



Prospective Board Member Guide

The Cowichan Intercultural Society (CIS) is a Canadian registered charitable organization that has been serving the Cowichan Valley Region for over 40 years. Currently, we have 18 active community service programs, 7 board members, 20 staff members, and over 150 volunteers. Cowichan Intercultural Society is the leading community resource for immigrant settlement services, and for education and awareness in developing welcoming and inclusive communities.

Our Vision:

Is of a welcoming and inclusive community, where every person feels a sense of belonging and can contribute to their full potential.

Our Mission:

Is to facilitate mutual respect, trust, support, and education in the culturally diverse Cowichan Region.

Our Objectives:

- To provide service and support to new Canadians towards their full integration into the communities of the Cowichan Region
- To promote cultural awareness and appreciation in the Cowichan Region
- To facilitate public awareness and education of common issues across cultures

Our Story:

In 1981, a large influx of Vietnamese refugees to the Cowichan Valley led residents to organize a new non-profit organization: the Cowichan Valley Intercultural and Immigrant Aid Society (CVIIAS). Their mandate was to:

- Facilitate the settlement and integration needs of immigrants and refugees
- Promote the diverse cultural heritages of valley residents

Our main funding includes:

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada contribution agreement (IRCC)
Province of BC contracts
Foundations and Grants
Donations and Sponsorships

Please see our website for information about our Programs and Services.



Board Membership includes:

- Professional Development
- Directors' and Officers' Liability Insurance
- Intercultural learning and Board experience

Requirements:

- Attend monthly Board Meetings
- Read Board material in advance of the meeting
- Sit on at least 1 Committee

What we look for in a Board Member:

- Alignment with our Vision and Mission
- Enthusiasm and dedication
- Willingness to volunteer, donate and leverage community positions where possible

where cultures connect