



## **VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT – CHILD AND YOUTH MEMBERS**

### **BACKGROUND**

In the spring of 2020, eight (8) Founding Youth Members were invited to take part in the PEI Children & Youth Table upon recommendation of then adult members and fellow youth. As the group has evolved to become the Child and Youth Advisory Committee of the PEI Office of the Child and Youth Advocate, there is now an open and targeted recruitment call to fill multiple vacant positions from retiring full term Members, joining additional child and youth members who began their service in the spring of 2021.

### **QUALITIES**

Child and Youth Members will have an understanding and ability to address the serious topics of the Child and Youth Advisory Committee of the PEI Office of the Child and Youth Advocate, seeing topics through the lens of youth's own experiences, having empathy for other children and youth. Having a passion for the rights of children and youth, a willingness to be a voice for others, to seek others' input, is what is most important. Child and Youth Members will be within the age range of reviewable service for the PEI *Child and Youth Advocate Act* at the time they begin their term.

For this 2022 recruitment, priority will be given to child and youth volunteer candidates who have direct personal experience with, or identify as:

- Children in care;
- Indigenous – off Reserve residents;
- Cultural, racial and/or ethnic diversity;
- Newcomers; and/or
- Living with a physical disability and/or adaptations.

To balance the perspectives, experiences, and networks of the membership, a matrix model is utilized for recruiting. Experiences with a diversity of the following elements of life is valued:

- Adoption Services;
- Child Protection Services;
- Early Childhood Development and Child Care;
- Educational Programs and Services;
- Health, Mental Health and Addiction Services;
- Justice Services;
- Social Assistance programs and services;
- Other community organizations with government funded reviewable programs and services provided to children, youth and their families.



Empathy for others, having a constituency mind-set, helps inform advisory work. As such, our matrix model overall takes into consideration:

- Geographic location in PEI;
- Cultural, racial, ethnic, and gender diversity;
- (Sub)cultural affiliations;
- Indigenous identity;
- 2+LGBTQIA identity;
- Previous places of residence, including immigration experiences;
- Economic stability;
- Age;
- Gender;
- Physical disability or limitations; and/or
- Diagnosed mental health and/or learning adaptations.

## **ROLE**

- Offer ideas and opinions about topics related to the safety and well-being of children and youth in Prince Edward Island, including promoting the rights of children and youth;
- Participate in discussions with staff of the Office of the Child and Youth Advocate / PEI, as needed for meetings and consultations;
- Attend meetings and consultations on a regular basis;
- Suggest agenda items for meetings, share in the facilitation of topics, chair meetings and/or lead discussions as needed;
- Contribute to reports as needed, i.e. to the Office of the Child and Youth Advocate, to government;
- Participate in national and/or international conversations or consultations as needed;
- Maintain regular communications with designated staff of the Office of the Child and Youth Advocate in order to be effective in the role; and
- Contribute actively, sensitively and thoughtfully.

The Terms of Reference, including Conflict of Interest clause, and Job Description are available upon request.

## **SUPPORT**

- Staff of the Office of the Child and Youth Advocate / PEI are available for Child and Youth Members to prepare, research, and debrief topics pertaining to the work of the Child and Youth Advisory Committee;
- Group communication channels will be made available for regular contact between Meetings;
- Meeting time before formal meetings to review topics, discuss the agenda, plan facilitation and/or chairing roles is available;
- Meeting time after formal meetings to debrief as needed is available;
- If needed, referral services to further debrief topics will be made; and
- Assurance that no member will disclose confidential information discussed at meetings, or share the identity of fellow member publicly without prior informed consent from that member, with the understanding members are welcomed to share their appointed role.



## HOW TO APPLY

- Submit a one-page document outlining why you are applying;
- Create a biography of yourself in any format you wish – written, visual, video – about who you are and what you value; and
- State what you believe is the top priority about the rights of children and youth in PEI that the committee should be spending time on.

Send all parts of your application in an e-mail to [voiceforchildren@ocyapei.ca](mailto:voiceforchildren@ocyapei.ca) by:

**Thursday, June 30, 2022 at 4:00pm**

If you require any accommodations, please call 902-368-5630.

Approved by consensus of Child and Youth Members April 22, 2022.