

National Youth In Care Network Call for Applications for the Board of Directors

Need:

The National Youth In Care Network is currently looking for individuals currently or formerly in care or individuals who work to support youth in care to apply to serve on our board of directors.

If you are interested, please read on and apply using the application form which is available from the office or from our website.

Description of NYICN:

The National Youth In Care Network is a national charitable organization driven by youth in care across Canada. The NYICN exists to voice the opinions and concerns of youth in and from care and promote the improvement of services for this group.

The NYICN mandate is to:

- Increase the awareness of the needs of youth in and from government care by researching the issues and presenting the results to youth, professionals, and the general public through publications and speaking engagements, etc.;
- Provide emotional support to youth in and from state care and to guide the development of Youth in Care Networks.

For more detailed information on our organization, please call the NYICN or check our website at www.youthincare.ca.

Role of Board:

The role of the board is to oversee to affairs of the National Youth In Care Network.

Responsibilities and Expectations of Board Members:

As a board of directors, you and the other board members are elected to act in a position of trust for the members, and are responsible for the effective governance of the organization.

This means, you are responsible for managing the:

- strategic visioning,
- legal affairs,
- financial affairs,
- programming activities, and
- staff.

You are also responsible for acting as one of our spokespeople for youth in care across Canada, and for supporting youth in care during NYICN events.

As such, you are expected to:

- be experienced and knowledgeable on the issues of youth in care
- support the mission and values of the NYICN
- be supportive and understanding to youth in care, and be an appropriate role model and trainer to youth participants
- further the work of the NYICN with your time, skills and support
- understand the role of the board and your legal and ethical responsibilities as a board member
- participate in all meetings as scheduled (four times per year), and if unable to participate, to send in comments to others on agenda items prior to meeting
- be able to access email on a weekly basis
- review all materials sent out and respond to all emails
- carry out other board responsibilities (e.g. committee member, fund-raising advocacy and/or education) in an effective and timely manner
- be interested and willing to participate in development opportunities including workshops, information sessions, and conferences and taking on new roles
- try to be an objective decision-maker, considering the impact of issues on individuals and the organization
- avoid participation in board issues, which are self-serving or may be perceived as conflict of interest

Qualities of a Good Board Member:

1. Commitment to the work of the NYICN.
2. Knowledge of youth in care issues.
3. Experience supporting and mentoring youth in care.
4. Knowledge and skills in one or more areas of Board governance: policy, finance, programs, personnel, and advocacy.
5. Willingness and availability to speak at conferences and to serve on committees.
6. Ability to commit for two years.

Process for Application and Nominations:

Early in the year, the call for board applicants is announced. Interested individuals may apply. Applications must include a cover letter, the completed application form (available on-line), resume and reference letters (including one from an "adult" and one from a "youth").

Applications are received until April 15.

In May, the NYICN Nominations Committee reviews and shortlists the applications. Those applicants that make the shortlist are interviewed, and based on these interviews, the Board of Directors will approve the nominations put forth by the Nominations Committee. Nominations will be announced and

voted on by the general membership during the Annual General Meeting during the summer.

Those nominees who are elected must commit to serve on the board for two years.

If you are interested in applying to be on the Board of Directors, please submit your completed application (available on-line), resume and reference letters by April 15.