



**Volunteer Opportunity:
Board of Directors- Youth Member and Members at Large**

Position start date: June 2021

Application deadline: June 5, 2021

Wage: Volunteer (unwaged)

Hours: Casual part-time, estimated time commitment of 7 hours per month

LifeCycles Overview:

At LifeCycles, we believe that food is at the heart of thriving, diverse communities and a healthy planet. Our work creates learning experiences that transform and strengthen our connections with each other and the natural world. We strive to improve both food literacy and food security on Lekwungen territories (Greater Victoria area), while fostering biodiversity and enhancing our urban environments. LifeCycles runs programs that reach different demographics and meet diverse needs within our communities. These projects include:

- the Growing Schools program, which delivers food and agriculture-related educational programming for public school students,
- the Welland Community Orchard, which is a unique urban agriculture site for demonstrating and teaching organic tree fruit production,
- and the Fruit Tree Project, which engages teams of volunteers in gleaning and processing fruit from urban trees every year.

For more details on all of the projects that LifeCycles runs, please visit our website:

<https://lifecyclesproject.ca/>

Commitment to Equity and Diversity:

LifeCycles operates on the unceded territories of the Lekwungen peoples, namely the Esquimalt, Songhees, WSÁNEĆ, and T'Sou-Ke nations. As a settler-led organization, we are constantly working through the harms that have been inflicted by colonial food systems and trying to discern what our roles must be in dismantling the systems of oppression that underpin food (in)security. Many of our practices, including: our organizational structure, the seeds we

plant, the trees we harvest, the ways we educate, and our methods of growing food, came to these lands through the ongoing processes of settler colonialism and Indigenous dispossession. We seek to hold this understanding in our interactions and engagements with this land and its people.

We welcome and celebrate applications from individuals of diverse and marginalized identities, including Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour, LGBTQS2+ folks, disabled and neuro-divergent people, youth, and anyone with lived experiences of poverty, food insecurity, or homelessness. We strongly value the perspectives, voices, and experiences of everyone in our community and hope to include these voices in all the work that we do. We recognize that there can be many significant barriers to participating in un-paid Board work, especially for individuals of marginalized identities. If you would like to apply but are concerned about any barriers you may face, we encourage you to reach out to us to discuss how we might be able to facilitate your participation in our organization. The LifeCycles Board is currently engaged in a process of reviewing and building upon the organization's equity, diversity, and inclusion.

Board of Directors Overview:

As a registered non-profit society, LifeCycles' operations are overseen by a volunteer Board of Directors, which comprises up to 8 members. The role of the Board is to ensure that the organization is upholding its mission, and is accountable to the needs and interests of the community it serves. The Board plays a crucial role within LifeCycles as an organization; contributing unique ideas and vision, supporting staff, taking on special projects or organizing events, and helping shape the future of LifeCycles.

The time commitment required of Board members is estimated to be 7 hours per month. Board members are expected to serve for at least one year. We are currently accepting applications for the Youth Member (ages 25 and under) and Member at Large positions (no additional requirements, 2 positions available).

Monthly Responsibilities (all Board members)

- Attending monthly board meetings on Monday evenings. Meetings are typically 1.5 hours in length, and are currently being held online via Zoom.
- Preparing for monthly board meetings by reading program reports, financial reports, and reviewing previous board meeting minutes.
- Supporting board/organizational activities by taking on tasks such as event planning and being a part of special committee work, as required.
- Attending to email communications on an interim basis between meetings, as required.

Annual Responsibilities (all Board members)

- Elect a three-person executive consisting of a Board Chair, Secretary and Treasurer.
- Determine an annual work plan for the board.
- Serve on a program advisory committee (each board member will sit on a minimum of one board committee, committing to approximately five meetings per year and attending to interim communication as required).

- Participate in up to two strategic planning meetings with LifeCycles staff.
- Appoint a Human Resources committee for an annual review of Executive Director and board performance.
- Review and revise the constitution, bylaws, and standing policy and procedures of the organization as necessary.
- Attend the Annual General Meeting.
- Review and ultimately adopt monthly financial reports and annual financial statements.

Relevant Experience:

Examples of relevant experience and desirable attributes for a position on the LifeCycles Board of Directors includes, but is not limited to:

- Knowledge of and interest in topics related to sustainable food systems, including food security, agriculture, Indigenous food sovereignty, decolonization, youth food literacy, and how food-related issues intersect with race, class, gender, ability, and other aspects of social identity.
- Experience working or volunteering in the non-profit sector, or previous Board membership experience.
- An understanding of food and environment-related issues on Lekwungen territories.
- Self-reflexivity, compassion, authenticity, and openness to change.
- Experience in policy development, human resources, and administration.
- Skills related to financial management and budgeting.
- Clear written and verbal communication.
- Event planning, public speaking, and group facilitation.
- Ability to make decisions cooperatively, using a consensus-based model.
- Strong leadership skills and ambitious vision for the future of LifeCycles.

To apply: Please send a statement of interest to Jess Gunnarson, Nomination Committee Chair: jess.gunnarson@icloud.com

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