



## Hot off the presses!

MacMILLANS ALL,

As President of the Clan MacMillan Society of North America, it is my happy privilege to present the finalized draft of a long-needed update of our Constitution. I believe it is responsive to our present needs and builds well upon the experience of Society operation under the organizing Constitution of 1958.

The proposed Constitution is presented as an amendment, in manner consistent with the current Constitution. Here is the story:

### The Original Constitution

When MacMillan clansfolk in North America determined to erect an all-continent society some seventeen years ago, there was immediate requirement for a set of rules setting forth a suitable structure, membership qualifications, method of raising initial funds, and mechanics of operation.

Such a document, comprising nine articles, provided the needed framework, and with the blessing of The Chief of the Clan MacMillan and a great deal of hard work on the part of our Founding Members, the Society became an active element of the Clan.

That Constitution is replete with detail which, in the years since its adoption, has become "common understanding" on a "rules" rather than "Constitution" level, confirmed by long practice and periodic decisions of record, leaving the Constitution burdened with now-unneeded or no longer applicable material.

Portions of the original Constitution, such as that related to "Contributions," were specifically intended for the period 1958-59. While they no longer apply, no current dues schedule exists, resulting in wide and inequitable differences in member-response.

### Updating Overdue

So, for many years it has been evident that the original Constitution of the Clan MacMillan Society of North America, adopted in the 1950's as an "organizing" vehicle, has served its purpose and should be updated in light of experience and changing requirements.

Work has progressed toward this end, on and off, since 1968. It culminated in a draft revision which was then submitted to The Chief of the Clan MacMillan, General Sir Gordon MacMillan, for his critical appraisal

The Chief suggested modification to emphasize the role and importance of a Newsletter in Society communication, and this resulted in two changes in Article III, most particularly the inclusion of Section 13(b) (which, it should be noted, relates to minimums).

### Gains Approval for Submission

The resulting revision, culminating more than five years of draft-writings and discussions, was approved by the Executive Committee for submission to the Membership for vote.

The proposed draft has the Clan Chief's commendation and his concern for its early adoption. He declares, "I approve wholeheartedly."

### Summary of Key Provisions

The proposed Constitution revision will:

- \* CLARIFY requirements for Membership;
- \* INTRODUCE a uniform contributions (dues) schedule, equitable to all members, replacing one designated "for the period 1958-59" which ranges between an annual high of \$100 and over to a low of \$2;
- \* PROTECT the status of all current members;
- \* TIE the Clan Society more closely to the Clan;
- \* PROVIDE a means by which the Society's affairs may be conducted efficiently, with safeguards to ensure that this is actually done;
- \* ELIMINATE obsolete and non-functioning appointive "council," members of which were not of necessity members of the Society; and
- \* ENCOURAGE regional MacMillan organization under the "umbrella" of the North America Society.

### PROCEDURE

Article X, Amendments, of the current Constitution provides that a proposed amendment shall first be submitted to the Executive Committee, and, if approved, it shall then be submitted by mail to all paid-up members of the Clan Society. A two-thirds vote of ballots returned within twenty days is required for ratification. (All members receiving this Newsletter are eligible to vote.)

This procedure having been followed, and the draft amended and updated Constitution having been approved by the Executive Committee, the proposal is hereby set before the membership to amend the current Constitution by substituting the approved Text submitted herewith. Please note that, to be counted, your vote must be returned within twenty days. Please use the official ballot form provided.

The Executive Committee, by its approval action, commends the proposed Constitution to your favorable vote, and feels a sense of urgency in bringing this project to fruition and providing a most necessary format for the growth and good order of our Society.