

Dear Member,

The British Columbia Persons With AIDS Society (BCPWA) is looking for committed, energetic members to serve on its **Board of Directors**.

Established in 1986, BCPWA is a non-profit, consumer-driven organization whose mission is to empower persons living with HIV and AIDS through mutual support and collective action. The BCPWA Society is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors, all of whom are HIV-positive members of the Society. BCPWA provides support and advocacy services, treatment information and volunteer opportunities, to more than 4,600 members province-wide.

Having a fully HIV-positive Board is the key to BCPWA's uniqueness and success. It takes an imaginative and dedicated group of individuals to ensure that the Society continues to experience success and the Board welcomes applicants from the many diverse communities that form the Society's provincial membership. Applicants to the Board must be full-voting members of the Society in good standing.

The BCPWA Board consists of eleven members who each serve two-year terms. The terms are staggered so that every year up to six new Board Members are elected at the Society's Annual General Meeting, which takes place in August. The Board of Directors serves as the policy-making and governing body of the Society.

The Board meets every two weeks throughout the year to review BCPWA's operations and to make decisions relating to the governance and policies of the Society. Many people who have never had previous Board experience have enjoyed being part of the BCPWA Board. In addition, BCPWA has committees that deal with matters directly related to their area of responsibility and expertise and meet regularly once a month.

Board of Directors meetings and committee meetings require a time commitment of approximately 8 hours a month. Both are scheduled in consideration of members' needs. There may also be a requirement for Board Members to sit on or attend meetings with external organizations that BCPWA participates or partners with.

Becoming a Board Member gives members the opportunity to meet and work with people at a local, provincial and federal level. Board Members also get the chance to develop skills in new areas, and training, support and mentoring are provided to assist Board Members in carrying out their duties.

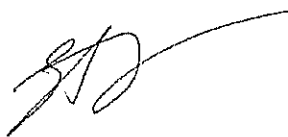
Provision for Board Members residing out of the Metro Vancouver area is made for attendance at one Board Meeting a month and teleconferencing is often used for other meetings.

Joining the Board of Directors can be overwhelming at first as it can be challenging to learn the structure and operations of the Society. It often takes a year for new Board Members to familiarize themselves with the various departments and services that the Society offers to the membership.

The Society encourages everyone who feels that they have the skills, vision and a desire to contribute to this very worthy cause to get involved.

For more information on the work of the **Board of Directors** of BCPWA, or to obtain a Board Member Recruitment Package which contains all the information necessary to run for the Board, please contact Keith Morris, Secretary at 604-893-2214 or email: keithm@bcpwa.org. Board Member recruitment information is also available on the website at: www.bcpwa.org.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Glyn Townson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Glyn Townson
Chair