



FURTHER & PERTINENT INFORMATION ABOUT THE CNE / CNEA

Governance Structure

The CNE is governed by the Canadian National Exhibition Association (CNEA), a not-for-profit and an Agricultural Society without share capital incorporated by a Special Act of the Legislature of Ontario. The CNEA and its volunteer Board of Directors operate under the jurisdiction of the following provincial act, *An Act respecting the Canadian National Exhibition Association*, and the *Agricultural & Horticultural Organizations Act* as well as the *Ontario Not-for-Profit Corporations Act (ONCA)*.

The CNEA is divided into four sections:

- Section 1 – Municipal
- Section 2 – Manufacturers' & Industry
- Section 3 – Agriculture
- Section 4 – General & Liberal Arts

Member Benefits & Opportunities

You and your organization can help shape the future of the CNE Association and the CNE event as a Member Organization, through your member representative, the "Appointee", or as an individual community appointee to the CNEA.

An organization or community Appointee will:

- receive CNE (the 'Ex') event admission credentials and be able to provide feedback on the CNE event
- receive regular CNE newsletter communication updates
- be eligible to run for election to the CNEA Board of Directors or CNEA Executive positions (exception: municipal Section 1 of the association)
- participate on CNEA and the CNE Foundation Committees, Sub-Committees and Task Forces
- attend and vote at CNEA Annual Meeting
- be invited to attend CNEA member engagement & networking events
- receive corporate CNE discounts for the Ex and/or other associated events or partnerships
- receive other CNEA Member benefits that are offered

As a CNEA Member Organization, your organization will:

- be invited to showcase your organization free of charge during the Canadian National Exhibition fair (in late summer) at the CNEA Membership Booth. A separate communication will be sent regarding this benefit. Please note that the establishment of the booth is dependent on sufficient demand by Member Organizations. Reservations for the booth are taken on a first come, first serve basis.
- receive regular CNE newsletter communication updates
- receive corporate CNE discounts for the Ex and/or other associated events or partnerships
- be offered an opportunity to coordinate community tickets for communities-in-need associated with your organization
- can host meetings at the CNE offices (subject to availability)
- be offered a discount rate to rent the CNE Withrow Common space (subject to availability)

- be invited to attend CNEA networking events e.g., exhibits, receptions or speakers
- be able to request free kids admission tickets
- receive other CNEA Member benefits that are offered

**CNEA membership benefits are dependent on factors including but not limited to the CNEA's ability to offer various benefits and invitations to events etc.*

Annual Meeting & Appointee Attendance

There is at least one general meeting for the CNEA Membership each year. Please take note of the meeting details and meeting attendance requirements.

The CNEA By-Laws Article VI, Section 6.5 states:

*Every Member and Member organization's representative appointed by an association, society or other body is expected to attend in person the Annual Meeting and any Special Meetings of the Association. If a Community-at-Large Member or an organization's representative fails to **attend at least one-half of the meetings over a four-year period**, the Community-at-Large Member or the association, society or other body must submit a letter of explanation to the Corporate Secretary for consideration by the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall review the explanation and determine whether the representative of the association, society or other body will be permitted to continue as that Member's representative, or the Member will be asked to appoint a replacement representative. Alternatively, the Executive Committee may recommend to the Board the removal of the association, society, or other body as a Member of the CNEA. In the case of a Community-at-Large Member, the Executive Committee may accept the explanation and retain the Member's status or recommend to the Board the removal of the Community-at-Large Member. The Board shall make the final decision on any removal recommendations.*

The CNEA Membership organization appointees are invited to attend the Annual Meeting and vote on the Board elections and any other matters brought forward for a vote. Additional representatives from each CNEA Member Organization are welcome to attend but are requested to RSVP and do not have voting rights. There are no proxy votes.

To become a CNEA Member, you must be one of the following:

- appointed by an organization/association that is a member of the CNEA;
- appointed by the CNEA as one of the 15 representatives from the Community-at-Large; or
- appointed by Toronto City Council;
- hold office of the Mayor City of Toronto, Toronto Chief of Police, Provincial or Federal Ministers of Agriculture Ontario (OMAFRA) or Agri-Food Canada (AAFC), Provincial or Federal Deputy Ministers of Agriculture Ontario (OMAFRA) or Agri-Food Canada (AAFC), or additional Ministers appointed by the Crown in Sections 2 and 4
- be a CNEA Past President.

CNEA Strategic Plan 2024 - 2028

The CNEA Strategic Plan was approved by the Board in April 2024. The Executive Summary can be found online at [2024-Strategic-Plan-Executive-Summary-Digital-FINAL-compressed.pdf](#).

Board of Directors: Elections and Eligibility

Each Member Organization 'Appointee' is eligible to nominate or be nominated as a Director of the CNEA Board of Directors (with the exception of those in the municipal section of the membership who are appointed, per the CNEA Act & By-Laws).

Please be in contact for additional information about structure, eligibility and election process in the lead up to Board elections to take place at the Annual Meeting (currently held in the spring of each year). The 2026 Board election statements of interest close on Friday May 22nd 2026 (EST) at 12 noon.

Stay In Touch

The CNE website is www.theex.com and more about the governance structure and Board can be found in the footer of the website.

You are encouraged to keep in touch and help get the word out about the CNE by connecting with us online on the various social media channels:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/TheEx>
X: <https://twitter.com/letsgototheex>
Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/letsgototheex/>
YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/CNEToronto>
TikTok: <https://www.tiktok.com/@letsgototheex>

Additional contacts in your organization can request to be added to the CNE Association e-newsletter communications with a request to the Corporate Secretariat.

Mandate

CNEA objects are expressly referred to in the CNEA Act. The objects are broadly defined to include exhibitions established either permanently or periodically for the promotion of industries, arts, and science generally. The Act lists a number of express activities including activities related to animals, vegetables, and minerals; activities related to products, wares, goods, merchandise, machinery, inventions and processes of manufacture; paintings and statuary; livestock competitions; and such other exhibitions that support the objects defined under the Act. Building upon the list of exhibition activities, the CNEA Act also highlights entertainment and amusement authorizing exhibition by means of music, shows or other attractions. The Association is given typical corporate powers to enter into contracts, own or lease property, develop grounds, etc. to facilitate such exhibitions. It is also expressly authorized to lease to third parties to facilitate the holding of exhibitions. An umbrella clause provides the Board with the authority to “do such other matters and things as will be in conformity with the objects and purposes of the Association”.

Under the CNEA Act, the CNEA is deemed to be an “agricultural society” that is subject to the Agricultural and Horticultural Organizations Act (“AHOA”). Section 28 of that Act describes the objects of an agricultural society, which include encouraging awareness of agriculture and improving the quality of life of persons living in agricultural communities by:

- Conducting research and develop supporting agricultural programs
- Staging agricultural exhibitions
- Conserving natural resources
- Beautifying agricultural communities
- Conducting activities and providing facilities to enrich rural life
- Conducting or promoting horse racing

The Agricultural & Horticultural Organizations Act of Ontario objects also include matters such as eradication of pests and encouraging youth involvement in agricultural activities.

Highlights of the Annual CNE Event 'Ex' Program include:

- Entertainment
- Concerts / Music
- The Farm / Agricultural programming
- Food
- Shopping
- Rides
- Games
- Kids' World programming
- Exhibits
- Park Entertainers & interactive experiences
- Gaming Garage
- A three-day Air Show (on Labour Day Weekend)

Cost of Membership & Remuneration - There is no cost for membership. There is also no remuneration for participating on the CNEA Membership or Board.

April 2026.