

What's in a Name—and Why We Are Proposing a Change through Special Resolution

Executive Summary

Proposed Name Change for the Edmonton Epilepsy Association

The Edmonton Epilepsy Association (EEA) was established in 1960 as a chapter of United Way Canada, Edmonton branch. For many decades, the Association focused primarily on supporting individuals connected to Edmonton hospitals that treat epilepsy. As our work expanded, we added the tagline “*Northern Alberta Epilepsy Association*” to reflect our broader regional reach.

Today, advances in technology and service delivery have significantly expanded our ability to support individuals across a much larger geographic area. As a result, the Board is proposing that members consider a name change that more accurately reflects where we operate, whom we serve, and how we position ourselves for future growth.

The proposed name change is being brought forward for member consideration and final approval through a special resolution, at the **Annual General Meeting on Thursday, February 27, 2026**, which will be held on zoom and in person at the EEA office, at 9915 148 street, in Edmonton.

Proposed Name Options

Members are asked to consider the following options (the order is recommended by the Board of Directors – with a preference for the first name proposed):

1. **The Epilepsy Association of Edmonton and Northern Alberta (EAENA)**
We have already completed a NUANS report (a search report to identify the use of the name as available)
2. **The Epilepsy Association of Northern Alberta (EANA)**
3. **Status quo:** Maintain the current name, *The Edmonton Epilepsy Association (EEA)*

Member feedback and approval will guide the final decision at the 2026 Annual General Meeting.

Why a Name Change Is Being Considered

The Board is recommending this change for the following reasons:

- To better reflect the **actual region we directly support**, including individuals connected to Edmonton’s major epilepsy treatment centres, such as the Stollery Children’s Hospital and the Kaye Clinic.
- To ensure that **all members and community participants feel represented** in the Association’s name, regardless of where they live in Alberta (north of Red Deer).
- To incorporate our **regional scope into our legal name**, rather than relying on a secondary tagline.
- To strengthen access to **local and regional funding opportunities**, as many grant-makers and sponsors assess eligibility based on how clearly an organization’s name aligns with its service area.
- To support a new phase of growth that may include the creation of **local executive committees** focused on fundraising, education, awareness, and region-specific projects.

The Board also notes that a province-wide name cannot be adopted, as a Calgary-based organization already serves southern Alberta, and respect for regional service boundaries must be maintained.

Considerations Regarding “Northern Alberta”

There is no single, universally accepted definition of “Northern Alberta.” Local, government, and industry perspectives vary, and the term does not automatically include Edmonton. However, from a health services perspective, Edmonton is the primary hub for northern Alberta epilepsy care. **Any proposed name must balance geographic accuracy, clarity, and inclusiveness.**

1. Local Perspective

This is the broadest and most informal definition.

- Often interpreted as “north of Edmonton”
- Emphasizes lived experience: colder weather, longer travel distances, fewer services, and close-knit communities
- Edmonton is usually considered **central**, not northern
- Fort McMurray, Peace Country, and communities near the Northwest Territories border are clearly considered “north”

In short: If it feels remote and winter feels harsher, locals tend to call it Northern Alberta.

2. Government Perspective

More formal and boundary-based, but inconsistent across departments.

- Alberta Health, education, and economic regions use different boundaries
- Some frameworks divide the province into North, Central, and South
- Others distinguish between “Lower North” and “Upper North”
- Edmonton may be excluded or treated as its own region

In short: Northern Alberta exists on maps—but which map is used matters.

3. Industry Perspective (Especially Energy and Forestry)

Highly practical and job focused.

- Typically refers to oil sands, forestry, mining, and gas regions
- Fort McMurray, Cold Lake, Grande Prairie, and High Level are core areas
- Edmonton is viewed as a southern hub or staging city, not “north”
- “Northern” often implies fly-in/fly-out work, camps, and shift rotations

In short: Northern Alberta is where the work sites are.

Proper Procedure for Implementing a Legal Name Change

We sought legal opinion from a legal firm to guide the procedures we will adopt to consider, discuss and vote on a name change for the association. The following information is what we received as guidance for our processes.

A legal name change for The Edmonton Epilepsy Association (the “Society”) must be carried out through the bylaw amendment process, as the bylaws do not contain a specific provision addressing name changes. A name change constitutes an amendment to the Articles, which are constating documents. **Accordingly, the change must be approved by a special resolution of the Members at a duly called Special General Meeting or an AGM convened for that purpose.**

Members must receive at least 21 days’ written notice of the meeting, including the full text of the proposed amendment.

Proxy voting is not permitted for bylaw amendments, and the resolution must be approved by at least 75% of Members present, provided quorum is met. Quorum requirements include the attendance of at least 50% of the directors. Voting must occur through direct participation, and detailed meeting minutes must be kept, recording attendance, quorum, the mover and seconder, and vote counts. These records are necessary to support subsequent regulatory filings.

Sufficiency of Zoom / Electronic Voting for “In-Person” Requirements

Under Alberta law, electronic attendance is deemed equivalent to in-person attendance, unless a society’s bylaws expressly provide otherwise. Amendments introduced by the Service Alberta Statutes (Virtual Meetings) Amendment Act, 2021 (Bill 53) permit societies to conduct meetings and votes using electronic means, including platforms such as Zoom, provided participants can hear and communicate with each other in real time. Individuals attending electronically are deemed to be “present in person” for the purposes of the Societies Act.

The motion for Special Resolution

The motion for this Special Resolution will read as follows:

**Special Resolution of the Members
(Section 18, Alberta Societies Act)
Change of Corporate Name**

BE IT RESOLVED AS A SPECIAL RESOLUTION OF THE MEMBERS THAT:

1. Pursuant to Section 18 of the *Societies Act* (Alberta), the legal name of the Society be changed from
“The Edmonton Epilepsy Association” to
“The Epilepsy Association of Edmonton and Northern Alberta”, subject to approval by the Registrar of Corporations.
2. Any director or officer of the Society is hereby authorized and directed to execute, file, and submit all applications, forms, notices, and supporting documents required to effect the name change, including filing a Notice of Amendment with Alberta Corporate Registry, and to take all such further actions as may be necessary or advisable to carry out the intent of this resolution.
3. This special resolution shall take effect on the date the Registrar issues the Certificate of Amendment.

PASSED by a special resolution of the members of the Society, being not less than **seventy-five percent (75%)** of the votes cast at a duly called meeting of members, on the 26 day of _FEBRUARY_, 2026.

Mover:

Seconder:

In favour:

Opposed:

Abstained: