



QUALITIES OF PROSPECTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

All physicians who join the South Calgary Primary Care Network must first become a shareholder of the South Anderson Primary Care Association (SAPCA).

Through physician advocacy and representation, SAPCA supports the health of individuals and communities. In collaboration with Alberta Health Services (AHS), SAPCA forms the governance board of the South Calgary Primary Care Network (SCPCN), enabling the SCPCN to achieve its mission: *building healthier communities in south Calgary through the evolution and transformation of primary care in collaboration with our wellness partners.*

Following are the fundamental characteristics that we are seeking in prospective board members:

SUPPORT FOR THE ORGANIZATION

While prospective board members may not agree with every aspect of the operation, they should have a strong desire to support and develop the work of the organization in a positive way.

Prospective board members must be

- Ambassadors for SAPCA's mission and for the physicians the organization represents
- Passionate about advancing primary care in Alberta
- Concerned for the needs of physician members
- Devoted to contributing to the well-being of the south Calgary population

SENSE OF INTEGRITY

A sense of integrity means that the prospective board member

- Acts as a steward or trustee for the values and resources of our community
- Is willing to place the good of the organization above his or her own self-interest

SKILLS TO WORK EFFECTIVELY WITH OTHERS

Working on a board requires prospective members to be team players. Productive board discussions and decision-making are based on the prospective board member's ability to

- Respect each member's viewpoint
- Respect the democratic process
- Work effectively in a group
- Bring self-confidence to the role
- Share viewpoints without bowing to peer pressure
- Accept public scrutiny and criticism
- Communicate with tact and diplomacy
- Focus on building productive relationships

A WIDER SENSE OF COMMUNITY

Prospective board members with a broader view of the community and the world are an asset to most organizations. Prospective board members who understand the organization's connections to various groups in the community often make better advocates of the organization. Additionally, board members with a wide circle of contacts are likely better equipped to assist in resource development, planning, and board and membership recruitment.

A SPHERE OF INFLUENCE

The board is a corporate body that must make decisions collectively. However, the individual formal and informal powers that prospective board members have, or are perceived to have, will also affect the organization. The ability of prospective board members to further the cause of or to govern the organization may be linked to their sphere of influence – be it geographical, within a sector, or among a specific age or group.

WILLINGNESS TO LEARN AND GROW

Prospective board members must have positive attitude about learning, as this is critical to developing a dynamic board that can deal with change and development. Individuals who value lifelong learning will support appropriate board development activities.

AN ORIENTATION TO THE FUTURE

The role of a board is to

- Guide the organization into the future
- Ensure resources are available for future development

Prospective board members should be interested in the growth and development of the organization and in the stewardship of its goals and mission.

TIME COMMITMENT

Prospective board members must be both willing and able to carry out responsibilities that will require them to be available for important events in the organization's year:

- Board meetings (three hours in length, every five weeks; advance preparation for meetings is approximately one to two hours per month)
- SAPCA's Annual General Meeting
- SCPCN/SAPCA annual two-day board retreat
- Possible sub-committee work