

Policy Direction – Ownership of Buildings

Rationale and Relationship to Mission, Principles and Values

In keeping with the objectives outlined in the Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada (MS Society) vision and mission, the MS Society has firmly taken the position to divest the organization of all owned real estate and redirect proceeds to mission activities.

Policy Objective

The object of this policy direction is to ensure no future purchases of real estate are made or held beyond reasonable periods of liquidation.

Policy Application

This policy direction applies to all MS Society volunteers and staff at all levels of the organization including the national office, all divisions and all chapters and units.

Authorization

The policy direction was approved on November 18, 2006 by the Board of Directors of the MS Society of Canada and revised December 11, 2019.

Policy Details

In keeping with the MS Society vision and mission, the MS Society has decided that it is not in the best interests of the organization's mission to hold any ownership stake in real estate assets to support its operations. Instead, the organization shall pursue appropriate leasing contracts for all office, storage, single use and related occupancy requirements. Oversight of these contracts remains with the VP Shared Services in conjunction with the Delegation of Authority policy.

There may be circumstances whereby real estate assets are donated to the MS Society such as through an estate bequest. In these circumstances, the building(s) are not to be occupied or used for storage and shall be handled in a similar manner to donation of financial instruments such as shares in public corporations. Management will work with the donor/executor to liquidate the assets as soon as possible. This may require the Society taking possession for a short period until the asset sells.

Executive Champion

The Multiple Sclerosis of Canada's vice-president, Shared Services, is the executive champion for this policy.

Monitoring and Compliance

The MS Society vice-president, Shared Services, is responsible for leading the monitoring of the application and compliance of this Policy Direction in conjunction with other members of the Executive Team.

Policy Review

The policy direction is to be reviewed every five years following approval: November 18, 2006.

- Reviewed January 13, 2020 by the Executive Team
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Definition

¹ Executive Team - The most senior level of staff leadership within the MS Society comprised of the president and chief executive officer; division presidents; senior vice-president(s) and vice-president(s). One person may hold more than one position. The president and chief executive officer may alter the composition of the executive team as required from time-to-time.