

# Board of Directors: Call for Nominations

**The BC Schizophrenia Society (BCSS) is currently seeking Directors to serve on our volunteer Board. The position is a two-year term from October 2025 to October 2027.**

We are looking for individuals who bring enthusiasm plus have experience in non-profit board governance, legal, finance/fundraising, government relations, community engagement and/or is a family member of a person with a serious mental illness.

Nominees must be able to demonstrate commitment to BCSS's Mission, Vision, Core Values and Strategic Priorities, and be available and willing to fulfill board member duties. Nominees must be (or be willing to become) a BCSS member.

***A nomination form is attached to this notice.***

If you have any questions, please contact us  
operations@bcss.org or 604-270-7841

Toll free 1-888-888-0029

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours truly,

Jack Middleton

Chair, Nominating Committee

BC Schizophrenia Society Board of Directors

## 2024/2025 Board of Directors

**Jack Middleton, President**

**David Halikowski, VP**

**Joanne Leung, Treasurer**

**Donna Motzer, Secretary**

**Paul Bhushan**

**Lena Bortnick**

**Colleen Crossley**

**Jasdeep Dhaliwal**

**Jane Gladman**

**Dr. John Gray**

**Rebecca Joncas**

**Don Monsour**

**Noni Nabors**

**Dr. Brenda Sawatzky-Girling**

**Gerrit van der Leer**

**The closing date  
for nominations is  
Friday, August 29, 2025**

**Annual General Meeting:  
Saturday, September 27, 2025**

## About the BCSS

The BC Schizophrenia Society is a community-based charitable organization.

BCSS's members are interested in improving the mental health system for people with severe and persistent mental illnesses and their families. Members include families and friends of people with severe and persistent mental illnesses, people with these illnesses and healthcare providers. Together, BCSS members advocate for individuals living with mental illness to receive appropriate and timely treatment and support.

## Mission

To support families affected by schizophrenia and other serious mental illnesses in British Columbia through education, advocacy, and research.

## Vision

A province where those affected by schizophrenia and other serious mental illnesses receive effective treatment and support, and family members are an essential partner within the mental health system.

## **Core Values**

### *Family-Centred*

We provide education and caring support for families affected by serious mental illness. The family unit is our first responsibility and primary focus; the person with the illness is always included in the definition of family.

### *Innovation and Improvement*

We are committed to innovation and helping to meet the challenging needs of BC families affected by schizophrenia and other severe and persistent mental illness through ongoing learning, communication, and advocacy.

### *Accountability and Transparency*

We measure our performance and follow a process of continuous improvement. We are wholly accountable for our actions to our supporters for our use of financial and human resources available to us.

### *Partnership and Respect*

We do not work in isolation. We seek to build a broad range of dynamic partnerships through open and timely communications based on respect and appreciation for all those we serve and work with.

## Who are we searching for?

BCSS is seeking engaged, strong Directors to serve on our volunteer Board.

Nominees must be able to demonstrate commitment to BCSS's Mission, Vision, Core Values and Strategic Priorities, bring enthusiasm and openness to learning, and be available and willing to fulfill board member duties. Nominees must be (or be willing to become) a BCSS member.

## Areas of Need on our Board

BCSS aims to integrate perspectives of individuals from diverse skillsets, backgrounds and experiences. In particular, we are searching for nominations from members with experience in the following areas:

- Board governance/legal, especially with non-profits
- Indigenous Peoples
- Family members of persons with a serious mental illness
- Persons with lived experience of a serious mental illness
- Youth
- Community engagement
- Finance/fundraising

## BCSS Director Qualifications

A Person may be nominated, elected or appointed to serve (or continue to serve) as a director only if he or she:

- (a) is a member in good standing;
- (b) is not a current employee of the Society and if the Person was a former employee of the Society such employment was not within twelve months from the day of the prospective appointment or election;
- (c) meets the qualifications of a director set out in the *Societies Act* and the *Income Tax Act*; and
- (d) has been nominated in accordance with the procedures set out in these bylaws or established by the Board.

[as per BCSS Bylaw 7.3, 2022]

## What does the director role involve?

Board Members are responsible for the governance and strategic oversight of BCSS. This includes ensuring that the organization is fulfilling its mission, is looking to the future, is adhering to applicable laws and regulations and is meeting high standards in its financial and human resource practices.

## Time Commitment

- Attend regular Board meetings
- Each Board meeting requires approximately 2–3 hours, including preparation
- 10 Board meetings per year
- Participate in Board development and training opportunities
- Participate on Board committees
- Participate in BCSS special events
- Attend Annual General Meeting.

## Term

Two-year term from October 2025 to October 2027

For more details, see *BCSS Board Member Job Description*

## Duties of Directors

Every Director will:

- (a) further and not hinder the purposes, aims and objects of the Society;
- (b) act honestly and in good faith with a view to the best interests of the Society;
- (c) exercise the care, diligence and skill that a reasonably prudent individual would exercise in comparable circumstances;
- (d) act in accordance with the *Societies Act*;
- (e) uphold the constitution and comply with these bylaws, the Regulations and the policies of the Society in effect from time to time; and
- (f) abide by such codes of conduct and ethics adopted by the Society.

[as per BCSS Bylaw 7.5, 2022]

## BOARD APPLICATION FORM

Thank you for your interest in being considered for our volunteer board. Please complete all five sections of the nomination form.

### 1. Candidate Information

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

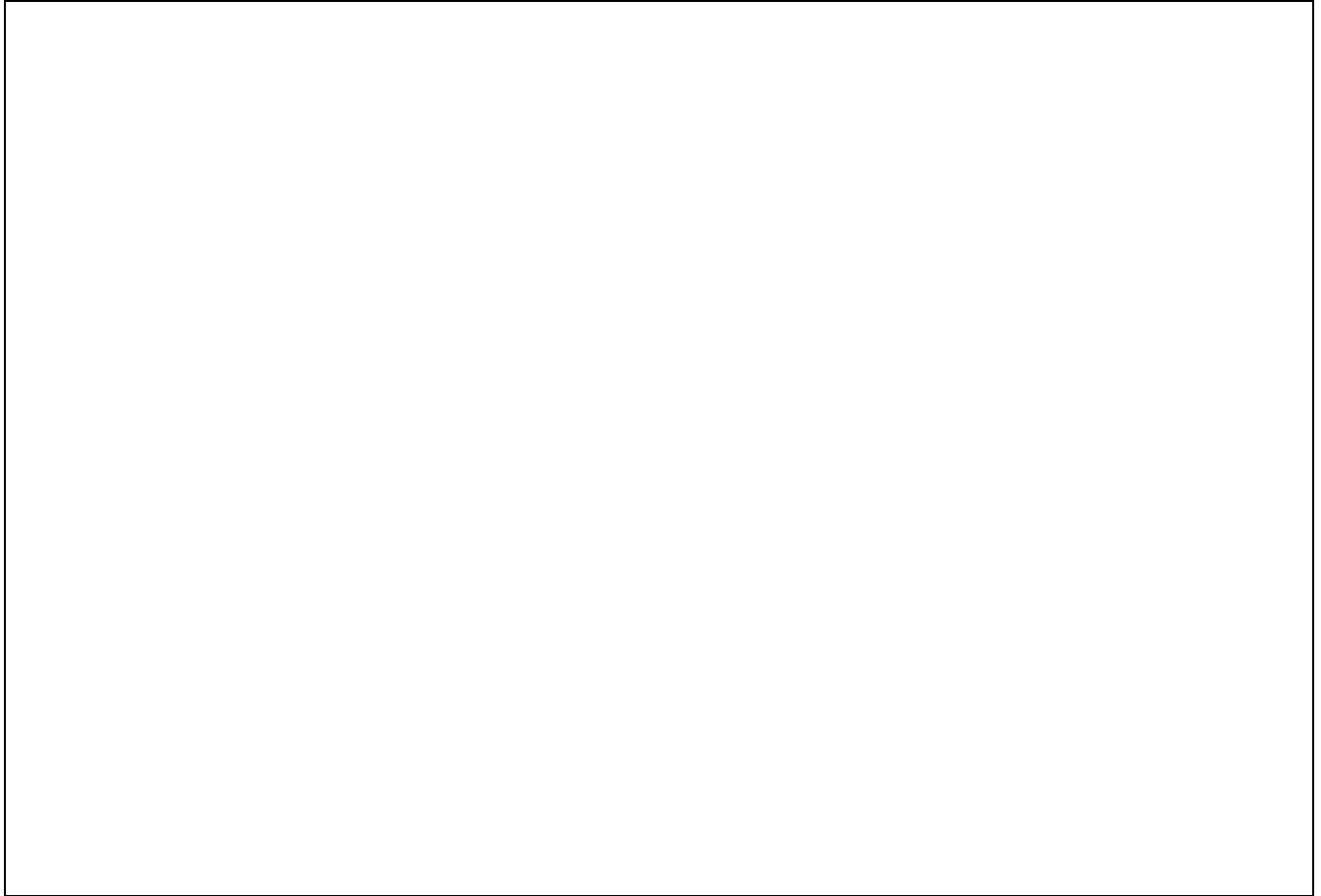
Profession  
and/or  
Area(s) of  
Expertise: \_\_\_\_\_

We require a copy of your resume as part of our selection process.

### 2. Statement of Intent

As part of the election/slate process, information from this Application/Nomination Form will be used in the preparation of the AGM package and made available to all BCSS members.

**Why do you wish to serve on the volunteer board of the BC Schizophrenia Society?  
Please include how you connect to our Mission and Vision, and align with our Core Values.**



### 3. Two References

Please provide two references that can comment on your employment and/or board experience.

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_



## 4. BCSS Membership

A strong membership base gives BCSS a louder voice to speak on matters of importance to families who have been affected by schizophrenia, psychosis, and severe mental illness. The BC Schizophrenia Society bylaws requires all board directors be members of BCSS [Bylaw 7.3 a, 2022].

BCSS membership is free. Memberships run from January 1 to December 31 each year, and must be renewed each year.

*Please check one:*

- ☐ Yes, I am a BCSS member in good standing.
- ☐ No, I am not a current BCSS member, but I have submitted my membership application online at [www.bcscs.org/membership](http://www.bcscs.org/membership).
- ☐ No, I am not a current BCSS member, but my membership application is enclosed (complete below).

### BC Schizophrenia Society Membership Application

<b>Title</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>
<hr/>		
<b>Apt/Suite</b>	<b>Address</b>	
<hr/>		
<b>City</b>	<b>Province</b>	<b>Postal Code</b>
<hr/>		
<b>Home Phone</b>		<b>Mobile Phone</b>
<hr/>		
<b>Primary Email</b>		<b>Secondary Email (optional)</b>
<hr/>		

- ☐ Yes, I would like to receive related news, research, advocacy work, campaign developments, resources, event information, and more in the BCSS newsletter.
- ☐ Yes, I would like to receive information about upcoming family support groups and Strengthening Families Together programs in my area.
- ☐ Yes, I would like to receive the BCSS Youth email newsletter.

## Terms/Conditions of BCSS Membership

By submitting your membership application, you agree to uphold the aims and vision of BCSS as outlined in the Mission, Vision and Core Values<sup>1</sup> and uphold the Constitution of BCSS<sup>2</sup> and to comply with the BCSS Bylaws<sup>2</sup>.

You also agree to raise questions and concerns using the appropriate internal channels within BCSS, including through local staff, provincial office, or the Board of Directors.

You also agree understand that as a Voting Member in good standing of the BCSS, you will be entitled to stand for election to hold office [Bylaw 7.3 b, 2022) and attend, vote, and speak at general meetings [Bylaw 2.4, 2022].

You understand that memberships expire on December 31<sup>st</sup> of each year and you will be asked to renew on January 1<sup>st</sup>. Members must be 19 years or older.

## Privacy Policy

We keep your personal information private and secure. When you submit this form, your name, contact information, and any additional information will be available only to our organization.

**Full Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

BCSS Mission, Vision and Core Values are available on Page 2 and at [www.bcscs.org/about-us](http://www.bcscs.org/about-us)

<sup>2</sup>BCSS Constitution and Bylaws are available at [www.bcscs.org/by-laws](http://www.bcscs.org/by-laws)

*If you would like a copy of these documents mailed to you,  
please phone 604-270-7841 or email us at [info@bcscs.org](mailto:info@bcscs.org)*

**BCSS reserves the right to expel members that do not meet these terms and conditions [Bylaw 2.12, 2022].**

## 5. Declaration of Director's Eligibility

I, \_\_\_\_\_, declare that:

1. I consent to act as a director of BCSS.
2. I am eligible to be a director under the BCSS's bylaws and the *Societies Act* (British Columbia). This means that:
  - a) I am at least 19 years of age;
  - b) I am not currently deemed by any court, in Canada or elsewhere, to be incapable of managing my own affairs;
  - c) I am not an undischarged bankrupt; and
  - d) I have never been convicted, in British Columbia or elsewhere, of an offence in connection with the promotion, formation or management of a corporation or unincorporated entity, or of an offence involving fraud, unless an exemption otherwise applies under the *Societies Act*.
3. I have disclosed any breaches of professional ethics, breaches of trust, and contraventions of any professional practices. (If applicable, please note below)
4. I have disclosed any activities or affiliations that could be reasonably foreseen to risk or compromise the reputation of the BCSS. (If applicable, please note below)
5. I am not an Ineligible Individual under the *Income Tax Act* (Canada, Subsection 149.1[1]). This means that:
  - a) I do not have an unpardoned criminal record either in Canada or internationally, involving financial dishonesty, tax evasion, theft, fraud, or other offences involving breaches of the public trust; and
  - b) In the previous five years, I have not been found guilty of a relevant offence either in Canada or internationally. Relevant offences involve financial dishonesty contravening any noncriminal laws such as breaches of

legislation for charitable fundraising, consumer protection, or securities regulation; and

c) In the previous five years I have not been a director, trustee, officer, like official, or an individual who controlled or managed either directly or indirectly in any manner whatever, a registered charity during which time the charity engaged in conduct which resulted in the registration of the charity being revoked; and

d) In the previous five years I have not been a promoter of a tax shelter for which involvement the registration of a charity was revoked.

6. I agree to undergo a criminal record check and release the results of this check to any individual or group that the BCSS deems is appropriate for the purpose of determining my eligibility to serve as a director. I authorize the BCSS to conduct investigations, including any online search or reference check, to determine the accuracy of the representations made in my Nomination Form.

7. I will inform BCSS immediately should I become aware that any of the declarations above are or have become untrue.

8. I acknowledge that any dishonesty on my part as to the truth of this declaration, or if BCSS or Canada Revenue Agency determines any dishonesty with respect to this declaration, I will immediately tender my resignation of all positions held with the BCSS upon written request by the Society's board of directors.

**Nominee Signature:**

**Witnessed by:**

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**Nominee Name (print)**

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**Witness Name (print)**

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**Date**

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**Date**

## Submission Instructions

Please ensure all sections are completed before submitting your nomination form:

- ☐ Candidate Information
- ☐ Questions
- ☐ References
- ☐ BCSS Membership
- ☐ Declaration of Director's Eligibility
- ☐ Attach resume

If you have any questions about the nomination and election process, please contact:

- [operations@bcss.org](mailto:operations@bcss.org)
- 604-270-7841
- Toll free 1-888-888-0029

Please send your completed nomination form with supporting materials by 4 pm on August 29, 2025, to [operations@bcss.org](mailto:operations@bcss.org)