

## **Get involved in your community**

Join our board and help us build inclusive communities!

### **Who is the Whistler Multicultural Society?**

The Whistler Multicultural Society (WMS) formed out of a grassroots group of local newcomers and immigrants who wanted to build the profile and voice of our diverse community members. For eight years (until COVID), the WMS organized the annual Whistler Multicultural Festival, a celebration of cultural arts, crafts, song, dance and activities from local immigrant and indigenous communities. Over that time, WMS also started sourcing funding for programming and services to support immigrants and newcomers through the Whistler Welcome Centre. In early 2020, the advisory board of local immigrants decided to incorporate as a non-profit society so that the work of supporting immigrants and newcomers matched with initiatives to build awareness and understanding of cultural diversity could continue in an expanded and more formal way.

### **What does the Whistler Multicultural Society do?**

WMS supports immigrants and newcomers to grow social capital, skills, knowledge, and experience to ensure their success and participation in our community while fostering intercultural awareness, understanding, and interactions in the wider community of Whistler. Our programs build cross-cultural interaction and connections, develop awareness and understanding of our local diversity, and seek to grow equity and inclusion. We aim to build the voice and profile of newcomers and immigrants in our local community, and to develop community inclusion initiatives.

WMS is a key partner in the Whistler Welcome Centre, hosted by the Whistler Public Library, and is a service provider partner with Capilano University in the delivery of federally- and provincially-funded immigrant settlement services across the Sea to Sky and Sunshine Coast. WMS also works as a local spoke in the provincial Resilience BC Anti-Racism Network. It is increasingly undertaking initiatives locally, and across the Sea to Sky, aimed at building inclusive communities.

### **What does a board member do?**

Board members are volunteers from our local communities. They guide the direction of the Society and make sure that the best interests and the future of the organization are protected.

The board meets 6 times per year, plus our annual general meeting and a strategic planning session. As part of being a board member, you can also join a committee in an area of interest. And you will serve as an ambassador for the Society in your community.

A board member can expect to spend 2-6 hours per month on Society activities. Time requirements will vary throughout the year with some months being busier than others.

### **What makes a good board member for WMS?**

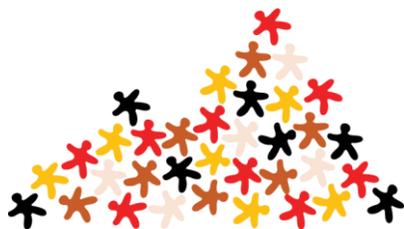
- interest in, and time to get involved in, your community
- having a passion for fostering diversity, equity, and inclusion
- want to build opportunities for newcomers, immigrants, and people of colour to participate and have a voice
- interested in learning about community leadership
- want to use your skills and experience in a supportive and involved environment
- are from a diverse background
- lived experience of bias, racism, and discrimination is respected and valued

WMS is committed to providing skills support and development for all board members. Bring your skills and experiences to this opportunity to drive and build a BIPOC-led organization for your community.

**Want to know more?**

FB/WhistlerMulticultural Society, IG whistlermulticultural.

Please email board chair [priscilla.belanger@wmsociety.ca](mailto:priscilla.belanger@wmsociety.ca) with your interest



**Building Inclusive Communities**