



Board of Directors

Expression of Interest

worldaccord.org

Would you like to join our team?

World Accord invites nominations from qualified candidates to serve as a Board Director for an initial three-year term. We welcome applications from people across Canada and are committed to a governance board that models diversity, equity and inclusion.

Who are we?

For more than 40 years, World Accord has been actively involved in successful international development projects with programs and partners located in Central America (Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador), Asia (Nepal) and most recently in Africa (the Afar region in Ethiopia). The focus of our partners' work is on sustainable agriculture (agroecology and agroforestry), strengthening the ability of local communities to adapt to the climate crisis, gender equality, ending sexual violence, and economic and social empowerment of women and girls.

We value local ownership and decision-making and believe that power shared is power multiplied. Using the principle of working *"not for but with"*, World Accord is a social change agent and not a helping organization. Our focus on capacity building leaves space for partners to exercise their power. It is essential that we (staff, board, donors) constantly reflect on and assess how our position of privilege impacts our language, ideologies, policies, representation and relationships with our partners. It is our responsibility to create spaces for honest conversations, interrogate our own biases, ensure diverse representation on our Board, and educate ourselves to ensure western thought and approaches are not privileged over others.

What is involved as a Board Director?

The Board of Directors supports the governance affairs of World Accord and enables the organisation to achieve its purpose within the framework of relevant legislation and standards. Major duties of the board include governing World Accord through policies, strategic and planning objectives, Executive Director hiring and performance evaluation, understanding programs and partner relationships abroad, and providing oversight for planning, management and delivery of World Accord's programs abroad.

Directors are encouraged to engage in courses and seminars related to the roles and responsibilities of board members, as well as in the sound financial management of non-government organisations.

Duties, responsibilities and competencies:

- Share in the collective commitment to World Accord's vision and mission statement;

- Prepare for and attend all Board meetings; this involves thoughtful preparation and participation (e.g., reviewing minutes, emails and reports), listening to diverse perspectives and making informed contributions.
- Participate in committee work as required.
- Communicate promptly, clearly and effectively during meetings, and through electronic means outside of meetings;
- Develop respectful and collegial working relationships with staff, other board and committee members;
- Understand and interpret the organization's by-laws, strategic plan and basic financial and operational statements;
- Collaboratively develop policies to guide the organization towards its strategic goals;
- Demonstrate willingness to learn about World Accord's and other similar NGO's approach to development;
- Participate in fundraising and volunteer events as able.

What are your terms of commitment as a Board Director?

Serving on World Accord's Board involves a time commitment to prepare for and attend all board meetings. Board directors are expected to attend two weekend board meetings – one usually held virtually in February, and the other, which includes the AGM, held in person in June. Other board meetings are called on an ad hoc basis as needs arise. This is usually in the range of 3-6 additional meetings over a year, held virtually in the evenings or on the weekend. The June meeting and AGM are held in person in Ottawa.

Directors are also expected to serve on one or more board committees that meet several times a year, depending on goals and timelines. Meetings generally happen virtually, but may be in person, depending on the circumstances.

In addition to board and committee meetings, Directors may be involved in education sessions as well as events (e.g., fundraising) during and outside normal business hours.

World Accord Board Directors typically serve a three year term, with the possibility of being elected for no more than 11 consecutive years. Roles include President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, plus three to five Directors at Large.

If elected at the June AGM, Board directors will participate in an orientation with Executive members.

Current opportunities await

If you would like to add your voice to World Accord's mission in the world, we would love to hear from you. Furthermore, if you have expertise in one or more of the following areas, please ensure this is noted in your resume:

- Policy and governance
- Human resources
- Community engagement and advocacy

- Strategic planning and evaluation
- Finance and accounting
- Marketing and communications
- Social media literacy
- Fundraising
- Agriculture
- Risk management
- Education/experience in international development, gender equity, climate change, and the UN Sustainable Development Goals
- Spanish or French

Previous experience serving on an NGO Board of Directors would be an asset, but is not a requirement to be considered.

Prospective board members are interviewed and vetted by a committee. Applicants are then introduced and voted on by the board at the AGM, held in June of each year. If successful, the new director's first of a three-year term begins immediately following the AGM.

If interested, please submit a resume along with two professional references to Board.Recruitment@worldaccord.org

We look forward to meeting you!