PAOC APDC

The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada

APPLICATION FOR RECOGNITION OF DIVORCE DUE TO:

MARITAL UNFAITHFULNESS, OR
PRE-CONVERSION DIVORCE, OR
ABANDONMENT OF THE BELIEVER BY THE UNBELIEIVING SPOUSE, OR
DOMESTIC ABUSE BY A SPOUSE, TO A SPOUSE OR CHILD

Dear Applicant,

Thank you for your interest in applying for ministerial credentials with The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada.

Enclosed, you will find a supplementary application which requests various aspects of information. This CONFIDENTIAL information will assist us in understanding your life and ministry journey after divorce and/or remarriage. Our purpose in requiring this application is to assess Biblical alignment with respect to your divorce and/or remarriage as it relates to potential credentialed ministry with The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada.

After all questions have been fully answered, this application should be returned to your district office.

FINAL CHECK LIST
☐ Application form (completed, signed and enclosed)
☐ Fee of $75.00 (enclosed)
☐ Legal decree(s) of divorce (copy enclosed)
☐ Current marriage certificate (copy enclosed)
☐ All documentation is included.

BY-LAW 10.2.1 DIVORCE AND REMARRIAGE

The *General Constitution and By-Laws* of The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada makes provision for credential holders or new credential applicants to be declared eligible to retain or receive ministerial credentials when the following criterion are met and approved by a credential committee.

10.2.1 DIVORCE AND REMARRIAGE

Credential holders or new credential applicants shall not be remarried if either the credential holder or spouse has a former spouse living, unless the divorce occurred due to the former spouse's marital unfaithfulness (Matthew 19:9), or pre-conversion divorce (2 Corinthians 5:17), or the abandonment of the believer by the unbeliever (1 Corinthians 7:10–15), or domestic abuse by a spouse, toward a spouse or child (Matthew 18:6; Ephesians 5:28–33; Colossians 3:19).

Credential holders or new credential applicants who have never been married or who are widowed and who wish to marry a divorced person whose former spouse is still living, or who has been divorced and remarried with a former spouse still living, or who is currently married to a spouse who has a former spouse still living, may qualify to retain or receive credentials when the following conditions exist:

10.2.1.1 A district credential committee has recognized the cause of divorce as meeting the biblical criterion in at least one of the following conditions:

10.2.1.1.1 Marital unfaithfulness.

10.2.1.1.2 Pre-conversion divorce.

10.2.1.1.3 Abandonment of the believer by the unbelieving spouse.

10.2.1.1.4 Domestic abuse by a spouse, to a spouse or child.

10.2.1.2 The credential holder or new credential applicant did not, subsequent to conversion, contribute to the divorce by marital unfaithfulness, abandonment of their former spouse, or domestic abuse toward their former spouse or child(ren).

10.2.1.3 A minimum period of three years has elapsed since the date the divorce of a current credential holder took place or the date of verified separation due to one or more of the following causes (1) marital unfaithfulness, (2) pre-conversion divorce, (3) abandonment of the believer by the unbelieving spouse, or (4) domestic abuse by a spouse, to a spouse or child; where the credential holder has provided acceptable evidence in an application form, personal interview, and through the testimony of references to a district credential committee that they have clearly demonstrated exemplary Christian character and morality following the divorce. A personal interview may be conducted at the discretion of the district credential committee.

10.2.1.4 A minimum period of three years has elapsed since the date the current remarriage of a new applicant took place where the individual has provided acceptable evidence in an application form, personal interview, and through the testimony of references to a district credential committee that they are currently a partner in a remarriage relationship. A personal interview may be conducted at the discretion of the district credential committee.

10.2.1.5 Should a credential holder or new credential applicant who has never been married or who is widowed, or who is divorced and eligible to remarry, wish to marry a divorced person whose former spouse is still living, the conditions in By-Law 10.2.1 shall apply to the divorced person(s).

DIVORCED AND REMARRIED SUPPLEMENTAL APPLICATION

Please PRINT all responses.

Note: If there has been more than one previous marriage, please make a duplicate copy of this form for each marriage and divorce.

Date of Application: _____

A. GENERAL INFORMATION

1) Full name: _____
First Initial Last

2) Email Address: _____ **Gender:** ☐ **M** ☐ **F**

3) Street Address: _____ **Phone: Home** _____

City: _____ **Work** _____

Province: _____ **Postal Code:** _____ **Cell** _____

4) Birth date *(M/D/Y)*: _____ **Citizen (Country):** _____
Month Day Year

5) Birthplace: _____ **Province and Country:** _____

B. APPLICANT INFORMATION

1) Date of your conversion: _____

2) Do you have credentials now? ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**

3) If yes, which credential? _____

4) With which district or organization: _____

5) In what ministry are you presently engaged? _____

C. PRESENT RELATIONSHIP (IF MARRIED OR ENGAGED TO BE MARRIED)

1) Name of Current Spouse/fiancée: _____

2) Date and place of marriage ceremony: _____

3) Your age at time of present marriage: _____

4) Present spouse's age at time of marriage: _____

5) Are you living with this spouse now? ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**

6) Does your spouse have a former spouse living? ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No** ☐ **N/A**

D. PREVIOUS MARRIAGE(S)

Please complete a separate form in reference to the applicant's previous spouse(s) and a form related to the former spouse(s) of your current spouse or fiancée (*as applicable*). ***Note****: all references to your current spouse includes your fiancée (if applicable).*

1) Full name of applicant's former spouse*:* _____
First Initial Last

OR **Full name of applicant's spouse's former spouse*:*** _____
First Initial Last

2) How many times have you been married? _____
(if more than one previous spouse, please provide details on a separate paper of each prior marriage and divorce).

3) Date of former marriage: _____ **Place of Marriage:** _____
Month Day Year

4) Your age at date of marriage: _____ **Your spouse's age at date of marriage**: _____

6) Was your former spouse ever a professing Christian? ☐ Yes ☐ No

7) Is your former spouse now a professing Christian? ☐ Yes – Date of salvation: _____ **☐ No**

8) How long after the marriage did you separate? _____

9) Date(s) of separation:

Date From:	Date To:

10) Reason for separation:

11) In a brief statement, indicate the reasons for the breakup of the marriage.

12) Prior to the termination of your marriage, did you seek counsel or advice? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Who did you meet with for counsel? _____

How many times did you meet? _____

What counsel did they give you?

13) Who petitioned the court for the divorce? ☐ **You** ☐ **Spouse**

If you petitioned for the termination of your former marriage, state your reasons:

If your spouse petitioned for the termination of your former marriage, state your understanding of the reasons:

14) Date of petition: *(M/D/Y)*: _____ **Name of Court:** _____
Month Day Year

15) Date of divorce granted *(M/D/Y)*: _____ **Location of Court:** _____
Month Day Year

Note: Attach a copy of the legal decree of divorce.

16) Did you live together again after separation? ☐ **Yes – If so, how long?** _____ ☐ **No**

17) When did you last have contact with your former spouse? _____

18) List names and dates of birth for any children born to your previous marriage:

_____ _____

_____ _____

_____ _____

19) Define your current relationship with your former spouse and outline what parenting responsibilities you currently fulfill.

20) Comment on the outcome of property settlement, alimony, and child support from the divorce proceedings:

E. REASON(S) FOR DIVORCE

Complete the information that applies to your circumstances. If there is more than one previous divorce, complete for each prior divorce. This criteria applies to the applicant and to their current spouse or fiancé(e).
NOTE: You have a choice between b) OR **c) for the required documentation below in 1), 2) or 3) below.**

1) MARITAL UNFAITHFULNESS:

Definitions/Context: Marriage that is broken by spousal infidelity involving heterosexual, or homosexual intercourse or sexual relations.

a) Attach an explanation (in less than 500 words) of the facts and circumstances of your marriage(s) that relate to the infidelity.

b) Please attach at least three (3) letters which corroborate the circumstances of your past and present marriage, only one (1) of which may be from a family member.
OR
c) Alternately, are you prepared to sign an affidavit to attest to the infidelity on the part of your former spouse? This affidavit must be submitted with your application.

2) PRE-CONVERSION DIVORCE:

Definitions/Context: Conversion as defined by "the first occasion when a knowledgeable decision was made for Christ." The testimony and confession of the applicant, their level of maturity at the age of conversion, whether they were raised in a Christian home or not, have they made a public declaration of faith through water baptism, and were they faithful contributors to the work and ministry of a local Christian church.

a) Attach a copy of your explanation (in less than 500 words) of the facts and circumstances surrounding your pre-conversion divorce and your salvation experience.

b) Please attach at least three (3) letters which corroborate the circumstances and timing of your pre-conversion divorce, only one (1) of which may be from a family member.
OR
c) Alternately, are you prepared to sign an affidavit to attest to your pre-conversion divorce? This affidavit must be submitted with your application.

3) ABANDONMENT OF THE BELIEVER BY THE UNBELIEVING SPOUSE:

Definitions/Context: Abandonment as defined by an act or instance of leaving a person or thing permanently and completely, with no intention of returning, and with the intent of never again claiming a right or interest in. We define abandonment as the verifiable physical leaving of the marital dwelling (distinct and separate living quarters), by an unbelieving spouse.

a) Attach a copy of your explanation (in less than 500 words) of the facts and circumstances of your marriage(s) that relate to the abandonment of the believer by an unbeliever.

b) Please attach at least three (3) letters which corroborate the circumstances of your past and present marriage, only one (1) of which may be from a family member.
OR
c) Alternately, are you prepared to sign an affidavit to attest to the abandonment of your marriage by an unbelieving spouse? This affidavit must be submitted with your application.

4) <u>DOMESTIC ABUSE BY A SPOUSE, TOWARD A SPOUSE OR CHILD:</u>

Definitions/Context: Domestic abuse as defined by behaviours designed to scare, isolate, control, or harm another person within an intimate or familial relationship. It may involve a repeated pattern or a single incident and often escalates over time, including various forms of harm such as physical, emotional, and psychological abuse. This includes Intimate Partner Violence (IPV), a term specifically used in marriages.

Please note: Disclosure of information that indicates child abuse or neglect, including situations of domestic abuse where a child is at risk, could result in the legally required duty to report to the appropriate child protection authorities.

a) Attach an explanation (in less than 500 words) of the facts and circumstances of your marriage(s) that relate to the domestic abuse by a spouse, to a spouse or child.

b) Did you or your child seek medical attention due to domestic assault? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A

c) Attach copies of any documents supporting your description of the domestic abuse you describe (e.g. police reports, restraining order, hospital reports, etc.)

Please choose from d) or e):
d) Please attach at least three (3) letters which corroborate the circumstances of domestic abuse you describe, only one (1) of which should be from a family member (if possible).
OR
e) Alternately, are you prepared to sign an affidavit to attest to domestic abuse in your marriage toward you and/or your child(ren)? This affidavit must be submitted with your application.

F. TIME REQUIREMENT

Do you meet the time requirement outlined below: **☐ Yes ☐ No**

1. Current credential holders: A minimum period of three (3) years has elapsed since the date the divorce of a current credential holder took place or the date of verified separation due to one or more of the causes listed in By-Law 10.2.1.1.

2. New credential applicant: A minimum period of three (3) years has elapsed since the date the current remarriage of a new applicant took place.

G. REASON FOR APPLICATION

1) What is your purpose in placing this petition before the credential committee?

2) Have you ever had an application for recognition of divorce denied due to any of the following:

Spousal Infidelity? ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No** ☐ **N/A** **Pre-conversion?** ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No** ☐ **N/A**

Abandonment of the believer by the unbeliever? ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No** ☐ **N/A**

Domestic abuse by a spouse, to a spouse or child? ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No** ☐ **N/A**

If so, please give particulars, including date of prior application:

H. STATEMENT OF AFFIRMATION

I have read and am in agreement with Article 5 Statement of Essential Truths and Article 6 Positions and Practices of The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada *General Constitution and By-Laws*. ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**

I. WAIVERS

SPOUSAL WAIVER

I declare that to the best of my knowledge all of the foregoing information is correct and true, and further, recognizing that the information on the Divorced & Remarried Reference Forms remains confidential between the referee and the PAOC, I, the undersigned, hereby voluntarily waive any right or privilege to inspect or challenge the content expressed by the referees whose names are provided on this Application.

Signature of Current Spouse: _____ **Date:** _____

APPLICANT'S WAIVER

Recognizing that the information on the Divorced & Remarried Reference Forms remains confidential between the referee and the PAOC, I, the undersigned, hereby voluntarily waive any right or privilege to inspect or challenge the content expressed by those whose names I provide.

I declare that to the best of my knowledge all of the foregoing information is correct and true, and further agree to abide by the commitments made in this application.

Further, I hereby give my consent to PAOC to use and retain all personal information contained in the credential application, reference letters or forms completed on my behalf, and any other information necessary to obtain credentials.

I agree that, if my application is successful, all personal information provided as part of the credential process will become part of the permanent records of PAOC (It is our practice to destroy incomplete or unsuccessful applications after two years).

I understand and agree that, if my application is successful, I will receive electronic and hard-copy communication from PAOC and my district office.

Signature of Applicant: _____ **Date:** _____

J. REFERENCES

It is important that the people listed as references know you well enough, for at least three (3) years to answer such questions as: "What observations would you make on the positive aspects of the applicants present marriage?" and "What evidence have you noted related to commitment and faithfulness of the applicant to his / her spouse?"

Note: Referees are to return completed forms directly to the District Office.

Senior / Lead Pastor	**Name**		
	Street Address		
	City	**Province**	**Postal Code**
	Phone	**Email**	

Family Member	**Name**		
	Street Address		
	City	**Province**	**Postal Code**
	Phone	**Email**	

Lay Leader	**Name**		
	Street Address		
	City	**Province**	**Postal Code**
	Phone	**Email**	

Summary Checklist for Divorced & Remarried Application:

☐ **$75.00 Fee enclosed**

☐ **References sent out** (minimum 3)

☐ **Information on applicant's divorce:**

Name of former spouse: _____

Date of first marriage: _____

Date of separation: _____

Date divorce granted: _____

Reason for divorce: ☐ Marital unfaithfulness ☐ Abandonment of the believer by the unbelieving spouse
☐ Pre-conversion divorce ☐ Domestic abuse by a spouse, toward a spouse or child

If more than one former marriage, please include the information for each marriage in order.

Name of former spouse: _____

Date of second marriage: _____

Date of separation: _____

Date divorce granted: _____

Reason for divorce: ☐ Marital unfaithfulness ☐ Abandonment of the believer by the unbelieving spouse
☐ Pre-conversion divorce ☐ Domestic abuse by a spouse, toward a spouse or child

☐ **Information on applicant's spouse's divorce (if applicable):**

Name of former spouse: _____

Date of first marriage: _____

Date of separation: _____

Date divorce granted: _____

Reason for divorce: ☐ Marital unfaithfulness ☐ Abandonment of the believer by the unbelieving spouse
☐ Pre-conversion divorce ☐ Domestic abuse by a spouse, toward a spouse or child

If more than one former marriage, please include the information for each marriage in order.

Name of former spouse: _____

Date of second marriage: _____

Date of separation: _____

Date divorce granted: _____

Reason for divorce: ☐ Marital unfaithfulness ☐ Abandonment of the believer by the unbelieving spouse
☐ Pre-conversion divorce ☐ Domestic abuse by a spouse, toward a spouse or child