

Volunteer With the PeerWorks Governance Committee

Two volunteer opportunities available.

Applications close Wednesday, September 30, 2026

Background

In 2025 our members approved a [10-Year Strategic Plan called Our Strength is Each Other](#). It set three priorities for PeerWorks: **Being Loud, Being Sustainable, and Being Strong**.

Being Strong is about governance. It's the least glamorous of the three, but the essential foundations to make sure we can accomplish the other two. A Board that doesn't have its house in order can't advocate well, and it can't grow revenue safely.

So we spent 18 months getting our house in order. We modernized our by-laws. We wrote a Board Governance Binder in plain language, with a glossary, because governance jargon shuts people out. We built an annual Board calendar, a nominations process, a skills matrix, and a buddy system for new Directors.

Our Board approved all of it in June 2026, and created a Standing Governance Committee to carry it forward.

That committee is now looking for two community/member volunteers.

What This Committee Actually Does

It keeps the governance work moving forward to support the full Board's effectiveness. Over the coming year, that means:

- Keeping the Board Governance Binder current.
- Writing a conflict of interest policy.
- Building a risk list for the Board to review each year.
- Running our first annual Board self-evaluation.
- Setting how the Board measures its own success.
- Running the recruitment of new Directors, and looking after new Directors in their first 90 days.
- Writing a protocol for who speaks for PeerWorks, and when.

Why You Might Be Interested

You're curious about governance but not ready for a Board seat. Fair enough. This is a way to find out what board work is really like, before you sign up for the legal duties that come with being a Director. Fewer obligations, but real exposure to how a Board works.

You want to give something back without a two-year commitment. A volunteer role is only a one year commitment. You can renew it again, if you're really enjoying it, for up to three years.

You've got a skill our Board table doesn't have. Legal, finance, risk, HR, policy writing, plain language, accessibility. If you have it, we would love to benefit from it!

You'd like to be valued for what you can do. Here, we're asking about your skills and what you want to build.

Who Can Do This

You need to be one of the following:

- A PeerWorks member in good standing, or
- A community member with relevant lived experience or governance expertise.

That's it. You don't need to have been on a board before. You don't need a degree or a professional title.

What the Commitment Is

What	How Much
Meetings	At least six a year, and sometimes more when there's a piece of work on the go. Meetings can be virtual.
Prep	An agenda comes to you at least three business days ahead. There's usually some reading.
Term	One year, renewable up to three years in a row.
Confidentiality	You'll sign our Oath of Confidentiality before you start. The committee sees candidate applications and other sensitive material, so this matters.
Pay	None. This is volunteer work.

How Your Voice Works Here

Two Things to Know

You take part fully in the conversation. You don't vote on motions going to the Board.

Committee volunteers shape the discussion and help develop final recommendations to go to the Board. The formal vote stays with elected Directors, because our by-laws state that formal governance decisions rest with the Board. Your voice matters here. The final vote still rests with the Board.

This isn't a guaranteed path to a Board seat. Some people do go from committee work to a Director role, and we'd be glad if this is how you find your way onto the Board one day. But we're not promising it, and we'd rather say so up front than have you expecting something we didn't promise.

How to Apply

Send us two things by Wednesday, September 30, 2026:

1. **A short note about you.** Why you're interested, and what you'd bring. One page is more than plenty.
2. **Your resume, or a list of your relevant experience.** Whatever form is easiest for you.

Where to send it: info@peerworks.ca, subject line "Your Name Governance Committee Volunteer."

If you require accommodation to apply please contact Allyson Theodorou, Executive Director at allyson@peerworks.ca.

What Happens Next

When	What Happens
September 30	Applications close.
October	The Governance Committee reviews applications and has a short conversation with people it's considering. About 45 minutes, virtual or by phone.
Fall Board meeting	The Committee recommends, and the Board formally appoints.
After appointment	You'll sign the Oath of Confidentiality, get access to the Board portal, and be walked through the Binder before your first meeting.

Support and Accommodation

Tell us what you need. You will receive questions ahead of time, and there can be delivery options like phone instead of video, a break partway through, someone you trust sitting in with you, or help filling out the form. Ask by email or by phone, and you don't need to explain why.

Questions First?

Email info@peerworks.ca or call 416-484-8785 ext. 2 and we'll set up a short chat with someone on the Committee. Nothing that will bind you to apply.

One Last Thing

Good governance is quiet work. Nobody claps for a well-run meeting or a risk that got caught early. But it's the reason PeerWorks can speak up for peer support across this province and be taken seriously.

If that's the kind of contribution that appeals to you, we'd really like to hear from you!