

ROLE DESCRIPTION – CHB MEMBER

What is a Community Health Board (CHB)?

- Community Health Boards are groups of volunteers from your community. They work together under a legislated mandate, to improve health & wellness where we live, work, play and learn.
- an **advisory board** to the Nova Scotia Health Authority (NSHA); they have a responsibility to ensure community voices are heard and community needs are considered in provincial health planning. They advise on local perspectives, trends, issues, and priorities.
- There are 37 CHBs in NS.

What does a CHB do?

- Community Health Boards gather ideas and share information about how to improve and promote health & wellness close to home. They focus on the many factors that affect health & wellness in our communities, including income, education and sense of belonging, among others.
- They share what they have learned about your health & wellness priorities with Nova Scotia Health Authority, IWK Health Centre, and community groups.
- Community Health Boards advocate for actions to promote and improve health & wellness based on what communities say is most important.
- Guided by their Community Health Plans, they develop partnerships with local community groups and they award Wellness Fund grants to local community projects.

What Does a CHB NOT Do?

- A CHB is an important advisory board. They are “non-governance” which means they do not govern or manage the delivery of health services, hire or supervise staff, hold funds in their own right, or resolve individual patient care concerns.
- They focus on activities that make the community healthy.

What are the benefits of being a CHB Member?

- Playing an active role in supporting the vision of the NSHA: “Healthy people, healthy communities - for generations”.
- Working with partners to support improvements to the Social Determinants of Health in their community.
- Learning more about health processes such as community health planning and public engagement.
- Developing a broad knowledge and understanding of community and organizations within it.
- Developing new skills and learning about current health and wellness issues that affect the community.

What interests/experience/skills do you need to be a CHB member?

- A member must be a resident of the area served by the CHB and have an active interest in the health and wellness of their community.
- Demonstrate clear knowledge of community health and wellness issues or willingness to learn.
- Interest in health promotion.
- Awareness and consideration of the Social Determinants of Health.
- Ability to work effectively as a team member to achieve shared goals as identified by the CHB plan(s).
- Willingness and ability to commit the time necessary for the work of the board.

What is the time commitment?

- Typically, members are expected to attend one meeting per month, approximately 1.5 to 2 hours in length, 10 months of the year (September to June).
- Additional sub-committee work and meetings may be requested periodically.
- CHB members are appointed for a term of up to three years, with a maximum of two three-year terms of service.
- There will be many opportunities for participation in public engagement, health promotion, sub-committees.

What training and support is offered?

- Members will participate in the established volunteer development and engagement process and receive an orientation binder at their first meeting with a formal orientation to the board in the first year.
- Specific training for future roles is provided as they are assumed.
- Ongoing support will be provided by the CHB Coordinator and the Executive committee.

What is expected of me as a CHB member?

- Attend and actively participate in the meetings and affairs of the CHB.
- Maintain a positive and collaborative working relationship both within the CHB and with the NSHA and other organizations and groups.
- Capacity to look at all sides of an issue and render wise decisions.
- Disclosure of any real or perceived conflict of interest.
- Participation in annual self and board evaluation process.

Who are the CHBs and their members accountable to?

- The Nova Scotia Health Authority (via the CHB coordinator and PECHBS team).
- The communities served by the CHB.
- The other members of the CHB.