

## **Organic Council of Ontario Call for Directors 2020**

**Position:** Director, Organic Council of Ontario Board of Directors

**Type:** Volunteer

**Start:** March 2020

**Term:** 2 years, renewable

**Commitment:** 5-10 hours/month

**Meetings:** Once a month, weekday mornings (video conference)

**Location:** Anywhere in Ontario

### **Key Dates**

**January 24th 2020:** Nomination packages become available

**February 18th 2020:** Deadline for nominations

**February 28th - March 6th 2020:** Online voting period

**March 11th 2020:** AGM voting and (re)election of Board Directors

### **How to Apply**

Please visit our website at [www.organiccouncil.ca](http://www.organiccouncil.ca) to complete the [online nomination form](#). Please contact Cassandra Rizzotto at [cassandra@organiccouncil.ca](mailto:cassandra@organiccouncil.ca) or directly at 519.827.1221 X101 for a printed PDF nomination form or for any further information you may require.

### **About OCO**

The Organic Council of Ontario is the voice for organics in Ontario. We are the only membership-based full value-chain organization created by and for the organic sector to advocate for its interests in Ontario. We communicate with government, the media, and various agri-food associations and commodity groups; collect sector-wide data; conduct market and policy research; and promote and protect the organic claim.

### **About the Board**

The Organic Council of Ontario is governed by an elected Board of Directors with alternating two-year terms. The Directors are responsible for setting strategic targets and direction for the organization, general financial oversight, guidance on policy and regulatory initiatives, assisting with fundraising and engaging with the organic

membership. The Board also elects officers from among the Directors. The President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary work with the Executive Director to represent the organization and provide leadership on the operations of the organization (e.g. oversee financial matters and corporate documents).

## **Strategic Direction**

Since 2015, the Organic Council of Ontario has shifted its mandate to focus more on matters that affect organic businesses. This is reflected in OCO's fundraising strategy, which has shifted in focus from consumer donations to industry funding.

## **Achievements from 2019**

- Completed a premium meat pricing report and reviewed meat labels
- Hosted “Your Standards Your Say” Webinars to connect people with the Organic Standards review
- Built support for Bill 54 - Organic Products Act
- Began hosting organic tours to connect eaters and organic businesses
- Held a contest during Organic week and asked participants why they #LoveOntarioOrganic
- Researched and completed a report on organic inputs
- Major progress on our data strategy! Initiated cost of production research, progress on a data portal, built relationships with other data-collecting agencies.
- Launched an organic column in Fruit and Veg magazine. The first column came out in November 2019, and look out for more issues in 2020.
- Ontario Organic Directory launched in 2018, and we continue to make improvements.
- We held an [organic policy forum](#) in conjunction with our AGM, bringing together a wide range of stakeholders to learn about and discuss organic issues.

## **In 2020, we plan to:**

- Create a data portal [for tracking organic production and other market data](#) in Ontario.
- Create cost of production resources for multiple organic value chains.
- Get Bill 54 passed!
- Develop and recommend a plan to implement organic regulations in Ontario.
- Complete and submit a proposal for Section 12 Association Status with the Farm Products and Marketing Commission.
- Implement a voluntary check-off on organic products to create stable funding for the organic sector.
- Host a series of organic tours in rural regions.
- Research regenerative organic and ecological incentive programs and their feasibility in the Ontario context.
- Continue working with the Organic Value Chain Roundtable to address the lack

of access to organic inputs.

- Address the need for better risk management and crop insurance tools in organic.
- Continue to keep our members informed and engaged in the 2020 Standards Review process.

## Board Openings

We have eight (8) positions open for (re)election. There are opportunities in the producer category (2), the certified value chain position (1), the supporter position (1), and four (4) at-large positions.

Voting Category	Total Seats	Open Seats for the 2020 - 2022 term
<b>Producer (certified)</b> Primary producers with certified organic product.	3	2
<b>Value Chain (certified)</b> Any business with organic certification that does not include agricultural production.	2	1
<b>Value Chain (non-certified)</b> Any business that handles certified organic product but does not require certification.	1	0
<b>Supporter</b> Sector experts, Consultants, Media/communications, NGO/Associations, In-transition/ecological producers.	1	1
<b>Directors At Large</b> This category allows the board to find board members with certain skill sets such as financial, fundraising, media or government relations experience, for instance. This category can also include in-transition/ecological producers.	5	4

**This year, the Board of Directors is looking for individuals with any of the following qualifications, expertise and experience:**

- Data and information management systems
- Other commodity association experience and/or connections
- Represents an organic product value chain not currently on the board
- Experience/connections with organic Input suppliers
- Non-profit organizational development and fundraising
- Operational policy development (HR etc.)
- Accounting experience

- Legal or government relations expertise
- Experience working with retailers and/or online sales
- Big picture strategic thinking and experience with mergers/creating new organizations
- Knowledge of organic transition and certification challenges
- Previous board experience

**To be eligible, an individual must:**

- Be or become a member of OCO in good standing,
- Be nominated by another member,
- Be at least 18 years of age, and
- Not have bankruptcy that is undischarged.

**Responsibilities of a Board member include:**

- Attend and participate in monthly Board meetings regularly (failure to attend three consecutive meetings without notice may result in removal from the Board)
- Actively contribute to projects related to your area of expertise
- Attend two in-person strategy days annually
- Stay informed about the organization and attend at least one program event per year
- Attend **AGM on March 11th 2020 in Toronto.**

We look forward to receiving your application!