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VANCOUVER JAPANESE LANGUAGE SCHOOL & JAPANESE HALL
バンクーバー日本語学校並びに日系人会館

475 Alexander Street, Vancouver, BC, Canada V6A 1C6
t 604-254-2551 f 604-254-9556 e vjls@vjls-jh.com

MEMBERSHIP GUIDE / INFORMATION SHEET

Dear Applicant:

We appreciate your interest in the Vancouver Japanese Language School & Japanese Hall (VJLS-JH). This application has information and supplemental documents to support your understanding of who we are as an organization, your rights and obligations as a member, and the process of application.

GENERAL BACKGROUND:

Recently, VJLS-JH transitioned to a structure based on governance, which is fully compliant with the Societies Act of British Columbia. As stakeholders accustomed to the old system may not have a full understanding of this change, we are providing this overview. Please review the governance chart [here](#).

Previously, until 2020, membership was tied to tuition/registration as a long-time operational practice. This practice was not uniformly understood, applied or reflected in the bylaws. Under the new clarified governance structure, this subscription/membership practice has been separated from operations and it is no longer a requirement to become a member in order to take a class or participate in any program/event. We recognize that there is a difference between being a student/participant in a program/class and being a member of the society with an interest in the overall governance of the organization, its constitution, its mission, and its fiduciary concerns.

Please refer to our Stakeholder Groups Chart of Benefits [here](#).

CURRENT MEMBERSHIP & FEES:

Previously, membership was tied to our fiscal term, which ends annually on August 31. This is no longer the case. Under the new governance structure, the membership term now begins at the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting (AGM) until the following AGM, for those who apply and are accepted.

The current membership list as at August 31, 2020 has been extended by Board resolution to the end of the 2020 AGM. All new applications received and accepted by the Board from September 1, 2020 will be valid to the end of the 2020 AGM, which will occur before February 2, 2021.

The current membership fee is \$20. The 2021 fee is yet to be announced.

For an explanation from our current bylaws about membership and our past practice, please click [here](#).

VJLS-JH CONSTITUTION (filed June 27, 1994):



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- 1) To promote and foster the study of the Japanese language and culture;
- 2) To provide adequate physical facilities and academic instruction for the study and understanding of the Japanese language and culture;
- 3) To advance multi-cultural and multilingual understanding
- 4) To assist interested persons or groups in encouraging all of the above;
- 5) To pursue any other objective that may be incidental to any of the above.

VJLS-JH's LONG-STANDING HISTORY

It is important for our members to understand our resilient and venerable history. We have faced and overcome many diverse challenges and had many victories since our founding in 1906, which is a testament to our resilience and strength as a community organization.

Please read a brief version of our history, from a governance perspective, [here](#).

APPLICATION PROCESS:

- 1) Review the VJLS-JH Constitution (as above) and Mission:

MISSION:

Promote through educational and event programming the understanding of Japanese language and culture to all Canadians. Actively uphold the history of Vancouver's Nikkei community and to facilitate cultural exchange with other multicultural, neighbourhood and international groups.

Our ultimate objective is to strengthen and enrich inter-cultural communication and understanding among our students and the broader local and global community.

- 2) We strongly encourage you to review all the supplementary documents, including the bylaws, and browse our website at www.vjls-jh.com to familiarize yourself with the organization prior to submitting your application. The current bylaws can be found under: About – Accountability tab.
- 3) Download the Application form [here](#).
- 4) Email your completed form to the Board Secretary at membership@vjls-jh.com. You may also hand deliver your application to our office at 475 Alexander Street, Vancouver, BC, attention: Board Secretary.
- 5) Your completed application will be reviewed and a member of the Governance committee will contact you regarding the status of your application and next steps, if any.



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- 6) Fees will only be charged upon the acceptance of your application. Upon acceptance of your application, you will receive an email with a link to make an online payment.

Thank you for your time and interest. We appreciate your support and interest in the governance of VJLS-JH.

Sincerely,

The Governance Committee

FOR REFERENCE AND NOTES ONLY:

LINKED DOCS:

- 1) [Organization chart](#)
- 2) [Stakeholder Groups Chart of Benefits](#)
- 3) [Current bylaw membership info & past practice](#)
- 4) [Governance Perspective Brief History](#)
- 5) [Membership Application](#)