



Board Information Guide

www.wesforyouthonline.ca

Joining Our Board

Dear Prospective Board Member,

Thank you for your interest in joining the WES for Youth Online Board of Directors. This Board Information Guide is intended to provide an insight into our Organization.

1. The WES for Youth Online Profile
2. Board Role Description and Candidate Qualifications

Following the review of this information package, if you are still interested in applying for a position on our Board of Directors, please submit the following to the address listed below:

1. A cover letter and current CV with contact information, and;
2. One reference with their name, relation to you, and contact information

The Chair or designated member of the Nominating and Governance Committee will contact short-listed candidates for an interview.

Please send your application package by e-mail or post to:

Jennifer Mulcaster, Executive Director

WES for Youth Online

PO Box 2364

Walkerton, ON N0G 2V0

office@wesforyouthonline.ca

Organizational Profile

Organization Name: Wellness & Emotional Support (WES) for Youth Online

Year Incorporated: 2012

Status: Registered Charity CRA#: 852140441RR0001

Website: www.wesforyouthonline.ca

Mailing Address: PO Box 2364, Walkerton, Ontario, N0G 2V0

Contact: 1-519-507-3737 | office@wesforyouthonline

Mission:

WES for Youth Online is a professional online counseling service available, free of charge, for youth 13 to 24 years of age. Our services are currently accessible by those with an internet connection anywhere in the Province of Ontario. WES for Youth Online allows our young people to access services to talk about ANYthing, ANYtime, ANYwhere. Our mission statement "to provide wellness and emotional support through online professional counseling in a safe, secure, and confidential manner" embodies our efforts to use technology to get the youth of today through their personal struggles and challenges using technology that has become a part of their everyday lives.

Who We Are:

WES For Youth Online is a mental health charity started 10 years ago in Walkerton, Ontario that has since grown to service all of Ontario. We provide free, professional, online counselling to youth ages 13-24 across the province. Our vision is that one day all youth of Ontario will be able to access wellness and emotional support when they need it.

Organizational Profile

What We Do:

We currently have 5 professional counsellors who are all certified in Cybercounselling Level I and II. Youth have the option to connect with these counsellors in 3 different ways. The first option is an asynchronous email to email option within our portal where youth can connect with their counsellor on a timeline that best suits them. The second option is our live chat function where youth can connect during an allotted appointment time via messaging with their counsellor in our portal. Our newest option is via video call where youth can have a face to face appointment with their counsellor.

All options are secure, confidential, and safe for youth to receive professional ongoing, virtual mental health counselling. This is the key difference that separates WFYO from many other virtual mental health services as our goal is to provide ongoing counselling for youth rather than crisis counselling so that youth may develop a long lasting relationship with their counsellor and receive support in developing ongoing coping skills.

Our Impact:

In 2021 we provided over 1500 counselling hours to youth across Ontario and since 2013 we have provided wellness and emotional support to over 3000 youth across the province. Our counselling services, and our organization in general, is funded strictly by individual donors, corporate and community partnerships, and select grants. We do not receive government funding. This is a big reason why community outreach and stewardship is so important to us.

Roles and Responsibilities

The Board of Directors will support the work of WES for Youth Online and provide mission-based leadership and strategic governance. While the Executive Director leads daily operations, the Board of Directors and their relationship with the Executive Director is a partnership and the appropriate involvement of the Board is both critical and expected. Specific Director responsibilities include:

Leadership, Governance, and Oversight:

- Serving as a trusted advisor to the Executive Director as they develop and implement the strategic plan of the Organization (in consultation with the Board)
- Reviewing outcomes and metrics created by the Organization for evaluation of its impact and regularly measuring its performance and effectiveness using those metrics
- Approving the Organization's annual budget, audit reports, operational plans and material business decisions; being informed of, and meeting all, legal and fiduciary responsibilities
- Contributing to the annual performance evaluation of the Executive Director
- Assisting the Executive Director and Board Chair in identifying and recruiting other Board Members
- Partnering with the Executive Director and other Board Members to ensure Board resolutions are carried out
- Serving on committees or task forces and taking on special assignments
- Representing WES for Youth Online to stakeholders; acting as an ambassador for the Organization
- Ensuring the Organization's commitment to a diverse Board and staff reflects that of the youth the Organization serves

Roles and Responsibilities

Fundraising:

WES for Youth Online Board Members will consider the Organization as a philanthropic priority and make annual gifts that reflect that priority so that WES for Youth Online can credibly solicit contributions from foundations, organizations, and individuals. WES for Youth Online expects to have 100% of Board Members make an annual contribution that commensurate with their capacity.

Board Terms/Participation:

Members of the Board of Directors will serve a three-year term and are eligible for re-appointment for additional terms thereafter. Board Meetings are held 8 times a year via teleconference or video conference

Qualifications:

This is an extraordinary opportunity for an individual who is passionate about our mission and who has a proven track record of volunteerism and leadership.

An ideal candidate will have the following qualifications:

- Under provincial and federal laws, individuals must be Canadian residents who have reached the age of majority and have been successfully discharged from bankruptcy. The individual must not have received notice by the courts to not engage in such activities
- Extensive professional experience with significant executive leadership accomplishments in business, government, philanthropy, mental health, or the non-profit sector will be considered a major asset
- A commitment to and understanding of the youth we serve and a passion for improving lives
- Advanced diplomatic skills and a natural affinity for cultivating relationships and persuading, convening, and facilitating business consensus among diverse individuals
- English and French bilingualism is considered as asset but is **not required**

Position Requirements

In order to fulfill our mandate to our members and the youth we service, WES for Youth Online has identified the following requirements for our Board Members. The failure to adhere to these conditions will be considered a violation of our Code of Conduct and will be a reason for removal from our Board.



ATTENDANCE AT 80% OF ALL BOARD MEETINGS

Our Board of Directors Does Recess for July, August, and December for Holiday Breaks Unless Reconvened by the Chair



AGREEMENT TO HELP SOLICIT DONATIONS, CONNECTIONS AND SPONSORSHIPS ON AN ANNUAL BASIS

Through Acts Such as Brainstorming, Networking, Information Sharing, Grant Recommendations, Etc., Board Members Will Use Their Skills and Networks to Promote the Success of WES for Youth Online



ATTENDANCE AT PROGRAM RELATED EVENTS IN YOUR AREA, EXCLUDING OUR AGM

This May Include Donor Recognition Events, Cheque Presentations Fundraisers, Thank You's, Etc.



PREPARE IN ADVANCE FOR ALL BOARD MEETINGS AND COME WITH AN INQUISITIVE ATTITUDE

Review All Materials Distributed Prior to Board Meetings and Utilize Your Expertise As Well As Critical Analysis to Promote the Betterment of WFYO



MAINTAIN STRICT CONFIDENTIALITY STANDARDS

Respect, Safety, and Confidentiality Are Important Tenants of Wfyo and in Order to Properly Serve Our Youth Strict Confidentiality Is at the Core of Our Organization