

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Health Sciences North / Horizon Santé-Nord

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PAGE: 1 of 2

CATEGORY: Part V-B – Governance Process

SUBJECT: BOARD ORIENTATION

Having recruited skilled and qualified Directors, it is the Board's governing responsibility to ensure there are supports in place that allow these Directors to maximize their contribution in the best interests of the Corporation.

Directors

Directors have a duty to be knowledgeable about not only the affairs of the Corporation, but also about the Board's governance processes and their rights, duties and obligations as members of the Board.

After becoming a Director and/or officer, Directors and officers should:

- review by-laws, financial statements and the Corporation's website
- consider whether they have any potential conflicts of interest in relation to the Corporation's activities
- become familiar with the Corporation's reporting requirements
- receive information from the Corporation regarding liability insurance or indemnification for Directors and Officers

A. Director Orientation

New Board members must be oriented to the Hospital, the health care system, current health care issues and their role as a Director. Orientation will take place in a timely manner following the annual meeting and no later than the first Board meeting of the new Board cycle. Participants will evaluate the orientation program upon completion. Board orientation will be mandatory for each new Board member, including ex-officio members. All other Board members will be offered the opportunity to re-attend annually.

The orientation session will include an introduction to the following:

- Health sector environment;
- Hospital operations;
- Stakeholders and key relationships; and
- Board governance.

B. Director's Reference Materials

Every Director will be provided with reference materials. The materials will contain

important information, including all orientation materials, the policies of the Board and the Hospital By-Laws.

C. Mentoring

When possible, each new Director will be paired with a mentor on the Board or the senior leadership team. The mentors may wish to attend orientation sessions with their initiates and/or debrief with them following Board and/or Committee meetings, and will ask if the information presented was clear and answer any questions they may have about the meetings.

References

Ontario Not-for-Profit Corporations Act, 2010

OHA Guide to Good Governance

Accreditation Canada