



West End Food Co-op

Board of Directors - Call for Nominations

Election to be held at Annual General Meeting - June 28, 2017

Dear Members,

The Board is putting a call out for nominations for seven director positions. Please read this information package carefully. If after reading this package in full you are interested in running for a position on the Board, we ask that you send a statement of interest (250 words or less) to the following address: agm2017@westendfood.coop. In the statement of interest, you must identify which stakeholder director position you would like to run for.

This statement of interest will be distributed to the membership for consideration at the AGM. You will also be invited to speak on your behalf (1 minutes or less) at the AGM regarding your skills and experience, and why you are interested in being a Director of the WEFC.

2017 WEFC Board of Directors Election

There are 8 Director positions open for election at the AGM as follows:

- 3 consumer member positions
- 2 producer member positions (1 with a one-year term)
- 2 community partner member positions
- 1 worker member position

Each position has a two-year term. You (or in the case of community partners, your organization) must be a member of the stakeholder group for which you are nominated within 10

days of being elected to the Board.

About the West End Food Co-op

The West End Food Co-op is a not-for-profit co-operative that includes eaters, producers, workers, and community partners. We aim to provide viable food security initiatives that are specific to the needs of our west end communities.

The West End Food Co-op connects local farmers to local eaters, and produces self-sustaining initiatives that work for the community. Our co-op is working to increase markets for local, sustainable farmers and artisan producers; a fair, democratic, and meaningful workplace for our workers; an inspiring, community-driven, and welcoming place to shop, learn and connect for eaters; and a resource and valuable partner to work with community groups in Parkdale and across Toronto to improve food security and access to good, healthy, real food in our neighbourhood and beyond.

About the Board of Directors

At the moment, the Co-op is undergoing a major transition. Come September 2018, we will be required to move out of our retail space on Queen Street. While the Board is working hard to make the transition smooth, it is no easy task. Finding a location that serves our community and furthers our mission, all at an affordable rate, is our most pressing challenge. At the same time, we continue to work towards financial stability to ensure the longevity of the Co-op for years to come.

Multi-stakeholder composition of Board

The Board of Directors directs the business and affairs of the co-op. The Board consists of 12 Directors, and aims to be a Board that is structured, in law and in practice, to be equitably representative of its stakeholders as follows: 3 consumer members, 3 worker members, 3 producer members, and 3 community partner members. This practice is not yet enshrined in our bylaws, however the intention is to rectify that in the coming term.

Directors are elected at the West End Food Co-op Annual General Meeting. Directors are not compensated and do not receive an honorarium.

Basic eligibility (legal)

To be considered for the Board, candidates must meet a minimum set of qualifications, as stated in the Co-operative Corporations Act as follows:

- Candidates must be members of the co-op and at least 18 years of age.
- You must not be an undischarged bankrupt or incapable of managing property within the meaning of the Substitute Decisions Act

Basic Responsibilities

Board members are expected to attend monthly meetings and attend to their action items. Board members are encouraged to participate on at least one committee. Directors must be able to attend monthly 2.5-3 hour Board meetings, either in person or electronically. Beyond this regular meeting, the time commitment for a Director typically averages an additional 3-5 hours per week, including preparation for monthly meetings (preparing and reviewing reports and financial documents) as well as specially-called Board meetings and participation on committees.

Desired Skills:

Given the current challenges, the Co-op would greatly benefit from the addition of Directors with **previous Board experience.**

We are also seeking directors with experience or expertise in one or more of the following areas:

- Project management
- Fundraising
- Grant writing
- Co-operative governance
- Accounting or business administration
- Human resources
- Grocery retail/retail management

It is important that the Directors of the WEFC have a commitment to upholding and furthering the values and principles that underpin the activities of the West End Food co-op. These include:

1. Co-op principles and values. See “International Principles of Co-operation”:
http://www.ontario.coop/all_about_cooperatives/what_is_a_coop/international_principles_of_cooperation)
2. Multi-stakeholder co-op principles and objectives. See “Solidarity as a Business Model: A Multi-stakeholder Co-ops Manual”:
<http://cultivatingfoodcoops.net/news/developing/solidarity-as-a-business-model-a-multistakeholder-co-ops-manual> for more information)
3. Social equity and diversity:
 - The West End Food Co-op operates in an incredibly diverse community. A key goal of the co-op is to bridge these stark contrasts that characterize the community by seeing all residents as potential members, and work to not only engage them, but represent, address and support their needs and interests. To

do this, Board members should:

- Have a commitment to social equity.
 - Have an understanding of anti-oppression principles and issues of power and privilege, and have an understanding of their own relative power and privilege.
 - Have a commitment to a vision of a co-op that works to address the needs and interests of a membership and community of diverse economic means, lifestyles, relationships with and access to food, food preferences and needs, and member service preferences and needs.
4. Environmental sustainability
 5. Food sovereignty: <http://foodsecurecanada.org/six-pillars-food-sovereignty>

Thank you so much for your interest, and we look forward to seeing you at the AGM!

Co-operatively,

The West End Food Co-op Board of Directors