

Board and Committee Composition Matrices

PREAMBLE

More and more corporate and not-for-profit organizations are choosing to use competency-based tools to support the selection of board members. They are recognizing the value in being more intentional about having boards that are better equipped to address the specific, complex issues faced by their organizations and communities. The most common tool used is a matrix, typically represented as a grid or list that illustrates requisite board member skills or competencies.

Professional regulators are also beginning to pay greater attention to the composition of their boards. Just as registrants are expected to meet the high standards of competence and ethics necessary to perform well in their roles, regulators are being held to account by government, the public and registrants in a similar way. A competency matrix can assist those boards and committees adapt from a traditional model of professional representation to one that is more inclusive and relevant in today's dynamic healthcare and regulatory landscape.

OUR VISION AND APPROACH

BCCNM knows that if it is to ensure the public is kept safe from harm, the nature of its discussions and decision making as a health regulator must evolve. This means taking time during meetings to understand: how matters being brought forward for consideration by the board and its committees relate to the college's mandate; where harm, inequities, and biases might exist; and what our response must be to meet our promise to foster unshakeable confidence in nursing and midwifery care. How the board and committees are composed is critical to achieving this. Transforming the provincial health system into a safer and more equitable environment cannot be accomplished without ample diverse perspectives at board and committee tables.

Moreover, our board and committees must function in a way that builds, honours, and maintains public trust. We need individuals who understand and are committed to the public protection mandate; have the time and focus to engage deeply in this important work; balance public and professional perspectives; uphold and model values such as accountability, respect, and inclusiveness; are humble and self-aware; and reflect the culturally rich communities we serve.

OUR MATRICES

As BCCNM's governing body, the Board is responsible for the direction, leadership, and strategy of the college. Its work is supported by various committees: "*regulatory committees*" that oversee the core regulatory functions of the college; and "*board support committees*" that assist the Board with specific aspects of its oversight responsibilities. Our bylaws give authority to the college's Governance Committee to develop a list of needs and competencies against which those wishing to serve as board and committee members are assessed. These lists - the board and committee composition matrices - are reviewed annually and set out the expectations and requirements not only for the Board and each of its committees as a whole, but also for individual board and committee members.

The composition matrices itemize the academic and professional skills being sought and also look at other elements such as personal values, lived experience, varied backgrounds, perspectives and knowledge. The committee composition matrices detail even more nuanced perspectives and backgrounds relevant to specific decisions that committees are required to make, for example, from those who have received their credentials overseas, have experience in administrative law, understand the subtleties and impact of trauma, or have knowledge of professional education systems.

USING THE COMPOSITION MATRICES

Every year, the Governance Committee uses the composition matrices developed and approved for the Board and each committee to reflect on where additional experience, skills, and background might be needed to navigate emerging opportunities or challenges from within the nursing, midwifery, healthcare, and regulatory environments, updating them as necessary.

It is important to note the matrices depict the *ideal* composition of a fully functioning board or committee. Board and committee members are not expected to possess every skill or trait listed in the composition matrices nor will some of the perspectives and experiences being sought be easily obtainable. However, board and committee members are expected to demonstrate an earnest, legitimate and ongoing commitment to acquire the experience and knowledge necessary to make them as effective as possible in their roles.

KNOWING WHERE THE GAPS ARE

The composition matrices are living documents, continually adapting as our collective understanding and knowledge deepens and our needs change. The Governance Committee regularly reviews the matrices to identify gaps in the composition of the Board and committees. As these composition matrices are an *'ideal state'*, we accept that gaps will exist. It is, however, important to articulate the gaps to provide a clear line of sight to where broader perspectives, skills or knowledge are missing, ensure decision-makers are conscious of this, understand how the gaps might impact decisions and, at times, have specific expertise or external resources available to fill them.

The gap assessment also allows us to connect board and committee members with specific education programs.

THE OVERALL PICTURE

The matrices are a single piece in the overall requirements and expectations of our board and committee members. Before taking office, for example, board members must swear or solemnly affirm an Oath of Office: this is a legislated and binding commitment. In harmony with this is the Coast Salish blanketing ceremony, performed by an Elder of one of our host nations, which symbolically affirms board members' commitment to their work and signifies a unity of spirit, heart, and mind. All board and committee members also sign a Code of Conduct at the outset of each year, declaring they will comply with the established requirements of their office. Each of these elements provide a framework by which board and committee members can measure their contributions, ensuring what they do is meaningful and aligned with the public interest mandate.

Finally, ongoing mentorship, professional development, and access to support groups, such as the Community of Practice for Indigenous People who hold positions on BC health regulatory boards and committees, are all examples of resources made available to board and committee members throughout their tenure.

Board Composition Matrix

Board Member

To support strong decision-making in service of the College's promise to foster unshakeable confidence in nursing and midwifery care,

every board member will bring the following **VALUES** and **ATTRIBUTES** to the table:

- Act with integrity and speak the truth; be able and willing to take full responsibility for decisions made; and follow through on commitments. *[Accountability, Honesty, and Integrity]*
- Appreciate that, at times, plans will adjust to meet changing circumstances and needs. *[Adaptability]*
- Recognize that, in a complex system, what can emerge from collaborative and meaningful engagement and discourse will be stronger than what is created in isolation. *[Collaboration]*
- Be open to new or broader perspectives; employ a learning mindset by listening and becoming better informed; and take time to self-reflect and acknowledge the impact of personal power and privilege when contemplating decisions. *[Humility]*
- Actively commit to creating safe gathering spaces that welcome and support all who wish to connect, learn, share, belong, and grow. *[Inclusivity]*
- Make decisions based on evidence and good information, that will best fulfil the public protection mandate. *[Objectivity]*
- Have passion for the College's purpose and vision; compassion for the public and their right to safe, ethical care; an understanding and appreciation of, and commitment to, the board's role in protecting the public and the time required to diligently execute that role; and recognize that public interest will always be prioritized over personal or professional interests. *[Public Service]*
- Work with others effectively to support a culture of trust; be present and participate fully in discussions, fostering and promoting, not impeding or stifling, robust dialogue; and remain aware and sensitive to the impact of language used. *[Respect]*
- Have a clear understanding of personal strengths and privileges, the consequences of bias and potential conflicts of interest; recognize the value of continuous development and improvement; and be open to reflection, feedback, and opportunities to learn, relearn and unlearn. *[Self-Awareness]*

every board member will bring, or be willing to learn, the following **SKILLS**, **PRACTICES** and **KNOWLEDGE**:

- Understanding of what it means to be anti-racist and an ally and knowledge of how to actively model this behaviour; ability to speak up and acknowledge instances or systems of oppression; and ability to hold self and others accountable for creating safe and inclusive spaces in which honest conversations about racism and privilege can occur. *[Anti-Racism and Allyship]*
- Understanding of the social, legislative and political history of the BC First Nations and Indigenous people; the impact of colonialism in Canada and its enduring traumatic legacy; the effects of widespread Indigenous-specific racism within the healthcare system; and knowledge of how Indigenous self-government and self-determination works in this province. *[BC First Nations and Indigenous Context]*
- Ongoing learning, appreciation and respect for the distinct and important BC First Nations and Indigenous-specific rights, approaches, protocols and perspectives that inform discussion and decision-making; ability to contribute to and support the College as it works to develop a culturally safe organization and health system (through the continuous practice of cultural humility); and an ability to support and respect those who communicate they are feeling unsafe. *[Cultural Safety and Humility]*
- Reasonable understanding of financial and budgeting information, and the confidence to ask questions that safeguard the financial stewardship of the College. *[Financial Literacy]*
- Understanding of the board member's role and fiduciary duties, good governance principles, and the stewardship responsibilities of the board. *[Governance]*
- Understanding of the role and philosophy of health profession regulators, the public protection mandate of the College, the applicable legislation, regulations, bylaws and policies, and the core work of the College. *[Health Professions Regulation]*
- Understanding and appreciation of the development and limitations of policy and decision-making in a large, complex system; and ability to ensure that decisions are based on clear, objective principles, as informed by evidence and best practice. *[Organizational Decision Making]*
- Awareness of the complex system in which the College works, including the partners within that system, and the impact that College decisions have on this greater community. *[System Thinking]*
- Ability to efficiently navigate and use the College's computer and conferencing systems, adhering to applicable security and privacy policies. *[Technological Competence]*

Board

To support strong decision-making in service of the College's promise to foster unshakeable confidence in nursing and midwifery care,

the Board will bring the following **DIVERSE EXPERIENCE, BACKGROUNDS, and PERSPECTIVES**:

- A variety of cultural and historical backgrounds and experiences that reflect the communities the College serves and the cultural context within BC's health care system. *[Culture]*
- Local, national, and international academic backgrounds and experiences that reflect the diverse education and knowledge of registrants and the public served by the College. *[Education]*
- Diverse BC First Nations and Indigenous perspectives embedded within the College's governance structure to ensure that: deliberations include and are informed by firsthand knowledge and experiences of BC First Nations and Indigenous communities; decisions include and respect key rights, protocols and perspectives; collective biases are identified, questioned and mitigated; and the College's cultural safety and humility journey continues to be supported in order to contribute to positive systemic change. *[BC First Nations and Indigenous Voices]*
- A range of gender identities and gender expressions, and individuals who self-identify as LGBTQIA2S+, to promote knowledge and understanding of societal attitudes around gender and sexual orientation and the impact this has on access to and experiences within the health care system. *[Gender and Sexual Orientation]*
- Regional diversity, to reflect the reality that practice, access to healthcare, and the public's expectations of the health care system varies throughout the province. *[Region]*
- Diverse practice experiences, backgrounds and specialities that inform dialogue and decision-making, ensuring decisions meet intended objectives, are practical and, ultimately, protect the public. *[Registrant Practice]*
- Diverse leadership experience in the public, private, healthcare, and not-for-profit sectors, to promote knowledge and the sharing of best practices. *[Sector]*

one or more board members will have the following specific **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE, KNOWLEDGE, and SKILLS**:

- Lived experience accommodating or navigating a spectrum of physical, mental health, or cognitive abilities, the knowledge of which can enhance relevant, thoughtful decisions that protect the public. *[Ableness]*
- Knowledge and experience as a board member, including the ability to calmly weigh evidence, think critically, consider options and bring sound judgement to decision making. *[Board Experience]*
- Experience in facilitating board and committee meetings, developing board culture, creating safe collaborative environments, leading sensitive conversations, and fostering board effectiveness. *[Board Leadership]*
- Business experience, an understanding of what an organization needs to operate effectively, including the economic forces that need to be incorporated into decisions, and good management principles. *[Business Acumen]*
- Change management and transformation experience that will support the College's ability to adapt, evolve and lead systemic change. *[Change Leadership]*
- Experience in advancing strategies that promote equitable access and opportunities, and in developing practices to correct non-inclusive behaviour. *[Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Leadership]*
- Experience developing and working with a board to oversee executive performance management and succession planning. *[Executive HR]*
- Accounting or financial management experience and the ability to support board members without this experience execute their financial oversight responsibilities. *[Financial Oversight]*
- A deep understanding of how government works, and how to affect change within all levels of government. *[Government Relations]*
- An understanding of IT/IM systems, security, and sector change. *[Information Technology and Information Management]*
- Experience developing teams and environments that foster new thinking, new products, and system disruption. *[Innovation]*
- An understanding of contracts, privacy, employment, labour, litigation management, and administrative law. *[Legal Expertise]*
- Extensive experience in strategic communications and stakeholder relations. *[Public Relations]*
- Experience and understanding of both quality assurance and quality improvement in health care. *[Quality Improvement]*
- An understanding of how to sustain and evolve an effective and meaningful risk management and risk oversight program. *[Risk Management/Oversight]*
- Experience leading a team to articulate a vision, identify strategic priorities, and oversee organizational performance. *[Strategic Planning]*