



Maritime Geeta Bhawan Inc., Fredericton, NB, Canada

BY-LAWS

Updated: 10<sup>th</sup> Jun 2023

1. **Maritime Geeta Bhawan**, hereafter, is referred to as “**Bhawan**”. The upstairs hall of the **Bhawan** is referred to as a “**Prayer Hall**” and downstairs is referred to as a “**Dining Hall**”. Use of the Dining Hall is mainly for the meals and prasad distribution and/or consumption after the religious activities (festivals, discourses, and private functions) related to the Hindu religion held in the Bhawan.
2. No food, drinks, or footwear is allowed on the first floor where the **Prayer Hall** is located.
3. To keep the sanctity of the **Prayer Hall** and due to the design limitations of the floor, only limited religious children group dance performances will be allowed in the prayer hall.
4. Any program and dance practice or performances which do not pertain to the objectives of the **Bhawan’s religious activities** and traditions will not be generally allowed in the Bhawan.
5. **Pooja, Bhajan, and Aarti** are the part of our traditional offerings, as such it is important that we remain quiet and create a peaceful devotional experience for everybody to enjoy and create a soothing environment.
6. Prayer books and religious materials are the property of the **Bhawan** and should not be taken out of the Bhawan.
7. **Bhawan** is sustained by the donations; as such a donation of a minimum of **\$150 for the MGB Member, and \$250 for the Non-MGB Member per** event is required for the use of the dining hall for “**private function**”. The “private function” is defined as a **Special Pooja, Anniversary, Birthday, or Wedding celebration**. Donations should be made at the time of reservation. A notice of a minimum of 15 days will be required for the use of the dining hall. The final authority of approving the **Bhawan’s** use for the above mentioned functions rests with the Executive Committee and the Board of Trustees. **If anyone uses any supply (Groceries: tea, coffee sugar, etc., or Cutleries of the MGB), it will be their responsibility to replenish it.**
8. Individuals or a group who are sponsoring the Pooja or using the dining hall for private functions is responsible for the cleanliness of the **Bhawan** premises. Cleanliness includes tidying up the kitchen, cleaning the utensils, cleaning washrooms, collecting garbage, and disposing of garbage bags at the proper place. **Further, there will be a mandatory damage deposit of \$200 at the time of booking. If the**

premises are properly cleaned or no damage is found, the damage deposit will be returned. If any supplies from Bhawan are used but not replenished will be forfeited by the damage deposit. Further, it is also their responsibility to make sure that all the lights are put off and heat settings are set at **10 degrees during winter** months and **zero degrees during summer months**.

9. Members of the Executive Committee and the Board of Trustees should not be absent in more than three consecutive committee meetings. The Executive Committee and the Board of Trustees deserve the right to request an explanation as the case deemed necessary.
10. Only the members of the Executive Committee and the Board of Trustees will have **Bhawan's** keys and deserve the right to give the keys to a member devotee on special religious consideration.
11. Pets or smoking is strictly prohibited on the premises of the **Bhawan**.
12. Nails, thumbtacks, decorations, etc. should not be put on the walls of the **Bhawan** without the permission of the Executives/Trustees.
13. The **Bhawan** is not responsible and liable for any loss or damage of personal belongings during the visit.
14. The belongings of the **Bhawan** such as furniture, utensils, musical instruments, Sound System, etc. cannot be borrowed for personal use outside the premises of the Bhawan.
15. It is the responsibility of parents and guardians to supervise their children in the Bhawan premises during any event, with the consideration that the Bhawan is not a playground.
16. The person in charge who organizes the event must sign the attendance logbook of Bhawan at the entry and exit. If an input of the wrong security code leads to a charge from the concerned authorities, a polite letter will be sent to the responsible individual asking for their prudence and caution, so this does not occur again.
17. Any kind of meat or meat products, eggs, and alcohol is strictly prohibited on **Bhawan premises**.
18. Hosts sponsoring a Pooja can use **Bhawan's supplies** such as paper plates, paper napkins, paper cups, cutlery, and cleaning supplies. An appropriate donation to replenish these supplies will be required.
19. Leaving food of any kind outside the **Bhawan** entrances and on the premises is strictly prohibited as this may invite rodents inside the Bhawan.

20. An individual or any organization hosting **Poojas** and **Private Functions** will be required to sign a waiver for insurance purposes. The key's of the Bhawan will not be handed over to the person in charge of the event. Only an Executive or Trustee can come and open/close the door at the event starts/closes. The keys must be kept with authorized personnel only.
21. The Executive Committee will make sure that the **Bhawan** is cleaned enough and can be cleaned by a professional cleaner at any time as and when required.
22. The Executives and Trustees who want to keep the key of Bhawan need to sign the form and are responsible for safeguarding the property by never sharing keys and security codes and individual disarm passwords with others.