



VOLUNTEER WITH US!

**BOARD OF  
DIRECTORS**



Social Development Centre Waterloo Region  
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## **ABOUT SDC**

The Social Development Centre Waterloo Region (SDC) was incorporated in 1967 after years of mobilizing around community-identified gaps in services. Over the years, we have incubated countless community projects, services, groups, and non-profits. Today our primary pillars are Housing & Homelessness, Grassroots Infrastructure, and Lived Expertise.

## **OUR MANDATE**

SDC is a learning organization that supports all voices in the creation of community wide solutions, ensuring that lived experience is the basis for collective action.

## **OUR WORK**

We carry out our mandate by first identifying emerging issues in our community through collaboration and [research](#). We then get to work on solutions that are led by people with lived expertise.

Our programs, research, and advocacy include the [Eviction Prevention Peer Support](#), [Lived Expertise Support](#), [Civic Hub Waterloo Region](#), Grassroots Climate Resilience Project, and [Festival of Neighbourhoods](#).

## **WANT TO KNOW MORE?**

Visit our [About Us](#) page for more information about our values, our operating principles, and the staff and Board members who make our work possible.

## **WHAT DOES THE BOARD DO?**

As a nonprofit, the Social Development Centre has a Board of Directors. The Board is made up of elected members of SDC. Each Board Member is elected for a term of 2 years, after which they would have to run for re-election. Elections are held at the annual general meeting (AGM), which all members are invited to. If there are vacancies in between, additional board members may be appointed for the remainder of the term until the next AGM.

The SDC Board is responsible for strategic and financial oversight of the organization, while staff run day to day operations. After temporarily functioning as a Working Board, we are now transitioning back to our role as a Governance Board. Board members meet monthly to “conduct business” by passing motions outlined in the agenda. Areas reviewed typically include a financial report, updates from staff, and any other business that has come up. The Board may form subcommittees of Board members and/or staff to address areas like strategic planning, or finance, on an ongoing or as needed basis.

A smaller group of Board Members are officers, which means that they hold specific titles and duties like Chair, Treasurer, Secretary. Collectively the officers make up the Executive Committee of the Board, which meets weekly to support staff leadership with more operationally focused or time sensitive decisions.

Board members at SDC play a crucial role in bringing diverse, broad-based community perspectives and experiences to the way the organization is steered and governed. The Board of Directors guides SDC’s strategic planning process, accepts responsibility for transparent stewardship of the organization’s resources, and helps ensure adherence to our stated values, operating principles, and mandate. As an organization involved in research, planning, and advocacy related to issues of social justice, SDC’s Board is continually striving to reflect the diversity of the communities we serve.

## **QUALIFICATIONS**

- A dedication to improving the quality of life in the community
- An acknowledgment of the intrinsic worth of the individual in society
- A willingness to work with others to obtain a common goal
- A desire to see the Social Development Centre develop its potential as a key organization in the community

- A willingness to develop a thorough understanding of the values and programs of the Social Development Centre
- A willingness to develop an understanding of the community, its structures, organizations, and needs
- The ability to take a leadership role in bringing about change in the community
- Access to technology (meetings are virtual)
- Expertise in specific domains like HR, legal, accounting are especially helpful
- Able to commit at least 3 hours per month (1.5 hour meeting plus time reading reports/emails)

## **NEXT STEPS**

If you are interested in joining our Board or want to learn more about the role, we would love to hear from you! Please reach out to our Board Chair, Heather Bigelow, to set up a time to chat: [heather.bigelow@gmail.com](mailto:heather.bigelow@gmail.com). Here are some questions for you to reflect upon ahead of your conversation:

1. Why are you interested in SDC?
2. What experiences have you gained (through work, education, community, or life), which you could bring to SDC? Include any experiences in community organizations, committees, projects, social research, etc.
3. Do you have specific skills or areas of expertise that you think would benefit SDC and the Board?
4. What other volunteer commitments do you currently have?