



Grand Lodge of Ontario,

Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

John R. Nichols, Grand Secretary,
157 Frederick Street, Stratford, Ontario. N5A 3V6.
Telephone: 519-273-8088, Fax: 519-273-8090,
Email: jnichols@ioof.net; oglsec@ioof.net

Wednesday, December 10, 2025

MEMORANDUM.

To: All Odd Fellows Lodges, Grand Jurisdiction of Ontario.

From: John R. Nichols, Grand Secretary.

Re: Call for Legislation for Grand Lodge Sessions.

Dear Brothers and Sisters;

The Grand Lodge and Rebekah Assembly of Ontario will be meeting in Annual Session from Sunday May 3 to Wednesday May 6, 2026. Information on this Session, the Sessional Hotel, and the Guestroom Flyer, have already come to you via email.

I am sending out this call for legislation for our upcoming Grand Lodge sessions. If you would like to submit legislation, please review the definitions sheet, fill in one of the Notice of Motion or Resolution forms (use the back of the sheet if necessary), and return the form to me as soon as possible, and prior to February 28, 2026. Notice of Motion and Resolution Forms are available in the appendix of the Journal of Proceedings and I will attach pdf copies to an email.

Please note that there is a new format in which all legislation must be submitted in order to be considered at the upcoming Annual Session and the information as to how to draft the legislation in proper format follows in this document. Legislation must be received in the Grand Lodge office no later than **12 noon, February 28th, 2026** to be eligible for consideration at this year's annual session. The sooner the proposed legislation is received the better in case revisions etc are necessary to put your proposed legislation into proper form. Any proposed legislation received after the stated deadline will not make it into the Advanced Journal and will not be able to be voted on for the 2026 Annual Session. When submitting proposed legislation please remember to use only the Code of Ontario Odd Fellows Laws, 8 ½ X 11 format (2025 Code) which is in possession of each Lodge in the Jurisdiction.

There is a new format that any and all proposed Legislation to come before our Annual Session must be in. I have attached a copy of the manner in which legislation must be done in to be able to be considered in "Proper Form" to come before the Annual Session, within this document. Please carefully follow the guidelines to avoid any disappointment!

Please remember, if you would like to submit legislation for this year's session, fill in the proper form and return it as soon as possible and no later than February 28, 2026.

If you should require any assistance, please feel free to contact me at the Grand Lodge Office or contact the counselling committee (listed at the end of this letter). This is your Grand Lodge and these are your sessions!



Yours in Friendship, Love and Truth,

**John R. Nichols,
Grand Secretary.**

Counselling Committee:

Name:	Address:	City:	Postal Code:	Phone:
Jim Edwards, PGM. Jasedwards1@gmail.com	26 Springwood Cres	Gravenhurst	P1P 1Y8	705-718-2291
Wayne Geurts, PGM wayne.geurts@gmail.com	2 Algonquin Trail	Newcastle	L1B 1A1	905-621-0838

List of Definitions...

The following definitions are used by the Grand Lodge of Ontario in connection with parliamentary usage for our Grand Lodge Sessions.

1. NOTICE OF MOTION...

Changes to the Bylaws of the Grand Lodge or the Constitution of Odd Fellow Lodges are accomplished by submission of a Notice of Motion. A Notice of Motion warns everyone that a change to the legislation governing the society is being processed. At the time of presentation to the chair, it formally becomes a resolution for consideration.

Changes to the Constitution of the Grand Lodge must lay over one year from the date of presentation. Bylaw changes may be done at the Annual Session provided the Notice of Motion is received by the Grand Lodge Office **prior to the deadline** (the due date).

Please note! A notice of motion, to be in proper form, for consideration, must be specific and must list the section and page number being changed. At the last Annual Session of the Sovereign Grand Lodge I was called to meet with the Committee on Constitutions of the Sovereign Grand Lodge. At that meeting I was informed that the way we do legislation in Ontario was no longer acceptable to this Committee and that we must immediately adopt the form for legislation as approved by the Sovereign Grand Lodge.

Where in the past we have noted the change we would like to make by “Chapter, Clause and Page Number” we must now use “Chapter, Clause and Page Number” and employ “Strikeouts and Underlines with the changes we wish to make.

All necessary material is listed on the notice of motion form sent to you with this definition sheet. Notice of Motion forms must be filled out in full and must not be missing any information.

2. RESOLUTIONS...

A Resolution is a formal proposal by a Representative, at the Grand Lodge Session, that the Grand Lodge take certain action. A Resolution does not change the Constitution, Bylaws or Standing Orders and is effective only until the end of the session, or until the beginning of the next session. Therefore, ordinary resolutions die with the passage of time, in our case one year.

A Resolution does not have the power to change the Bylaws of the Grand Lodge of Ontario nor the Constitution of Odd Fellow Lodges. Notices of Motion must be submitted to make legislative changes.

3. STANDING RESOLUTIONS...

A Standing Resolution is similar to a Standing Order of the Grand Lodge. It does not die at the expiration of the recess of the Grand Lodge, but it continues in force until a new resolution is adopted at a subsequent annual session to rescind or amend any such standing resolution. Usually, Standing Resolutions or Orders are printed and appear in the Constitution and Bylaws of the Grand Lodge, after the end of the Bylaws.

4. Amendments...

Amendments to legislation to come before the Grand Lodge Session are accomplished at the Annual Session and must be submitted in writing after they are presented to the Grand Lodge in Session. Amendments, for our purposes, are submitted on Resolution Forms.

Memorandum.

To: All Odd Fellows and Rebekah Lodges in the Grand Jurisdiction of Ontario, Past Grand Masters, Past Presidents of the Grand Jurisdiction of Ontario.
From: Brother John R. Nichols, Grand Secretary.

Dear Brothers and Sisters;

At a past Annual Session of the Sovereign Grand Lodge I was called to meet with the Committee on Constitutions of the Sovereign Grand Lodge. At that meeting I was informed that the way we do legislation in Ontario was no longer acceptable to this Committee and that we must immediately adopt the form for legislation as approved by the Sovereign Grand Lodge.

Where in the past we have noted the change we would like to make by "Chapter, Clause and Page Number" we must now use "Chapter, Clause and Page Number" and employ "Strikeouts and Underlines with the changes we wish to make. I will provide examples as follows:

for example purposes only:

(16) Election of Officers. Without interfering with the financial terms of the Lodge, the election of the officers, as are prescribed under Clause 15, shall take place on or before the first meeting night in March of each year as fixed by the By-laws of the Lodge.

1. In the absence of a fixed By-law, the elections shall take place on the first meeting night in March.
2. The election of trustees, when provided for by the By-laws of the Lodge, shall take place at the same time as for the election of officers.
3. All candidates must be in good standing at the time of election.

Wanting to make a change to the above section, to change the date that a Lodge would be installed, you would strikeout the part you would like removed and underline the part you are adding and then quote the section as amended. An Example follows on a Notice of Motion form from the Grand Lodge:

**PLEASE NOTE THAT THE FOLLOWING IS AN EXAMPLE ONLY
AND IS NOT LEGISLATION THAT IS BEING SUBMITTED!**

*Grand Lodge of Ontario,
Independent Order of Odd Fellows.*

DATE: Tuesday, February 12, 2025.

<u>Change to Constitution of Grand Lodge</u>		<u>Change to Bylaws of Grand Lodge</u>		<u>Change to Constitution of Odd Fellow Lodges (Chp IV)</u>	<u>X</u>
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Notice of Motion for the Grand Lodge Sessions.

I, John Nichols, (rank)Grand Secretary, of (Lodge) Avon, #41 of Stratford Ontario, hereby give notice that at the 2017 regular session of the Grand Lodge of Ontario, I shall move or cause to be moved that Chapter IV, Section 1, Clause 16, a, as found on page (s) 12 of Chapter IV of the Code of Ontario Odd Fellow Laws be changed in the following way:

Chapter IV, Clause 16, and 16, 1, Election of Officers.

(16) Election of Officers.

Without interfering with the financial terms of the Lodge, the election of the officers, as are prescribed under Clause 15, shall take place on or before the ~~first meeting night in March of each year~~ **last meeting night in March of each year** as fixed by the By-laws of the Lodge.

- a. In the absence of a fixed By-law, the elections shall take place on the ~~first meeting night in March~~ **last meeting night in March of each year**.
- b. The election of trustees, when provided for by the By-laws of the Lodge, shall take place at the same time as for the election of officers.
- c. All candidates must be in good standing at the time of election.

The Section as changed will then read:

Chapter IV, Clause 16, and 16, 1, Election of Officers.

(16) Election of Officers.

Without interfering with the financial terms of the Lodge, the election of the officers, as are prescribed under Clause 15, shall take place on or before the **last meeting night in March of each year** as fixed by the By-laws of the Lodge.

- a. In the absence of a fixed By-law, the elections shall take place on the **last meeting night in March of each year**.
- b. The election of trustees, when provided for by the By-laws of the Lodge, shall take place at the same time as for the election of officers.
- c. All candidates must be in good standing at the time of election.

Reason: To allow the District Deputy Grand Master more time to practice prior to Installations.

ACCEPTED

DEFEATED

form: glhofmot.08

As you can see in the example, the part you want to remove needs to have one neat strikeout on the text and the text you would like to insert has one neat underline beneath the text to be inserted. All Legislation from this point forward must be submitted in the stated format or it will not be in proper form to come before the Annual Sessions.

This new format applies to any Legislation, Odd Fellows or Rebekahs, that is to come before the Grand Lodge in Annual Session.

I am sorry that this change has become necessary but I have been informed by the Sovereign Grand Lodge Committee on Constitutions that they will no longer accept our Legislative Changes unless they are done in the manner illustrated. I hope and trust that this change will not create any undue hardships for anyone. Please, should you be wanting to submit a legislative change for our upcoming Annual Sessions, ensure that you follow this new format so we can ensure that your work can be dealt with at our Annual Sessions.

Should you have any questions, comments or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact myself or any person on the Grand Lodge Counselling Committee for help in drafting proposed legislation (remember to do so early so deadlines can be kept!).



Yours in Friendship, Love and Truth,

John R. Nichols,
Grand Secretary.

Counselling Committee:

<u>Name:</u>	<u>Address:</u>	<u>City:</u>	<u>Postal Code:</u>	<u>Phone:</u>
<u>Jim Edwards, PGM.</u> Jasedwards1@gmail.com	<u>26 Springwood Cres</u>	<u>Gravenhurst</u>	<u>P1P 1Y8</u>	<u>705-718-2291</u>
<u>Wayne Geurts, PGM</u> wayne.geurts@gmail.com	<u>2 Algonquin Trail</u>	<u>Newcastle</u>	<u>L1B 1A1</u>	<u>905-621-0838</u>