



**OUTWARD BOUND  
CANADA**

# **CALL FOR APPLICATIONS**

## **OUTWARD BOUND CANADA BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

In Canada, access to the outdoors is not equal.

Across the country, schools - typically the great equalizer - are scaling back on outdoor education programs.

More than ever, teenagers are staying inside. On the couch. Glued to screens.

Mental health issues amongst youth are skyrocketing.

Teachers are reporting disengagement in the classroom. Employers are complaining that young employees lack social and communication skills.

But at Outward Bound Canada, we know we can help.

We can turn this story around.

We know what to do.

In fact, we are REALLY great at doing what we do.

But we can't do it alone.





# HERE'S WHERE **YOU** COME IN

Outward Bound Canada is seeking innovative, thoughtful, and influential volunteer board directors to help us make strategic plans, meet organizational challenges and continue the vital work we do.

We are on an exciting trajectory. Join us as we position ourselves to reach more youth than ever with our empowering and transformative funded outdoor education programs.



# ABOUT OUTWARD BOUND<sup>1</sup>

The original Outward Bound school was founded in 1941 in Wales by Kurt Hahn for the purpose of teaching young sailors the vital survival skills necessary during World War II. Outward Bound (“OB”) was founded on the observation that people who were put in challenging, adventurous outdoor situations gained confidence, redefined their own perceptions of their personal possibilities, demonstrated compassion, and developed a spirit of camaraderie with their peers.

Hahn believed that there was more in every person than they knew; his curriculum was based on the belief that character development is just as important as academic achievement. That first Outward Bound school became the wellspring of experiential learning worldwide.

Today, Outward Bound International oversees the network of licensed member OB Schools that make up the worldwide community. This network consists of 38 OB Schools, in 35 countries, across 6 continents, including Outward Bound Canada.

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<sup>1</sup> The nautical term ‘Outward Bound’ and the OB flag – the ‘Blue Pater’- is raised when a ship is ‘Outward Bound, leaving the safety of harbour to sail out to whatever challenges they will meet.



# ABOUT OUTWARD BOUND CANADA

Operating in Canada since 1969, Outward Bound Canada (OBC) is a registered charity that empowers youth through experiential adventures in nature. We use the outdoors as a dynamic classroom; we help thousands of young people annually to build their physical, social, and emotional skills, develop resilience, and hone their social and environmental leadership.

Since 1969, more than 175,000 participants have experienced our unique educational programs from coast to coast. Visit [www.outwardbound.ca](http://www.outwardbound.ca) to learn more about our vision where all youth have access to high quality, impactful outdoor education experiences that help them realize their potential.

In 2023, we served 4,000 youth with our transformative programs, a four-fold increase over 2022. In 2024, our focus will be on expanding our charitable revenue in order to reach more underserved youth than ever. We'll also continue our focus on our school/group programs.

In addition to our youth outdoor education programs, we run the OBC Training Academy for Outdoor Professionals. Launched in 2022 and funded by the Government of Canada's Sectoral Initiatives Program, the Training Academy (TA) delivers inclusive training across Canada through an innovative combination of experiential workshops, outdoor journeys, virtual learning, mentorship and certifications.

Through the TA, OBC lives its belief that the outdoor sector should be accessible, welcoming and diverse. By valuing and celebrating the complex and intersecting identities of our participants and staff, the TA are able to foster a community where everyone belongs. Visit <https://trainingacademy.outwardbound.ca/> to learn more.

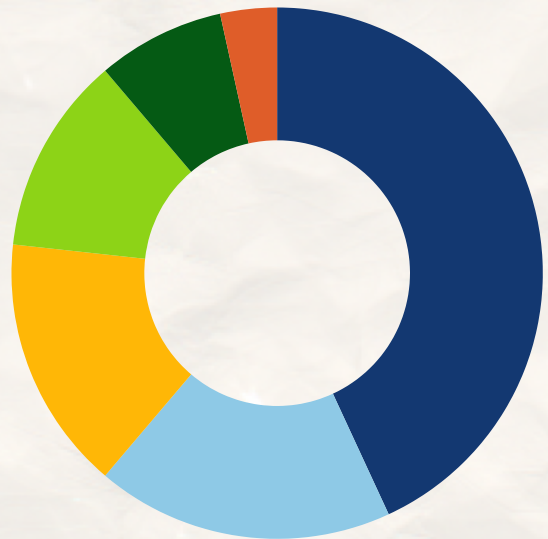


# OBC BY THE NUMBERS

## 4,000 YOUTH SERVED IN 2023!

### OUR 2023 PARTICIPANT PROFILE

- 50% Youth from families whose income just covers basic expenses
- 21% Members of the 2SLGBTQ+ community
- 18% People of Colour
- 14% First Nations, Inuit or Metis
- 9% People with a Disability
- 4% Newcomers to Canada



### ADDITIONAL STATS

- 175,000 participants served since 1969
- 50+ staff
- \$12 million annual budget
- Revenue is generally split in equal thirds: government, fundraising, and fee for service
- 5 operating areas in 3 regions (West Coast: Wilderness in Vancouver Island and Urban on Vancouver Mainland; Wilderness in Rockies via Canmore; and Ontario Wilderness in Minden and Urban in Don Valley Brickworks Park, Toronto)



# THE OPPORTUNITY

As the needs of youth and underserved communities continue to expand, Outward Bound Canada needs to adapt to address the evolving needs of its students across dynamic educational landscapes, the growing complexity of the modern world and an environment shaped by climate change. We intend to remain at the forefront of experiential outdoor education. Our Board of Directors plays a vital role by providing vision, expertise, guidance and resources to scale our impact.

Outward Bound Canada is governed by a Board of Directors which is responsible for acting in the long-term interests of the organization. Directors bring to their deliberations a variety of skills and experiences, a long-range view of the organization, and an openness to learning.

## **The Board provides direction and support to OBC by:**

- Focusing on strong governance, applying the principle of “nose in, hands out”
- Maintaining a culture of trust within the organization which focuses on developing relationships with both the Executive Director, and other key Senior Management positions
- Supporting fundraising initiatives
- Encouraging a sense of teamwork



# WHAT YOU CAN BRING

The OBC Board maintains a skills matrix to help ensure strong representation within functional and personal areas, both of which we believe are required to govern the organization effectively. We are looking for candidates from diverse parts of Canada, with diverse skills and with diverse personal experiences, all of which can bring value to OBC.

**At present, there are five functional areas in which the Board is looking for individuals with senior experience:**

- Sales and Marketing
- Finance and Accounting
- Philanthropy and Nonprofit Management
- Government Relations
- Secondary School and or Post Secondary leadership experience



# WHAT WE EXPECT OF OUR BOARD DIRECTORS

## MEETING & RETREAT ATTENDANCE

The Board has four face-to-face meetings a year (typically held on Thursday evenings). Meetings are generally held in Toronto, but may occur occasionally in other Canadian locations. For individuals who are unable to participate in person for a meeting, video participation is available. We do, however, find great productivity from in-person meetings. If needed, OBC can reimburse Directors for travel expenses associated with attending in person meetings.

Due to the importance of each meeting, Directors should allocate time in their schedules to prepare for each meeting accordingly. Generally, a Director can expect one hour of preparation time for each hour of meeting time. The Board will also hold at least one Board retreat (Friday and Saturday) approximately every other year.

## COMMITTEES

Each Director is asked to serve on one or more of the Board's standing committees, which include: (1) Finance/Audit and Risk Oversight; (2) Human Resources and Compensation; (3) Governance and Nominations; and (4) Government Relations and Fundraising.

## FUNDRAISING

Directors are expected to offer leadership and expertise in development activities, and personally donate or fundraise a meaningful amount to show leadership and commitment to the philanthropic activities of the organization.

It is also highly encouraged that Board Directors participate in one of our incredible Reach Beyond Fundraising Expeditions. These expeditions range in time from 7 to 15 days and include domestic and international destinations. In 2024, the Reach Beyond Expedition location is the Bay of Exploits, Newfoundland, Canada. In general, past Reach Beyond expeditions have included one member of the Board as a participant who helps encourage their friends and colleagues to participate.



# HOW TO **APPLY**

Applicants can submit their letter of interest and curriculum vitae via our website, by following this link.

[Click to Apply](#)

Outward Bound Canada encourages candidates to apply  
by March 15, 2024