



## Organic Council of Ontario —Call for Directors – 2017

**Position:** Director, Organic Council Board of Directors

**Type:** Volunteer

**Start:** April 2017

**Term:** 2 years, renewable

**Commitment:** 10-15 hours/month

**Meetings:** Once a month, mornings (videoconference)

**Location:** Anywhere in Ontario

The Organic Council of Ontario is the voice for organics in Ontario. We are a membership-based full value-chain organization created by and for the organic sector to advocate on behalf of the sector's interests. We do this by communicating with government, the media, and various agri-food associations and commodity groups; collecting sector-wide data; conducting market and policy research; and promoting and protecting the organic claim.

The Organic Council of Ontario is governed by an elected Board of Directors with alternating two-year mandates. The Directors are responsible for governance, leadership, and financial oversight of staff, consultants and operations. At this point in its development, OCO has a volunteer board where board members are expected to contribute volunteer efforts in their area of responsibility. As the organization grows and hires staff, a transition can be made to a governance board that provides direction and relies on staff to execute the mandate.

In 2017, we have four (4) positions open for election from any of the following categories:

- two (2) at-large positions,
- two (2) certified organic producer representative,
- one (1) certified value chain representative (processor, handler, marketer, retailer etc.)

This year, the Board of Directors is looking for individuals with the following qualifications, expertise and experience:

- Non-Profit Finances (Accounting, Strategy)
- Legal Expertise and Government Relations
- Fundraising
- Knowledge of Climate Change and Agriculture
- Website, Online Directory, Membership Management Tools
- Knowledge of Organic Transition and Certification Challenges
- Non-profit Management and Governance
- Previous board experience

To be eligible, an individual must:

- Be or become a member of OCO in good standing
- Be nominated by another member
- Be at least 18 years of age
- Not have bankruptcy that is undischarged

Responsibilities of a Board member include:

- Attend and participate in Board meetings regularly (currently once a month via video conference)
- Actively contribute to projects related to your area of expertise or committee
- Stay informed about the organization and attend at least one program event per year.

Board Committees Include:

- Fundraising and Finance
- HR and Operations
- Policy and Government Relations
- Regulatory Affairs
- Membership and Governance
- Communications
- Events and Promotions

In 2016, OCO grew the organization's finances by over 300%. We have a plan to build sustainable sector funding, an active and engaged membership and a clear set of targets to achieve by 2018. We are looking for board members who are excited to be part of building this new phase with us and are not afraid to get their hands dirty. We need

your skills for Ontario organics to survive and thrive!

All nominees must complete this [short on-line form](#) by **March 15<sup>th</sup>** in order for their bios to be shared with members prior to our AGM, where directors are elected.