

Dear Club Officers:

Thank you for serving as an officer of your Optimist Club. Your leadership is paramount to guide the service and support provided by your club to the youth and families of your community. In addition to service, Optimists spread a sense of hope and positivity throughout their communities. The staff and volunteer leadership at Optimist International recognize and appreciate the members of your club for these efforts.

This has been a difficult period for everyone. We were very disappointed when the negotiations between OFC and OI were cut short, resulting in the termination of the OFC pilot project. We also realize there are multiple narratives around this situation, which have spurred many stories about what did or did not happen during this process. We are not going to engage with this type of speculation or hearsay. We are committed to moving forward, following our Optimist Creed and staying focused on our collective mission: By providing hope and positive vision, Optimist bring out the best in youth, our communities and ourselves.

You are welcome here and we want to assure you that you are a valued member and club of Optimist International. You do not need to “declare” your membership in Optimist International, in fact, it’s just the opposite. We already consider you a part of our global community, until your club tells us otherwise. I want to assure you that we are doing everything we can to make your transition a positive experience. I have put a task force in place to anticipate what needs must be met and to identify issues to be solved, and we will be seeking your input as to more effectively service the needs of clubs within this area moving forward. Our goal is to make the transition for your club and members as seamless as possible. We ask that you be patient with us. We had not anticipated this action and are meeting regularly to determine next steps.

We understand that the leadership of the OFC held a General Assembly last weekend and has made the decision to form a completely separate, non-Optimist affiliated organization and although we are sad to see this occur, we also realize that people need to fulfill their commitment to serve their communities in the way they feel best fits their needs. In the wake of that meeting, we have received a number of questions from members, and hopefully we can clarify some of those questions here:

1. Optimist International is working to update member information as quickly as possible. We do not have current membership rosters for your club. That information was held by the OFC and not shared with Optimist International. We do ask that you UPDATE your roster (with additions and deletions) by accessing the [Optimist Leaders Portal](#). If you are having problems logging in, you can find step-by-step instructions here. Additionally, you

can find step-by-step instructions how to ADD members here and how to DELETE members here.

2. We also do not have complete club officer information for the current year or next year. If you are receiving this email, which is intended for club officers and you are no longer an officer, please forward to the person who is in your previous position. ALSO, please update your club officer information by completing this [quick form](#), OR by emailing that information to [membership@optimist.org](mailto:membership@optimist.org)
3. If your club has paid their membership dues to the OFC for this year Optimist International will honor that. The OFC has not forwarded your dues to Optimist International, nor paid the affiliation fee since the first quarter of this year. That is an administrative issue between the former OFC and OI and this will not have any negative impact on any club.
4. There will be a return to some type of “administrative structure” with Optimist International, whether that be zones, district or region is yet to be determined and will be developed with the input of the clubs in your area. If you are interested in assisting with this process, please respond to this email with your name and contact information and we will be in touch shortly.
5. As a club of the former Optimiste Francophone Canadiens, you **are** an Optimist Club. Optimist International considers your club and your members Optimists unless you officially disband your Club.  
Deleting all your members is not disbanding your club. You are legally required to disband your club. This entails notifying Optimist International, which you can do by completing the steps outlined and submitting this [form](#).  
Disbanded clubs are not permitted to use any names, logos, likeness, programs, taglines or other assets associated with an Optimist Club.
6. We do not have the tools or resources developed by the OFC for your clubs. We can certainly request those, but those may not be available to us. We will be seeking your input as to what resources would be most helpful and do our best to develop those with you and for you.
7. We fully understand the language barrier that currently exists and are working to identify resources that can help us help you more effectively. Again, since this transition was not anticipated, we are working as quickly as possible to identify and put tools in place, but appreciate your patience as we rework some organizational priorities.

I want to reiterate that you are welcome and valued by Optimist International. We know this transition is unexpected, but we are committed to doing everything we can to work with you so you have the opportunity to continue to serve your community in the best way possible.

Everyone at OI is invested in your success and we are here to bring out the best in our organization, together.

Yours in Optimism,

JOG