



CAWM BOARD MEMBER FAQ

1. What is the Canadian Association of Wilderness Medicine (CAWM)?

CAWM is a national, nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing wilderness medicine in Canada through education, advocacy, collaboration, and community.

CAWM strives to foster collaboration and excellence in Wilderness Medicine across Canada through networking, education, awareness, and advocacy.

CAWM is run by a volunteer Board of Directors. Board Members are elected by the CAWM Members at the Annual General Meeting or if a vacancy arises.

2. What is the role of a CAWM board member?

Board members guide the strategic direction of CAWM, support initiatives, promote the organization, and ensure alignment with its mission and values.

Responsibilities include attending board meetings, participating in committees, and contributing to decision-making and project development.

3. How often does the board meet?

The board meets monthly (virtually), with one annual in person meeting (usually in the winter) and of course the annual CAWM conference. Additional meetings may be scheduled as needed.

4. What is the time commitment?

Board members can expect to commit 5-10 hours per month depending on their level of involvement in specific projects or committees.

5. Do I need prior board experience?

No. We value diverse perspectives and welcome passionate individuals from all backgrounds, including those new to board service. A strong interest in wilderness medicine is essential.

6. Is this a paid position?



No. Board positions are volunteer-based. However, CAWM may cover certain expenses related to board activities, such as travel for in-person meetings and/or event participation.

7. How long is a board term?

Terms are **2 years**, with the option to renew for a second term.

8. What kind of people serve on the board?

Our board includes all types of wilderness medical enthusiasts and professionals including physicians, search and rescue, ski patrol, EMS, nurses, military, outdoor educators, researchers, students, and wilderness advocates. We strive for geographic and professional diversity.

9. How can I join the board?

Board vacancies are announced on our website and social media. Interested individuals can submit an application outlining their experience and interest in wilderness medicine. Nominations and elections are held annually at the CAWM conference and as needed.

10. What are the benefits of serving on the board?

Board members gain leadership experience, board experience, expand their professional network, influence the growth of wilderness medicine in Canada, and contribute meaningfully to a passionate community. Board members also receive a CAWM conference registration for free.