

Learning Disability Association of Alberta Board Recruitment & Retention

Organization Background

The Learning Disabilities Association of Alberta (LDAA) was first incorporated in 1968 as the Alberta Association for Children with Learning Disabilities. In 1980, it obtained charitable status. As its mandate expanded, the association added “Adults” to the name in 1982, before arriving at its current name in 1987. Its initial purpose was to help local chapters and community groups become more effective in advocating to the provincial government, and in particular, the department of education. Today, the LDAA supports local chapters, advocates at the provincial level on behalf of people with learning disabilities, works with Alberta Learning on resource development, organizes an annual conference, administers two scholarship funds, maintains a web site and publishes a provincial newsletter.

The LDAA is part of a federally incorporated organization. Founded in 1963, the Learning Disabilities Association of Canada (LDAC) is the national voice for persons with learning disabilities and those who support them. LDAC is dedicated to building a level playing field for individuals with learning disabilities to enable them to function as citizens with equal opportunities and to develop to their chosen potential. LDAC accomplishes these goals through public awareness about the nature and impact of learning disabilities, advocacy, research, health, education and collaborative efforts. The LDAC has one member organization in each province and territory except Nunavut.

Each provincial/territorial association in turn has chapters or branches. The LDAA currently has chapters in Edmonton, Calgary and Red Deer. The LDAA and its chapters are all independently incorporated associations with their own charitable status. The roles of local, provincial and national levels of the organization are outlined in the LDAC policy manual.

Current Board Structure

The Board is currently comprised of nine directors.

Term of Office

- a. The term of office of a Director is two (2) years
- b. The length of term shall not exceed three consecutive terms of office (6 consecutive years).

Executive

The executive positions of Secretary, Treasurer, and Vice-President are elected by the Board. The President is elected by the membership at the AGM.

Board Standing Committees (at October 2010)

Board Operations and Human Resources
 Fund Development
 Education and Communication
 Scholarship and Awards
 Strategic Planning and Policy Development
 Conference (Joint venture between the provincial and chapter associations)

Frequency of Board Meetings and Per Diems

The Board generally meets as needed (approximately 8 to 10 times throughout the year) through a mix of face to face and teleconference meetings. Teleconference calls are normally about 90 minutes in length. In-person meetings are traditionally scheduled for Saturdays beginning at 10:00 am and ending at 2:00 pm. No meetings are scheduled during July and August. Pre-approved expenses for out of town travel and accommodations are reimbursed, if requested, for meetings attended on behalf of the organization.

One Annual General Meeting is held each spring.

Meetings have been held at various locations throughout the province with the majority being held in the central location of Red Deer.

Committee meetings are called as needed.

The Board serves with no financial remuneration provided. However, when directors attend meetings on behalf of the association, expenses for out of town travel and accommodations are considered "reimbursed" meetings.

Scope of Decision-Making

- Establish and support the implementation of policy
- Approve budgets as required, receive financial reports, review financial statements, and make decision on money matters.
- Review and approve in-year and long range plans
- Chapter development
- Supports and education for persons with Learning Disabilities and/or educational and service providers

Board Member Expectations

- Be a member in good standing
- A sense of integrity
- Have good judgment

- Have specific skills
- Willingness to learn and grow
- An ability to support board fund-raising activities
- Ensure your fiduciary responsibility to the organization
- Attend all board meetings
- Keep up to date and become knowledgeable on publicity and fundraising matters
- Come to board meetings well prepared and informed to discuss the agenda and other matters
- Be knowledgeable of and follow parliamentary procedures.
- Contribute to discussions on issues and motions
- Serve on committees when called upon
- Demonstrate leadership and respect for fellow board members
- Maintain confidentiality in and out of meetings
- Declare conflict of interest issues
- Give clear, accurate direction
- Listen to others

Benefits of Being a Board Member

- Opportunities to contribute to the learning disability community
- Contributing through each board member's unique set of skills and experiences to benefit persons with learning disabilities.
- Opportunities to collaborate through networking and assist personal growth
- Opportunities to create policies
- Learn skills in advocacy for persons with learning disabilities.