

The Crisis Intervention and Suicide Prevention Centre of BC (Crisis Centre) is looking for Board Directors to guide us into our future.

The Crisis Intervention and Suicide Prevention Centre of BC (Crisis Centre) is a non-profit, volunteer organization committed to helping people help themselves and others deal with crisis.

The Crisis Centre has been providing emotional support to youth, adults and seniors in distress since 1969. As a safe place to turn when there seems to be no hope, the Crisis Centre is operated by 250+ frontline volunteers and a team of professional staff who support and empower individuals to see their own strengths and options, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. We work at the community level to provide education and training aimed at fostering resiliency and building capacity to respond to crisis and suicide.

Current context

Over the past two years the Crisis Centre has been rapidly evolving. We transitioned from our in-house call centre to a networked Provincial call centre with nine other BC Crisis Centres on September 28, 2023. We then added our Centre to the 40 crisis centres across Canada participating in the launch of 9-8-8, Canada's national suicide prevention line. As a result of joining networks of crisis centres, we have collectively increased our capacity to take calls, moving from answering 40% of incoming calls to 80% within three months.

We've also been expanding our impact on community, offering in-person and online training on suicide awareness, crisis intervention, and emotional self-regulation as well as bereavement support for individuals and communities after suicide loss.

In June 2024 we re-organized leadership at the Centre to address long standing silos within our Distress Services, and between Distress Services and Community Learning and Engagement, with the goal of creating and maintaining a supportive, compassionate, and sustainable work environment.

All this change poses opportunities and challenges for our organization, which will take confidence, skill, and expertise to navigate.

Role of the board

The Crisis Centre's board is forward-looking, thoughtful, and committed to building a thriving volunteer-based community. As part of our governance team, you will be governing an organization that:

- engages over 250 volunteers who deliver life-saving programs and services
- runs regional and provincial crisis services that answer over 45,000 calls and chats per year from individuals seeking support through rough times
- provides education and training to support youth to handle stressful situations with grace and resilience and increase the capacity of both regular citizens and helping professionals to respond with compassion and awareness to people experiencing suicidal thoughts.

Our Board ensures our activities are in line with our goals, stewards our financial and in-kind resources, and helps build relationships with government stakeholders at the municipal, provincial, and federal level, as well as potential funders.

Who you are

We are especially looking for individuals who are:

- comfortable with the rapidly changing landscape of crisis services
- comfortable working with an entrepreneurial Executive Director and senior management team
- interested in growing into board leadership positions
- able to enrich the diversity of backgrounds and perspectives that support our mission and vision
- human resources, financial and/or accounting expertise an asset

Many members of our Board have a personal connection to suicide and mental health. We welcome people with lived experience to apply.

Board commitment

- The Crisis Centre Board meets every two months.
- Meetings are in the evenings, from 5:30 to 7:30pm.
- Board Members also serve on at least one Board Committee, with additional meetings as required.
- Board members serve two-year terms

Location

Meetings are a hybrid mix of in-person and virtual online via zoom.

Learn more

You can learn more about the Crisis Centre on our website:

<https://crisiscentre.bc.ca>

Request a Board Application Package

Please contact applications@crisiscentre.bc.ca, with subject line “Board of Directors” to request a Board Application Package. We will be reviewing applications as they come in, with the goal of making decisions by **August 19, 2024**.

If you would like to apply to be a Board Director, please become a Member of the Crisis Centre of BC. **Membership is free.** All Board Directors must be members of the Crisis Centre of BC.

[Sign up for membership here!](#)