

## POSITION BRIEF

# MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION OF CANADA

### Join our board – make a difference

If mental health matters to you and you'd like to use your talents to help improve mental health and substance use health for people across Canada, we want to hear from you.

At the Mental Health Commission of Canada (MHCC), how we work is as important as the work we do. The values that guide us inform the projects we pursue, the partnerships we cultivate, and the people we attract to work with us.

### We are currently seeking new directors to join our board!

The MHCC is especially interested in

- directors who are committed to Reconciliation and supporting our journey of walking in a good way with Indigenous communities and organizations
- a director who can provide leadership to our board's audit and finance committee
- expertise in organizational wellness, people, and culture
- expertise in the substance use health and mental health sectors – including persons with lived or living experience, caregivers, and professionals with clinical, research, or executive leadership experience.

### Position Profile

A director's roles and responsibilities include ensuring

- fidelity to the organization's vision, mission, strategic plan, key goals, business plan, and budget
- the organization's financial health and accountability
- that the MHCC meets all obligations with applicable laws and regulations
- that the MHCC is highly effective, reputable, credible, and collaborative.

### Term and location

As a director, you will serve a single term of up to three years, with eligibility for re-election to a second consecutive term of up to three years.

Board meetings are currently held remotely. When in-person meetings resume, they will usually take place in Ottawa (but also in other parts of Canada).

### **Time commitment**

Full-day board meetings are typically held once each quarter. As a director, each year you are expected to participate in eight to 10 board and committee meetings (while making reasonable efforts to attend for their full duration).

### **Skills and experience of interest**

A passion and dedication to mental health and substance use health is required.

**Along with a commitment to the board's mandate, skills in the following areas are also of value:**

- analytical and critical thinking
- financial literacy
- interpersonal communications
- creative and strategic vision/planning
- governance

### **Additional experience and competencies**

We invite candidates to highlight any skills and experience related to the following:

- system expertise in problematic mental health and/or substance use – including community-based and clinical experience
- personal living or lived experience of problematic mental health or substance use
- caregiver experience supporting someone with a mental health problem or illness and/or substance use
- financial management (professional designation preferred)
- the law
- familiarity with recovery-oriented approaches and/or mental health promotion
- issues facing Indigenous peoples in Canada
- risk management
- human resources, people, and culture
- communications/public affairs
- mental health and/or substance use research
- expertise in a charitable sector

**Our commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion** means building a bigger table. As an organization committed to our journey of Reconciliation, we encourage individuals who are Indigenous to apply. We expect all applicants to understand the importance of Reconciliation, and we are dedicated to creating a new paradigm for engagement with Indigenous communities. We also encourage applications from racialized persons, individuals with disabilities, and people from diverse ethnic and cultural origins, sexual orientations, and gender identities and expressions.

## Who We Are

The MHCC is a catalyst for improving the mental health system and changing attitudes and behaviours around mental health and substance use. Through our unique mandate from Health Canada, the MHCC works to advance an important national dialogue and challenge the misconceptions that can lead to discrimination against people living with mental health problems and/or substance use.

## What We Do

We bring together leaders and organizations from across the country to accelerate change in Canada's mental health landscape. Our initiatives and projects are led by people with a range of perspectives and experience who share a single vision: mental health and wellness for all.

MHCC board directors have often been vocal advocates for mental health improvements and the needs of specific populations, which inform their contributions to the board. However, as a board member you have a fiduciary duty to the organization to steward the MHCC's work rather than represent specific causes or populations.

The board of directors is collectively responsible for overseeing and providing direction to the MHCC's work. It also provides leadership, sets a vision and strategy, establishes policies and monitors their compliance, and directs the work of the president and chief executive officer, who manages MHCC operations (within board-approved strategic or business plans and budgets) and the organization's performance.

## Applications

The MHCC will review all applications received and present those from qualified candidates to its board's governance and nominating committee. A final list of candidates will be presented at our next annual general meeting in June 2022.

If you would like to join the MHCC as a board director, we invite you to send your resumé and a letter of interest, detailing your academic, professional, and living or lived experience, including the reasons you believe you would be an excellent candidate.



Mental Health  
Commission  
of Canada      Commission de  
la santé mentale  
du Canada

Applications must be received **by 5 p.m. ET on March 31, 2022**. Please email (required) your application to [mhccboardrecruitment@mentalhealthcommission.ca](mailto:mhccboardrecruitment@mentalhealthcommission.ca).

We thank all applicants for their interest. Only those shortlisted by the governance and nominating committee will be contacted.



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