

4-H BC Provincial Council Society Changes

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Abbreviations of Terms

AGM = Annual General Meeting

Society Rep = Society Representative

PC Rep = Provincial Council Regional Representative

Regional Rep = Regional Representative

2. When does a District Council choose their Society Rep?

For the first year, District Councils need to notify 4-H BC of their Society Rep by February 28, 2024. This means some District Councils may have to hold a special meeting. If the current Provincial Council Representative is from your District, they will automatically be considered the Society Rep. In this case, Districts still need to notify 4-H BC of your Society Rep by February 28, 2024.

Moving forward, District Councils will choose their Society Rep at their AGM and include the name on the revised District Registration Form by January 31st annually.

3. Do we choose a new Society Rep each year?

Yes, but with one exception. Society Reps will be chosen annually at District Council AGMs. The exception to this process is if a District's Society Rep also holds the position of Provincial Council Representative. PC Reps are for a two-year term. In this case, the District Council would keep the same Society Rep for two years or to the end of the PC Rep's term.

4. What does the Society Rep have to do?

The Society Rep has 3 key responsibilities:

1. Attending the virtual AGM and special meetings of the Society.
2. Consult with their District Council about Society business and decisions.
3. Vote on behalf of their District Council at the AGM and special meetings.

Along with the responsibilities above, the Society Rep is also considered their District Council's nominee for the PC Rep. The PC Rep is decided at the Regional Council level by the Society Reps only.

5. How does a District Council decide who will be a Society Rep?

At your AGM, following three steps:

1. Choose your Regional Council Reps.
2. From the group of Regional Council Reps, choose one individual to be the Society Rep.
3. In choosing the Society Rep, both the District Council and the Society Rep understand the Society Rep is the District Council's nominee for the PC Rep.

6. So, if I were the Society Rep, would I decide on Society business for my District Council?

As the Society Rep, you wouldn't make the decision for your District Council. You are obligated to speak with your District Council about Society business and then share your District Council's opinion on the specific business. District Councils will be notified via their Society Reps of any pertinent business that requires comments from District Councils.

7. Does the Society Rep attend the 4-H BC Provincial Council board meetings?

Board meetings are only attended by the elected Directors (9 in total). Society Reps attend the annual general meetings (April annually) and special meetings (rare, as needed) which are virtual.

8. Can anyone attend the annual general meeting?

Yes, anyone may attend the AGM, however pre-registration is required. A Notice of AGM will be circulated with instructions for AGM registration. The AGM will be virtual.

9. Does the Society Rep have to attend the AGM in Vernon at the 4-H BC office?

No travel is required to attend the AGM. All meetings for Society Reps will be held virtually.

10. What if our Society Rep can't attend the AGM? Can we send someone else?

If a District Council's Society Rep cannot attend the AGM, the District Council will not be eligible to vote on Society business. An alternate representative cannot attend the AGM and vote.

11. How is a PC Rep chosen?

A PC Rep is chosen from the group of Society Reps for each region. Only the Society Reps can choose the PC Rep. The decision is made at a Regional Council AGM by election, consensus or another method agreed upon by the Society Reps.

Exception for 2024: Because we are making this transition mid-term and PC Reps have already been chosen by Regional Councils, a vote to ratify the slate of Directors will be held at the AGM on April 6, 2024.

12. Why do only the Society Reps get to decide the PC Rep for a region?

In a society, the board of directors is decided by the members. In the case of 4-H BC Provincial Council Society, the District Councils are the "members" of the Society. Each District Council has chosen a Society Rep. Society Reps are the only individuals approved to act on behalf of District Councils.

13. Is the PC Rep and the Society Rep the same thing?

Not exactly. An individual can hold both the positions of Society Rep and PC Rep; however, they are two different jobs with different responsibilities. The Society Rep acts on behalf of their District Council, a member of the Society. The PC Rep is a representative chosen from the Society membership to serve on the Board of Directors. The Society Rep is responsible for participating in the AGM. The PC Rep is responsible for overseeing 4-H BC and contributing to the work of the Society. It is possible to be a Society Rep only, but a PC Rep must hold both positions.

14. What if we don't have anyone from our District who wants to be the Society Rep?

If a District Council doesn't designate a Society Rep, they will not be able to vote on Society business. As members of the 4-H BC Provincial Council Society, District Councils have a voice in guiding the future of 4-H BC (i.e. strategic planning) which is why choosing a Society Rep is important.

15. The PC Rep is from our District. Do we have to redo this selection?

Not for 2024. In fact, this change will be easy for you. Because a PC Rep must be a Society Rep in the new structure, your current PC Rep will also be your District Council's Society Rep. When the PC Rep's term is up for renewal, you will need to elect a new Society Rep.

16. If the current PC Rep is from our District, can we choose a different person to be the Society Rep?

For 2024, the PC Reps will remain the same for the following reasons: Firstly, it would conflict with the Society bylaws; Secondly, the current PC Reps are best situated to help their District and Regional Councils transition through the change because they have been involved in the planning and execution of the Society's changes; and, thirdly, change is coming quickly with the AGM less than 3 months away.

17. Who can be a Community Member with the 4-H BC Provincial Council?

A Community Member is a person, not registered with 4-H BC, who wants to contribute positively to the 4-H program in BC. Community Members will bring relevant expertise that will enhance and broaden the skills and competencies of the Board.

18. I am a club leader with 4-H, but I am not a member of the District or Regional Councils. Can I be a Community Member on 4-H BC Provincial Council?

The criteria for Community Members are for individuals not registered with 4-H BC. By joining your District Council, you would be eligible to be a Director of the 4-H BC Provincial Council Society as a Provincial Council Regional Representative. If in the future, when your time as registered leader with 4-H BC ends, and you possess the skills and competencies needed, you would be eligible to be a Community Member. In the meantime, thank you for your contribution to 4-H BC.

19. Who decides who the Community Members will be?

Society Reps, in consultation with and on behalf of their District Council, vote on the Community Members.

20. Can anyone apply to be a Community Member?

Anyone that is not registered with 4-H BC can apply to be a Community Member with the 4-H BC Provincial Council Society. Application packages are available from 4-H BC. The deadline to submit applications is February 28, 2024.