



31 March 2023

Volunteer Opportunity:

The Women's Economic Council (WEC) is seeking volunteer directors for its board.

WEC is a nationally incorporated not-for-profit organization founded in 2002 with ***a mission to advance women-centred community economic development (CED) as a means of reducing poverty and improving the lives of women, their families, and communities.*** Our definition of CED includes social enterprise, co-operatives and mutually supportive self-employment structures that encourage success for all.

Our vision is economic security for every woman

- WEC strengthens the women-centred CED sector and organizations through information-sharing and capacity-building projects.
- WEC increases national awareness of women centred CED's effectiveness at building sustainable livelihoods for Canadian families.
- WEC raises public awareness about policy changes necessary to support women's economic security.
- WEC researches and documents issues, trends and outcomes affecting the spectrum of women-centred CED.

Our organizational values

- **Women-centredness:** We operate from the perspective of women's lived realities and use gender-based impact analysis as a way to ensure that our work addresses them.
- **Community:** We respect the wisdom and potential of communities and community economic development.
- **Sustainability:** We believe in the sustainable livelihoods model of social and economic change.
- **Support:** We work to support women by supporting community-based women-centred CED organizations and the women they serve.
- **Diversity:** We believe that working for all women means respecting women's diverse lived realities and value the unique contributions diverse women bring to our work.
- **Respect:** We respect and recognize the experience and expertise that women and women's organizations bring to their CED work and to their communities.
- **Advocacy:** We believe that to truly change women's lives for the better we must operate at two levels: directly supporting women and working to change public policy that disadvantages women and prevents equality.
- **Transparency:** We believe in honesty about what we do, how we spend funds, and the goals and outcomes we are working toward.
- **Accountability:** We follow through on commitments we make to women, to communities and to funders.

Current WEC projects

Think Women (Women and Gender Equality Canada funded) to support and strengthen small and medium organizations that serve women from marginalized group organizations to address the impact of the pandemic on women's economic security.

Her Mentors (Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada funded) to examine innovative mentorship practices for vulnerable and minority newcomer women to provide them with better settlement outcomes.

50/30 Challenge (Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada funded) is an initiative between the Government of Canada, Canadian businesses and diversity organizations, including WEC. WEC's goal is to accelerate inclusion by achieving 50-30 in the Co-operative Sector by providing program supports to its 50 – 30 Challenge Participants that have pledged to increase the diversity of their boards (50%) and senior management (30%).

Innovating Inclusion (Canadian Heritage funded) to strengthen the diversity and inclusion practices among non-profit organizations that support women's economic development.

The WEC board of directors

Our board is evolving from a **working board to a governance board with standing committees in the areas of Finance & Audit, Strategic Planning, Human Resources and Nominations & Governance**. The board meets monthly on zoom with opportunities for periodic in-person strategic planning sessions at a centrally located place in Canada. As a director, you will play a role in leading the organization to fulfil its mission and help elevate its organizational capacity to increase impact. Our projects are implemented by an employee team of experienced women under the current direction of an Interim Executive Director and Program and Impact Director. We are all passionate about the projects WEC takes on, and from time to time directors become involved as volunteers in projects that occur in our geographical areas or fields of interest and expertise.

Some necessary attributes of new board members:

As a national organization, WEC is interested in attracting new members to our board so that we represent the cultural and regional diversity and complexity of women living in Canada. In order to fill gaps in our current board, our recruitment process will prioritize those who reside in Canada and who are:

- Indigenous, LGBTQ2S, Francophone, racialized, newcomers, differently-abled;
- Specialized expertise in financial management, fundraising, marketing, public policy, legal matters, and gender equity, diversity and inclusion (GEDI);
- Experienced in women-centred CED, social enterprise, cooperatives and/or women's projects;
- Familiar with non-profit governance and have experience as a not-for-profit board member.

If you are interested in joining us, please send an email before **28 April 2023**, to melaniec@womenseconomiccouncil.ca with your resume and cover letter. Thank you in advance for your interest in WEC. We look forward to hearing from you.

Melanie Conn
President
Women's Economic Council