



## Roles and Duties of ARCC Board of Directors

July 1, 2023

The Abortion Rights Coalition of Canada (ARCC) is a national organization with a primary focus on abortion rights and access to quality reproductive health care in Canada.

- ❖ Our **mission** is to ensure reproductive freedom by protecting and advancing rights and access to abortion and quality reproductive health care for any person capable of pregnancy.
- ❖ Our **values** are Choice, Social Justice, Anti-Oppression, Anti-Colonialism, Anti-Racism, Sex Work Positivity, Equity, and Inclusion.
- ❖ Our **vision** includes reproductive justice<sup>1</sup>, which encompasses rights for all people capable of pregnancy, the rights of 2S/LGBTQQIPAA people, the rights of sex workers and full decriminalization of prostitution, the right to dying with dignity, and others. Please see our position paper on [Why ARCC Supports Reproductive Justice](#).

### Responsibilities:

- ❖ Helping to ensure good governance and effective operation of the organization
- ❖ Providing support and oversight for the Executive Director
- ❖ Providing financial oversight by approving budgets and financial reports
- ❖ Providing input on ARCC's policy and its strategic and advocacy direction, and participating in email discussions and decisions
- ❖ Participating in a majority of general Board meetings (via video conference) once a month, and voting on Board motions

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<sup>1</sup> We recognize that the sexual and reproductive health and rights of people from many diverse communities are disproportionately affected by marginalization and oppression, including 2S/LGBTQQIPAA people (Two-Spirit / Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Questioning, Intersex, Pansexual, Asexual, Aromantic), Indigenous people, racialized people, sex workers, youth, people with disabilities, and other vulnerable groups. To ensure justice, fundamental inequalities must be addressed for all.

- ❖ Attending the online AGM each February, with a brief report to be written and presented on your province/region
- ❖ Helping to fundraise or build up ARCC's membership
- ❖ Initiating or participating in local/regional activism and campaigns on behalf of ARCC as feasible
- ❖ Joining a committee and/or helping with other tasks or national campaigns as feasible (e.g., promoting our campaigns, grant writing, writing for our blog)
- ❖ *Optional:* Acting as an ARCC representative to media, key stakeholders, and government

### **Expected Qualities of a Board Member:**

ARCC Board members are passionate about abortion rights and reproductive justice, and specifically will be expected to:

- ❖ Educate themselves about ARCC and reproductive rights and justice in Canada
- ❖ Actively support the vision, mission, and mandate of ARCC
- ❖ Have some experience (or eagerness) engaging in reproductive justice activism/advocacy
- ❖ Commit to advancing reproductive justice
- ❖ Have dedicated time and energy to contribute to the group

We strive to develop a Board that is representative of the communities we advocate on behalf of and support. Board members are welcomed and encouraged to self-identify as belonging to one or more of the following groups: BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Colour), 2S/LGBTQQIPAA people, people with disabilities, or equity seeking groups.

We also strive for broad geographical representation by having board members from every area of Canada/Turtle Island, as well as francophones.

We welcome people with particular skills, including for example, lawyers who can serve in an advisory capacity, and those with experience in media communications, fundraising, or non-profit governance.

A Board member can serve as an individual, or as a representative from their regional reproductive rights group.

### **Benefits of Being a Board Member:**

- ❖ Personal and professional growth
- ❖ Ability to engage in direct political activism and network with other reproductive rights activists, with the authority of ARCC to lift you up
- ❖ Project or committee work that is sometimes paid via a grant
- ❖ Free training and skill-building opportunities, such as media training, Board governance training, access to ARCC Activist workshops, etc.

- ❖ Access to benefits of our group memberships in NAF-Canada and SisterSong (and other groups), such as their resources, webinars, workshops, conferences, events, etc.
- ❖ Access to events that ARCC is invited to, or promotes on behalf of others, such as forums, receptions, film screenings, theatre performances etc. (may include free tickets)
- ❖ Free ARCC membership if low-income

### Commitments and Other Information:

- ❖ You would be elected to serve a 4-year term and can re-run upon expiry of your term. (Note: Board members are able to resign at any time.)
- ❖ You are expected to commit at least 6 hours a month to Board work.
- ❖ You must be an ARCC member in good standing<sup>2</sup>
- ❖ You are encouraged to serve on at least one committee, such as our Fundraising Committee, Reproductive Justice Committee, or Strategic Planning Committee.
- ❖ Most of our work is done by email and videoconference.
- ❖ Board meetings occur online once a month, at 7pm ET alternating between the third Wednesday or Thursday of the month. The AGM is in the first half of February usually at 7pm ET on a weekday. Committee meetings are held as required.
- ❖ Find more information about ARCC governance in our [current bylaws](#).

### Process to Come on Board

- ❖ Prospective Board members may apply to join, or the Board may invite them to apply.
- ❖ Nominees are evaluated by the Board prior to their nomination being accepted.
- ❖ New Board members are elected at the Annual General Meeting in February but can also be appointed by a Board vote during the year if needed.
- ❖ A maximum of 12 Board members can serve and the Board reserves the right to limit the number of nominations.

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<sup>2</sup> “In good standing” means to be in support of ARCC’s mandate, vision, and values; and to be a paid up-member. Individual member rates are \$30 a year and \$60 for groups. If low income, individual board members are eligible for free or discounted membership for as long as they remain on the Board.