



Board Member Profile

About SCI-AB:

The Canadian Paraplegic Association was founded in 1945 by John Counsell whose mission was to improve the lives of soldiers returning from war with spinal cord injuries. John believed that the best support for individuals adjusting to their new injury and the community was being connected with peers with similar lived experience. Peer mentorship and connection have remained strong roots of the organization. In 1961, Pierre Gariépy, who was a survivor of WWII combat, and a member of the Canadian Air Force established the Canadian Paraplegic Association of Alberta.

In 2011 and in celebration of our 50th anniversary, we adopted a new name – Spinal Cord Injury Alberta (SCI-AB) to better reflect the population we serve. Currently, we operate in five physical locations, run a Neurological Rehabilitation Centre, and have well developed relationships with the Glenrose and Foothills Medical Centres along with many other healthcare sites and research partners.

The SCI-AB mission is to empower persons with spinal cord injuries and other physical disabilities to achieve independence and full community participation.

By providing programs and services, SCI-AB assists persons with spinal cord injuries and other physical disabilities to

- ADJUST to the changed physical capacity and manage the health complications associated with their disability.
- ADAPT to the physical and attitudinal barriers that they face as a person with a new or changing disability.
- THRIVE in the community by fully participating in educational and employment opportunities.

Role Description:

As an elected member of the Board of Directors of Spinal Cord Injury Association Alberta (SCI-AB), you become an ambassador for our organization and the clients we serve. You are responsible for ensuring SCI-AB acts in the best interests of persons with spinal cord injuries and other physical disabilities and their families.

The Board of Directors are responsible for providing fiduciary oversight to the association specific to financial management and sustainability, organization management, strategic planning, evaluation and more. Availability to actively participate in approximately 6-8 meetings per year plus involvement on committees is required.

Responsibilities of the Board:

As the highest leadership body of SCI-AB and to satisfy its fiduciary duties, the board is responsible for

- Determining the mission of the organization and understanding its collective purpose.
- Selecting, supporting, and evaluating the performance of the Chief Executive Officer.
- Strategic and Organizational planning
- Ensuring strong fiduciary oversight and financial management
- Fundraising and resource development.
- Approving and monitoring programs and services.
- Enhancing SCI-AB's public image.
- Ensuring legal and ethical integrity.
- Assessing the performance of the Board as the governing body of SCI-AB.



Responsibilities of the Individual Board Members:

Each individual board member is expected to

- Know SCI-AB's mission, policies, programs, and needs along with the collective purpose.
- Commit to preparing for each board meeting in advance.
- Attend and conscientiously participate in board meetings.
- Participate in one or more committees.
- Serve as an active advocate and ambassador for SCI-AB
- Engage with identifying and securing financial resources and partnerships for the association.
- Leverage connections, networks, and resources to help achieve the mission.
- Engage in learning opportunities to better understand our clients and community.
- Respect the experience of all who bring their voices and lived experiences into the boardroom.

Qualifications & Skills:

- Previous experience with not-for-profit organizations and governance is a benefit.
- Is committed to being a positive and effective representative of SCI-AB and persons with spinal cord injuries and other physical disabilities.
- Is aligned with and committed to the SCI-AB vision, mission, and values.
- Is able to respect confidentiality of Board Discussions and represent the association with one voice.
- Demonstrates maturity and leadership in personal and professional life.
- Shows initiative in personal and professional development.
- Is a clear communicator.
- Leads by example and is committed to continuous improvement and learning.
- All Board Members are required to complete a Police Information Check with Vulnerable Sector Search

Questions? Please email SCIBoard@sci-ab.ca

To submit your interest, please submit a current resume to SCIBoard@sci-ab.ca