



2025-2026 Membership Policy

Preamble

In a spirit of equity and inclusion, the RQD brings together dance professionals of all genders, backgrounds, experiences, and abilities from across the province of Quebec.

For any questions regarding the Membership Policy, including which membership category best applies to your situation, please contact the Registrar at rqd@quebecdanse.org.

Several sections of this policy are drawn from the organization's current bylaws.

Definitions

"Registrar" refers to an RQD staff member responsible for administering the Membership Policy and validating membership applications.

Membership Categories

The RQD has five membership categories:

1. **Professional Individual Member**
2. **Apprentice Member**
3. **Professional Corporate Member**

4. **Member at Heart**
5. **Honorary Member**

Membership Duration and Transition Period

Membership is generally valid for one year from the date the membership fee payment is made. However, the RQD is phasing out the floating membership model due to its complexity and associated costs, which offer little added value.

As a result, when you join or renew your membership during the 2025–2026 fiscal year, your annual membership fee will be prorated based on the number of months remaining in the fiscal year.

This transition is intended to align all membership periods with the RQD's fiscal year, which runs from July 1 to June 30, effective July 1, 2026.

Refunds and Bank Fees for Non-Sufficient Funds

Membership fees paid for the current fiscal year are non-refundable in the event of termination, suspension, or voluntary withdrawal of a member.

If your membership application is incomplete, you will receive a notice. You will then have three (3) months from the date of notification to submit the required supporting documents. If the documents are not received within this timeframe, your membership fee will be refunded, minus a 5% administrative fee.

A \$50 fee will apply for any cheques returned due to non-sufficient funds or refused by the financial institution.

1. PROFESSIONAL INDIVIDUAL MEMBER

1.1. Definition

This category includes any natural person engaged in paid work in the dance field, occupying one or more of the following roles:

- Dancer
- Choreographer
- Teacher
- Rehearsal director
- Cultural worker
- Researcher
- Designer (e.g., lighting, costume, set)
- Accompanying musician
- Other dance-related professions

1.2. Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible under this category, an individual must meet the following conditions:

- Complete the membership or renewal application using the prescribed form;
- For a first-time application, provide supporting documentation demonstrating that they meet the requirements below, according to the role(s) they perform:
 - **Dancer:** Has participated in at least eight (8) paid public performances of choreographic or improvisational works within the past four (4) years, or has

accumulated at least 200 hours of paid research, creation and/or rehearsal work, including for corporate events or any other public performance relevant to the role of a dancer.

- **Choreographer:** Has created at least two (2) paid choreographic works presented in a recognized professional context and performed by paid dancers. The total duration of the choreographed works must amount to at least 50 minutes.
 - **Teacher:** Has accumulated a minimum of 180 hours of paid teaching.
 - **Rehearsal director:** Has accumulated a minimum of 180 hours of paid rehearsal direction for works that were presented and performed by paid dancers.
 - **Designer:** Has been credited for at least two (2) paid design contributions (e.g., lighting, costume, set) in the field of dance. These works must have been presented and performed by paid dancers.
 - **Researcher, dramaturg, accompanying musician, or other cultural worker in the dance field:** Has accumulated a minimum of 180 hours of paid work in their respective function within the past four (4) years.
- Be accepted by the Registrar upon payment of the annual membership fee.

1.3. Supporting documents required for a first-time membership application

- A detailed CV;
- Copies of contracts or letters of agreement confirming the details of paid professional activities. (See a [sample of a paid service attestation.](#))

We also accept the following documents:

- A grant recipient letter or dance-related award;
- Proof of having won professional-level dance competitions;
- A sponsorship letter;
- Proof of intent to contract (e.g., email exchanges), accepted as equivalent to standard proof of engagement (contracts, letters of agreement), including cases where performances were

cancelled due to COVID-19;

- Any other document you consider relevant to demonstrate your professional activity.

1.5. Rights and Benefits

A professional individual member may:

- Participate in all RQD activities;
- Attend general assemblies and exercise their voting rights;
- Be eligible for election to the RQD Board of Directors;
- Access the privileges and discounts offered to RQD members;
- Benefit from services related to advocacy, consultation, professional recognition of the discipline, and professional development;
- Receive financial support, subject to available funds: for dancers, choreographers, and rehearsal directors who meet the eligibility criteria of the Dance Training Support Program;
- Be covered by the CNESST during training periods not governed by an employment contract: for dancers who meet the eligibility criteria of the Dance Training Support Program;
- Benefit from increased visibility through the RQD Member Directory on the Québec Danse portal;
- Post announcements about shows, training sessions, and other events in the Dance Calendar;
- Post real-time announcements on the Québec Danse portal bulletin board; post press releases on the Newswire, which may be featured in the RQD newsletter;
- Be at the heart of a vibrant network of contacts, exchanges, and information.

2. Apprentice individual member

2.1. Definition

Any individual who is actively pursuing a path toward becoming a dance professional, but who does not yet meet the eligibility requirements for professional individual membership, may apply for apprentice membership in the RQD.

Please note that a member may remain in the apprentice category for a maximum of four (4) years. In the fifth year, the member must demonstrate eligibility for professional individual membership; otherwise, they may choose to become a Member at Heart.

Any person who meets the eligibility requirements for professional individual membership must register in that category or register as a member at heart.

The apprentice member category includes individuals working in a dance field who fall into one or more of the following subcategories:

- Dancer
- Choreographer
- Teacher
- Rehearsal director
- Cultural worker
- Designer
- Accompanying musician
- Other dance-related professions

2.2. Eligibility requirements

To be eligible as an apprentice member, an individual must meet the following conditions:

- Complete the membership or renewal application using the prescribed form;

- For a first-time application, provide supporting documentation demonstrating that they meet the following requirements, according to the role(s) they perform:

Dancer and choreographer:

- Hold a dance diploma from a recognized institution;
OR
- Be able to demonstrate their professionalization process by completing the following document: [detailed training record](#);
OR
- Have participated in at least two (2) paid public performances of choreographic or improvisational works, or have accumulated 50 hours of paid research, creation, and/or rehearsal work, including for corporate events or any other public performance relevant to the role of a dancer.

For any other function:

- Be active in that role in the dance field for a period equivalent to two (2) full-time months;
- Unable to meet, at this stage in their career, the eligibility requirements for professional individual membership;
- Be accepted by the Registrar upon payment of the annual membership fee.

2.3. Supporting documents required for a first-time application

- A detailed CV;
- If applicable, copies of contracts, letters of agreement, or employment attestations confirming the details of paid professional activities.
(See a sample of a [paid service attestation](#).)

2.4. Rights and Benefits

An apprentice member may:

- Participate in all RQD activities;
- Attend general assemblies but may not exercise voting rights or be eligible for election to the RQD Board of Directors;
- Access the privileges and discounts offered to RQD members;
- Benefit from services related to advocacy, consultation, professional recognition of the discipline, and professional development;
- Receive financial support, subject to available funds: for dancers, choreographers, and rehearsal directors who meet the eligibility criteria of the Dance Training Support Program;
- Be covered by the CNESST during training periods not governed by an employment contract, for dancers who meet the eligibility criteria of the Dance Training Support Program;
- Benefit from increased visibility through the RQD Member Directory on the Québec Danse portal;
- Post announcements about shows, training sessions, and other events in the Dance Calendar;
- Post real-time announcements on the Québec Danse portal bulletin board; post press releases on the Newswire, which may be featured in the RQD newsletter;

- Be at the heart of a vibrant network of contacts, exchanges, and information.

3. Professional corporate member

3.1. Definition

Any non-profit corporation working in the professional dance field, employing dance professionals or providing services to them, may become a professional corporate member of the RQD.

Furthermore, the non-profit corporation must meet the eligibility criteria and belong to one of the following subcategories:

- **Professional dance association:** A corporation whose primary mission is to improve the practice of its members, who are dance professionals or aspiring professionals, to support them in their artistic or professional activities, and to represent them.
- **Creation and production company:** A corporation established to create and produce, among other things, dance performances and/or cultural mediation activities, compensated and performed by paid professionals. This category also includes so-called “umbrella” companies, i.e., corporations providing various services to one or more independent choreographers whose membership fees they pay through their own subscription.
- **Specialized presenter (including festivals):** A corporation primarily made to present dance performances, most of which are ticketed and performed by paid professionals.
- **Multidisciplinary presenter (including festivals):** A municipal or other corporation whose mission includes promoting performing arts and whose annual programming includes professional paid dance performances.

- **Dance Institution:**

- A corporation providing recognized post-secondary training leading to a technical DEC diploma or a bachelor's degree (minimum required level of study) in dance;
- Any other non-profit organization offering post-secondary dance training that meets the requirements of the various ministries funding these schools;

OR

In exceptional cases, the RQD Board of Directors may review the eligibility of a school upon request.

- **Support and service organization:** A corporation providing services, support, and activities to dance professionals, thereby contributing to their professional practice or development.

3.2. Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible as a professional corporate member, in any of the six (6) subcategories, a corporation must meet the following conditions:

- Be legally incorporated under a Quebec or federal law and have its registered office in Quebec;
- Hold a resolution from its board of directors designating two (2) delegates for a two (2)-year term, specifying which of these two persons is eligible to serve as a director of the RQD;
- Complete the membership or renewal application using the prescribed form;
- Provide supporting documentation, in the case of a first-time application, demonstrating compliance with the above requirements;
- Be accepted by the Registrar upon payment of the annual membership fee.

3.3. Pièces justificatives dans le cas d'une première adhésion

3.3. Supporting Documents for First-Time Applications

- A copy of the letters patent or incorporation documents;
- A copy of the corporation's bylaws;
- In the case of a municipal entity, a description of its mandate;
- An annual report or activity summary, or a brief description of activities from the past year;
- For companies, specialized presenters, multidisciplinary presenters other than municipal entities, and support and service organizations: proof of grant funding;
- For advanced dance schools: proof of grant funding from the Québec Ministry of Education or Ministry of Culture, along with certification of the number of enrolled students. The application of this criterion is suspended until the Québec Ministry of Culture and Communications and the Canadian Ministry of Canadian Identity and Culture open their funding programs to institutions other than those exclusively offering classical ballet and contemporary dance and/or include new schools in their operational funding programs.

For renewals: provide incorporation documents only if they have been amended.

3.4. Rights and Benefits

A professional corporate member may:

- Benefit from services related to advocacy, consultation, professional development, and the promotion of the discipline;
- Subscribe to the RQD's multi-employer group insurance plan for the organization's employees;
- Access the Reciprocity Letter for the hiring of foreign workers;
- Be at the heart of a vibrant network of contacts, exchanges, and information;
- Benefit from increased visibility through the RQD Member Directory on the Québec Danse portal;
- Publish announcements of shows, training sessions, and other events in the Dance Calendar;
- Post real-time announcements on the Québec Danse portal bulletin board;
- Publish press releases on the Newswire of the Québec Danse portal to be potentially featured in the RQD newsletter;
- Allow independent choreographers represented by an "umbrella" company to benefit from the rights and benefits mentioned above.

Delegates of the professional corporate member may:

- Participate in all RQD activities;
- Attend general assemblies and exercise their voting rights;
- If designated for this purpose, be eligible for election to the RQD Board of Directors;

- Access the privileges and discounts offered to RQD members;
- Receive financial support, subject to available funds, for delegates who meet the eligibility criteria of the Dance Training Support Program as dancers, choreographers, and/or rehearsal directors;
- Be covered by the CNESST during training periods not governed by an employment contract, for delegates who meet the eligibility criteria of the Dance Training Support Program as dancers.

4. MEMBER AT HEART

4.1 Definition

This category includes any natural or legal person belonging to one of the following subcategories:

- **Student:** Any person enrolled in a professional training program at an institution recognized by the RQD;
- **Former apprentice member** who was unable to meet the eligibility requirements for professional individual membership at the end of the four (4)-year eligibility period;
- **CÉGEP offering a dance program:** A Collège d'enseignement général et professionnel (CÉGEP) awarding a general DEC diploma with a concentration in dance;
- **Dance school offering a dance-study program:** A dance school with an academic director where secondary or college-level students receive at least 12 hours of dance classes per week as part of a Dance-Study program;

- **Specialized dance school:** A corporation offering preparatory or specialized dance training, subsidized by the Québec Ministry of Culture or by Canadian Heritage;
- **Presenter network:** A corporation or organization composed of professional presenters from Québec or Canada whose primary mission is to support the presentation of performing arts, including dance, and to promote access to these arts for citizens.

4.2. Eligibility Requirements

Any natural or legal person meeting the following conditions is eligible for this category:

- Complete the membership or renewal application using the prescribed form;
- Be accepted by the Registrar upon payment of the annual membership fee.

4.3. Rights and Benefits

A supporting member may:

- Participate in all RQD activities;
- Benefit from certain privileges and discounts offered to RQD members;
- Enjoy increased visibility through the RQD Member Directory on the Québec Danse portal;
- Publish announcements of shows, training sessions, and other events in the Dance Calendar;
- Post real-time announcements on the Québec Danse portal bulletin board;
- Publish press releases on the Newswire of the Québec Danse portal;

- Be at the heart of a vibrant network of contacts, exchanges, and information;
- Attend general assemblies.

Please note: Members in this category do not have voting rights and are not eligible for election to the RQD Board of Directors.

5. HONORARY MEMBER

5.1 Definition

An honorary member is a natural or legal person appointed to this title by the Board of Directors in recognition of their commitment or actions having a significant positive impact on the dance community.

5.2 Eligibility Requirements

Any natural or legal person who has been appointed to this title by the Board of Directors.

Honorary members are exempt from paying an annual membership fee.

5.3 Rights and Benefits

An honorary member may participate in the corporation's activities and attend general assemblies. Unless they also hold professional individual or corporate membership, an honorary member does not have voting rights and is not eligible for election to the Board of Directors by virtue of this status.

The RQD Membership Policy was unanimously adopted by the RQD Board of Directors on June 16, 2025.