

Literacy Unlimited Board Membership: Rewards and Responsibilities

Literacy Unlimited is a community resource dedicated to the advancement of literacy.

Have you considered the rewards of sitting on a volunteer Board of Directors?

Literacy Unlimited is seeking qualified volunteers to serve on its Board of Directors and Standing Committees.

Literacy Unlimited, a not-for-profit organization governed by a volunteer Board of Directors, has been in place since 1981. The Board consists of nine (9) members, whose term runs from two to six years.

This dedicated team drives the organization to fulfil its mission as *“a community resource dedicated to the advancement of literacy.”*

Based in offices in John Rennie High School in Pointe-Claire, Literacy Unlimited serves the communities in Montreal’s West Island covered by the Lester B. Pearson School Board. This includes the area stretching from Verdun on the east to the Ontario border on the west.

Literacy Unlimited’s core activity is to train volunteers to tutor adults, one-on-one. Typically, learners are adults whose mother tongue is English or who have a good knowledge of English and wish to improve their literacy skills.

Although not-for-profit, Literacy Unlimited is a business. The Board’s structure and standing committees mirror those in the for-profit sector.

Literacy Unlimited strives to maintain a Board that includes people with a balance of interests and skills in the interest of achieving its strategic objectives.

The Rewards

A seat on the Board is a responsibility that brings with it many advantages, both to the Board member and to the Community.

Sitting on the Board offers you a means to use your existing skills and develop new ones. It is an opportunity to take part in high-level corporate decision-making. As you help a not-for-profit organization to achieve its goals, you bolster your understanding of community, business and economic forces.

The true benefit you gain is the satisfaction that comes with hands-on volunteering.

What do we ask of our Board Members?

Board Members come from our local base of learners and volunteers, and from the community of corporate leaders, retirees, middle managers, and individual workers. We appreciate how busy these people are.

We ask that Board members give about 5 to 10 hours a month (50 to 120 hours a year) to:

- Attend monthly Board meetings in the West Island
- Support us in approaching Foundations, Corporations and individuals for funding
- Chair or participate in Standing Committees for governance and fundraising
- Help secure and manage mutually beneficial sponsor relationships
- Formulate and manage more complex ways of fundraising such as planned giving and stock donations
- Participate in the Annual General Meeting, typically in May
- Attend an annual one-day Board Retreat, typically in November or December
- After several months, act as a “Buddy” to a new Board Member

To learn more about our organization, and to “meet” our current Board Members, click on “About Us” on the Literacy Unlimited website.

For more information, please contact our Executive Director at:

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"Volunteerism is an enormous economic force, yet it is never mentioned in business school or in economics departments."

--Walter Hoadley, former Chief Economist for the Bank of America