

Join our Board of Directors

Become part of making a lasting impact for child and youth victims and witnesses of abuse and crime, and their families, in our community! We currently have a special need for individuals who bring any of the following qualifications:

- A) Chartered Professional Accountant (CPA), and/or*
- B) self-identification as First-Nations, Metis, or Inuit with knowledge of the local communities we support, and/or*
- C) firsthand lived experience with victim service supports.*

About Child Witness Centre

Did you know 27% of Canadians report experiencing physical or sexual abuse before the age of 15? At Child Witness Centre, we believe every hurt and harmed young person should be helped through the criminal justice system. That is why we walk with child and youth victims, and their families, from the time of investigation, through to a court resolution. We offer a safe landing place, listening ear, and education. We also provide testimonial support and attend court with them.

This past year alone, we supported 1,088 young clients in Waterloo Region, Guelph, and Wellington County. For the first time since we began in 1981, 2023-24 saw a **waitlist** for our services emerge. While we were recently successful with wiping out the waitlist, our budget now sits at over \$1.6 million to meet the community need. On an ongoing basis, **the waitlist may come back** if our agency doesn't reach our campaign goal or if we have an influx of cases – among other possible hurdles.

Role Overview

Our volunteer Board of Directors are vital towards our success in making a difference in our community. At this time, a CPA, an Indigenous individual, or a survivor with lived experience would be a tremendous asset to grow our quality of care and responsiveness, both internally and externally.

Child Witness Centre has made strides in increasing visibility and accessibility to our marginalized communities. We seek to improve our trauma-informed approach with Indigenous clients and partnered organizations by increasing efforts to understand our role in the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action and make actionable items that impact our day-to-day relationship to Indigenous peoples, the land we reside on, and the colonial practices that can act as barriers to these communities. We also seek a CPA in order to plan our treasurer succession and strengthen our organization's sustainability.

As a small nonprofit organization, each member plays a key role towards the overall health, strength, and effectiveness of our agency – including financially. We estimate a time commitment of 8 to 10 hours per month for each Board Member.

Specific Responsibilities

- Inform and review strategic plan alongside board members and CWC staff using personal expertise.
- Regularly attend and participate in Board meetings: 10 per year, in addition to the Annual Meeting (generally two-hour meetings). Board meetings are typically held on the first Monday of the month at 6 pm.
- Participate in at least one Board committee, which currently include: Finance, Audit and Investment; Governance; and Human Resources/Nominations.
- Support our fundraising efforts and agency events – as well as make an annual donation to our agency.
- Provide special assistance as requested by our Executive Director. Requests are generally based on the subject matter and expertise of the board member (i.e., policing, legal, fundraising, etc.)
- Participate in an ad hoc committee as needed.

Child Witness Centre respects, appreciates, and actively encourages diversity. As part of our commitment to equity, we welcome and encourage applications from all qualified individuals with diverse experiences based on race, ethnic origin, religion, age, colour, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, ability or disability, including women, 2SLGBTQI+, Indigenous Peoples, and other visible minorities.

Child Witness Centre also welcomes and encourages applications from people with disabilities. Please notify us if you require accommodation with respect to the recruitment process. We will work with you to determine how to meet your needs and your potential term as a board member.

To apply or request accommodations, please contact Robin Heald, Executive Director, at robin.heald@childwitness.com.