



British Columbia Registered Music Teachers' Association

May 6, 2016

Dear Members of BCRMTA:

At our September 2015 meeting one of the CFMTA Resolutions asked that BCRMTA reconsider the CFMTA national membership guidelines. It was deferred to the April 2016 meeting where some discussion was held and considerations recorded.

As BCRMTA continues to grow and the musical landscape changes across the country, the BCRMTA Executive believe this is a good time to revisit this question. We ask that you debate the issue within your branch over the next few months and send your delegate(s) to the September meeting with instructions on how to vote for your branch.

We propose the following Motion in order to open this for discussion and decision at the September 25, 2016 Provincial Council meeting.

Motion: "To add the categories of Affiliate I and II to BCRMTA membership"

Currently BCRMTA has two membership categories-

- (1) Registered Music Teacher (RMT)
- (2) Student Auxiliary in some branches

CFMTA /FCAPM national membership recommendations, define the membership categories to include the following:

- RMT- as defined by our current bylaws- the only category to hold the letters RMT
- Affiliate I: Grade 10 with all theory completed
- Affiliate II: Grade 9 with all theory completed
- Affiliate III- determined by each province (many provinces do not use this)
- Auxiliary Member- not teaching but supports the objective of the organization (many provinces do not use this)

Should this motion pass, the categories will be clearly defined as to voting rights, the holding of office, website listing, application, age and any other considerations the Provincial Council feels necessary.

Attached are considerations voiced and listed at the Provincial Council meeting. We will resend this material with the September agenda.

It is important that this issue receive attention from all branches. Make sure your voices are heard. Should you have any questions please contact us through secretary@bcrmta.bc.ca .

Thank you for your help.

Carol Schlosar,
Past President

Affiliate Membership Criteria Results

Pros:

- This would include those who are most likely teaching already but unqualified for RMT status
- Increase the exposure of upcoming teachers to RMTA goals and objectives.
- It will increase the standard of teaching if non-registered teachers have pro-D and branch support available. (provide professional development opportunities for teachers who would not normally have the opportunity)
- It would provide increased manpower and volunteerism which is most helpful for smaller branches.
- “Student” Auxiliary stigma removed therefore more incentive to join BCRMTA
- The teaching hierarchy will be more evident rather than less if these teachers, who will be teaching anyway, are within the branch.
- Will encourage grade 9 and 10s to continue their studies and become full members.
- Makes it possible for good teachers who may not be able to complete their diplomas due to circumstances to be part of our organization
- Inclusive to all ages- a concern as our membership is aging and younger ideas would be welcome
- Within a community of professionals, colleagues and friends, all are enriched.
- National membership criteria should be fully national- every province should offer the same
- Encourages older teachers
- Provides Insurance for older teachers
- Will boost our numbers
- Will draw in adults who are already teaching and will actively participate to continue to learn and upgrade but don't wish to have student auxiliary status
- Will help improve teaching standards
- Will make our organization more inclusive
- Possibly help BCRMTA compete with the new RCM teacher levels of certifications
- Will provide opportunities for students of these teachers to participate in Master classes and workshops that they would not normally have access to.
- Joint concerts and ventures with these teachers will do much to reach more parents as to the standards set by BCRMTA and what we can do.
- Will help remove the ‘elitist’ stigma from BCRMTA

Cons

- There could be confusion between Registered and Non-registered designations.
- Would the public be aware of different designations?
- It would dilute our standards- a professional organization should have high standards
- Concern about “too young” students applying
- It takes away the incentive for these Affiliates to get their ARCT or BMus
- It takes advantage of the organization of teachers who have achieved their degrees.
- These teachers will charge less so they will take away business
- It encourages the attitude that to teach beginning students doesn't require being able to (or have been able to) play at concert level, which is contrary to our mandate.
- In a time when we're trying to raise our profile as an organization, it is counterintuitive to lower the educational standards for entrance.
- Current RMTS would feel threatened
- If applicants are able to join with no teaching experience required, then what is to stop them from doing so just for the prestige of being on a website and carrying a card?