

What it means to be a Director on the Ontario Federation of Agriculture Board

Introduction

Leadership development and director recruitment are critical to succession planning for the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA). As a grassroots, farmer-led organization, we aim to develop leaders within our local county and regional federations to recruit and encourage them to pursue a role at the provincial level.

OFA is governed by an 18-member elected Board of Directors consisting of Ontario farmers from across the province. Directors represent 15 geographical zones across Ontario with three holding at-large positions. Directors are elected for a three-year term. The President and two Vice President positions are elected annually on a one-year term.

With a rolling governance structure for director elections, five zones are up for election annually during the month of June.

Are you interested in joining OFA's Board of Directors, but wonder what the role entails?

Fulfilling the role of a provincial Director offers the opportunity to influence policy development, advocate for Ontario's agriculture and food industry through government relations and communications, engage with grassroots members and industry stakeholders on the key issues and priorities impacting the agri-food sector, provide input on the strategic planning process for the organization and work in collaboration with energetic and enthusiastic board members and staff to positively impact Ontario's agriculture industry.

Through ongoing advocacy work and discussions with government policymakers and industry partners, the Board of Directors is committed to enhancing the agri-food industry and the business of farming for all farmers across the province. It offers the opportunity to engage Members of Provincial Parliament (MPPs) and Members of Parliament (MPs) by participating in lobby day events at Queen's Park and Parliament Hill. Directors bring key messages and priorities to the attention of elected officials and policy advisors to ensure they understand the current issues facing the agri-food sector. It's a chance to influence meaningful change at the provincial level by providing a voice for our 38,000 farm family members. It also allows for growing unique connections and relationships with representatives at all levels of government and with the grassroots members who are at the heart of our organization and our farm communities.

It's a role that requires attendance at eleven board meetings throughout the year, including a board tour in the summer and the Annual General Meeting in November. Directors attend various other meetings, including OFA committees and those within the agriculture industry as well as consultations and roundtable discussions at the federal, provincial, municipal and local county federation levels. On average, a board member can expect to spend approximately 50



days per year on OFA business. In terms of compensation for providing your services to the provincial board, all directors receive per diems, expenses and mileage pertaining to OFA work and obligations.

Joining OFA as a Director is not only an exciting opportunity to work alongside knowledgeable, experienced and motivated members of the board and staff, but it's also the chance to represent your local farming community and positively impact the livelihoods of 49,600 Ontario farms. It's a commitment that has the potential to benefit you and the agri-food industry.

If you're interested in learning more, please don't hesitate to reach out to OFA or one of our elected Directors – <https://ofa.on.ca/about-ofa/board-of-directors>.

Role of the Board

Generally, the overall role of the Board of Directors is to assume responsibility for the stewardship of the organization, including:

- Adoption of strategic planning process
- Identification of risks to the organization and risk management strategies
- Appointment, training and monitoring of senior management
- A communications policy
- Integrity of internal controls and information systems

This stewardship role involves three basic functions:

- 1) Hire and maintain capable senior management
- 2) Approve the direction of the organization
- 3) Monitor the operation of the organization

More specifically, the OFA Board's responsibilities include:

- Adoption of the annual operating plans and budget
- Monitoring and approval of financial statements and operational performance
- Communicate with members and affiliates (protocol to be developed)
- Set policy direction based on staff input and consultations

Compensation

All board members are provided per diems, expenses and mileage pertaining to OFA business and commitments.

The per diem levels are as follows:

President	\$400
Vice President	\$350
Executive member	\$325
Board member	\$300

Expenses will be compensated per the OFA Expense Policy.