takes precedence.

Languages

The languages of the association are French and English. In case of any difference in meaning between this document and its French version "Statuts de l'association Libres penseurs athées (LPA)", the French version takes precedence.

Bilingualism is desirable but not required. If an official document of the association is produced in both languages, then the precedence of one version over the other must be declared.

Membership

To be a member of the association, an individual must:

1. be a signatory of the Atheist Manifesto; and
2. pay the appropriate membership fee.

Normally the membership fee is paid annually. The annual fee is \$10 (Canadian funds), but may be modified by the association at its annual meeting.

An individual may also become a lifetime member by paying a fee equal to fifteen (15) times the annual fee, i.e. \$150 (Canadian funds), but this fee may be modified by the association at its annual meeting. If the lifetime membership fee is modified, that does not affect the membership of anyone who is already a lifetime member.

The association may, by a vote taken at its annual general meeting, decide to offer membership without fee to one or several individuals for exceptional reasons.

A member may resign by informing the association in writing of his or her decision. Membership fees are not refunded in such a case.

Meetings

The association must hold at least one meeting annually, the annual general meeting. The period elapsed between one annual general meeting and the subsequent one may not exceed eighteen (18) months.

For the first annual general meeting, i.e. in 2011, the signatories of the Manifesto who wish to become members may pay their membership fee at the meeting itself.

For subsequent annual general meetings, an individual must be a member in good standing for at least thirty (30) days preceding the meeting in order to have voting rights at the meeting. A written convocation must be sent to members, by post or by electronic means, at least thirty (30) days before the annual general meeting.

Board of Directors

The Board of Directors consists of three directors, elected by the association's members. They are:

1. President
2. Treasurer
3. Secretary

Directors are not paid.

Directors must be members in good standing of the association.

The election of directors takes place at the annual general meeting.

The directors are elected for a mandate of one (1) year. More precisely, their mandate begins at the moment of their election and lasts until the annual general meeting of the following year.

The directors are responsible for the financial assets of the association.

The quorum for a decision of the Board of Directors is two (2) directors.

At each annual meeting, the outgoing Board of Directors must present a financial report covering the period since the previous year's annual meeting.

Voting

At the annual general meeting, the election of directors is done in a single ballot. The three candidates who receive the greatest number of votes are elected to the Board of Directors. These three newly elected directors must decide which director will take which role, and inform the attending members of their decision, before the adjournment of the meeting. The person having obtained the fourth greatest number of votes becomes a substitute director in case of the absence of one of the three directors.

For the first annual general meeting, i.e. in 2011, only those members physically present have voting rights. For subsequent annual general meetings, the Board of Directors in place when the meeting is convoked may decide to permit voting at a distance on the condition that trustworthy and secure voting procedures be put in place before and during the annual general meeting at which the elections will take place.

Committees

The Board of Directors may name or dissolve permanent or temporary committees as it sees fit.