

POSITION BRIEF

MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION OF CANADA

Join our board – make a difference

The Mental Health Commission of Canada (MHCC) is a charity dedicated to being a catalyst for improving mental health systems and changing attitudes and behaviours around mental health, mental illness, and substance use.

At the 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 collaborate with us.

We are currently seeking two new directors to join our board. The directors will ideally bring some combination of the following attributes:

- representation from First Nations, Inuit, and Métis communities in Canada
- representation from the francophone community
- expertise in one or more aspects of mental health policy and research
- expertise in various aspects of the mental health system and service issues
- strong knowledge and understanding of mental health and substance use issues, services, and systems specific to the Indigenous context and/or Northern Canada and Labrador and/or Western Canada

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 in person. They usually take place in Ottawa (but also in other parts of Canada).

Time commitment

Full-day board meetings and committee meetings (two to three hours in length) are typically held once each quarter. As a director, each year, you are expected to participate in three to four board meetings and four to five committee meetings.

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

Our commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion means building a bigger table. As an organization committed to our journey of Reconciliation. 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.

What We Do

We bring together leaders and organizations from across the country to accelerate change in Canada's mental health and substance use 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 and substance use 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 2024.

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

Applications must be received by 5 p.m. ET on March 31, 2024. Please email (required) your application to myoung@boyden.com.

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

