



Mississauga Christian Homeschool Association Constitution

Article 1 - Definition and Purpose

Mississauga Christian Homeschool Association is a co-operative Christian support group for home schooling families in the Mississauga area. We base our policies and action on Christian principles and take the Bible as our moral and spiritual guide. As home schooling families we come together with the common goal of supporting one another (i.e., emotionally, spiritually through prayer, intellectually through input and feedback on curriculum and physically through the organization of activities) in the important task of educating our children. Our main purpose is not only to provide support but to set up the necessary educational, social, physical and spiritual interactions for our children through various extra-curricular activities. We also strive to promote home schooling through seminars and mail-outs thus informing the general public of the option to home school and of the existence of support groups.

PLEASE NOTE:

- We are not qualified to give legal advice. We can, however, direct you to the Home School Legal Defense Association of Canada.
- We do not supply curriculum, nor do we advise you on your choice of curriculum. We can, however, provide some input on our individual personal preferences. Please keep in mind that these are suggestions only and what works for one family may or may not work for yours.

Article 2 - Statement of Faith

1. We believe the Bible is the infallible, authoritative Word of God.
2. We believe that there is only one God eternally existent in three persons: God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.
3. We believe in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, His virgin birth, and that the central purpose of His coming was to pay the penalty for man's sin through His substitutionary death on the cross. We further believe in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father and in His personal return to power and glory.
4. We believe that salvation is a gift from God offered freely to all and is granted solely on individual repentance and the acceptance of Jesus Christ as Saviour.

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life. (John 3:16)

For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God, not as a result of works, that no one should boast. (Ephesians 2:8,9)

Article 3 - Statement of Family and Education

1. We believe in and support the traditional family unit as created by God. As such we understand a family to mean a man and a woman who are legally married. This core family unit is extended to include any children that are born as a result of their union. (Genesis 1:26-28; 2:24). We also recognize single parent, adoptive, foster and step family units (James 1:27).
2. We believe that the ultimate responsibility for the welfare, socialization and education of our children belongs to the parents (Deuteronomy 4:1-4, 6:1-25).
3. We further believe that home schooling is a God-given, legal and constitutional right to be exercised to the fullest including the right to determine the content, process and timing of this education. We support sound, high-quality, home-based, educational programs for the purpose of developing Christian character and satisfying the spiritual, intellectual, physical and emotional growth needs of our children.

Article 4 - Membership and Expectations

1. Membership is open to all home schooling families or individuals who are in agreement with the Mississauga Christian Homeschool Association Constitution both in theory and practice.
2. It is expected that the home schooling family is one in which there is at least one child who is currently being educated at home.
3. It is expected that all members support the group by paying their annual dues to cover the costs of stationery, photocopying, mailings, certain activities, etc.
4. All members are expected to participate in group activities whenever possible - this includes both children and parents. Parents should be available to supervise and or discipline their children. Furthermore, all parents are expected to help out where needed to ensure a successful home school year for all.
5. Parents are expected to encourage their children to fully participate in the events that they attend. Allowing children to "opt out" of specific event activities is strongly discouraged.
6. Children and parents are expected to conduct themselves in a moral and ethical manner consistent with the values taught by our Christian faith. Rude, aggressive and violent behaviour or language will not be tolerated. Parents are responsible not only for their own behaviour but also the behaviour of their children. If an incident does occur, the responsibility rests with the parents to rectify the problem immediately.

Article 5 – Privacy Policy

1. All personal information about member families must be kept strictly private. It is the responsibility of each member to protect the membership roster and any other list with personal member information on it and to ensure it is not distributed to any other persons.
2. Member contact information may be used for home school support purposes only. The information may not be used for solicitation purposes of any kind.
3. Those who do not renew their membership with the group continue to be responsible for protecting the privacy of personal member information obtained while in membership.

Article 6 - Leadership Team

1. Volunteers provide the leadership for the Mississauga Christian Homeschool Association. These are men and women who choose to undertake a service or activity of their own volition, without being compelled or coerced.
2. Volunteer leaders are members who serve or act for the benefit of others and do not receive a salary or wage.
3. They must profess faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour.
4. A minimum of three people and maximum of seven will serve on the leadership team.
5. The leadership team is responsible for the effective planning, sound financial accountability, and administration of the group. They are responsible for communicating with the membership in all areas that affect the functioning of the group. In addition, they have responsibility for any interactions with local governments, businesses or associations. They guide and coordinate much of the group's activities and call general meetings of the membership as necessary.
6. Only those who have been active members of the group for a minimum of two years may serve on the leadership team.
7. New leaders are invited by the current leadership team to serve on the leadership team. New leaders are generally selected from amongst the members who are most active in the group.
8. Only one adult member from each member family may serve on the Leadership Team at any one time.

Article 7 - Amendments

Amendments to the constitution may be made at any regular business meeting provided each amendment shall have been presented in writing at a previous business meeting. This previous meeting must be held at least one week prior to the vote on the proposed constitutional change. Copies of the proposed amendment shall be furnished to each member present at the earlier meeting. Proposed amendments shall require a 75% majority vote of the members present and voting. Articles 2 and 3 shall not be subject to amendment or deletion.