

Board Director Profile

Introduction

The Sexual Assault and Violence Intervention Services of Halton (SAVIS of Halton) is the only sexual assault center in Halton Region. We have been serving the community since 1989. SAVIS of Halton is a feminist community-based organization that incorporates anti-oppression/anti-racism policies and practices in all aspects of our agency's operation. We believe our services must be inclusive and equitable for all individuals accessing our programs while being responsive to issues of race, gender, religion, age, sexual orientation, socio-economic status and/or abilities.

SAVIS offers free and confidential trauma-informed 24/7 crisis supports, one-on-one counselling services, and advocacy services, with no judgment, just support. Services can be short- or long-term in nature and are open to female-identified, male-identified and transgender people aged 14 and over who are survivors of violence, including childhood abuse. We provide free, confidential, and non-judgmental 24 hour support to all survivors of violence including female-identified, male-identified, and members of the transgender community. We advocate against violence in the community at large and promote prevention through community education. We operate all of our programs on the tenants of anti-racism/anti-oppression and intersectionality, and work towards a world free of sexual violence.

Our Mandate

Our mandate is to provide free, confidential, and non-judgmental 24-hour support to all survivors of violence including women, men, and members of the transgender and gender-fluid community. We advocate against violence in the community at large and promote prevention through community education.

Vision Statement

SAVIS of Halton aims to be an exemplary leader in the fight against sexual violence as we advocate against gender-based violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking. Our vision is a world free of sexual violence.

Sexual assault remains an ongoing issue in Canada and persists as one of our most under-reported crimes. Research has indicated that one in four survivors suffers feelings of shame, guilt and stigma, some of which may result in longer-term emotional and psychological consequences.

SAVIS of Halton works to change the lives of survivors and change the public's perception of sexual violence. We offer support from a trauma-informed intersectional framework, that not only recognizes the individual barriers survivors must navigate in their healing, but also the systemic social barriers as well.

To help survivors dismantle stigma and individual and social barriers to healing, SAVIS offers free and confidential 24/7, one-on-one crisis counselling services, with no judgment, just support. Services are designed to be client centred and are flexible to the unique needs of survivors accessing our services. We recognize that there is not a one size fits all approach to healing, and survivors have diverse and varying needs. We accommodate these needs through our trauma-informed approach.

Guiding Principles

- Provide an environment and resources to support, educate and empower survivors.
- Listen, understand and validate survivors in a non-judgmental and supportive space.
- Be sensitive to all survivors' choices and life circumstances.
- Enable survivors to have a voice by providing support and resources.
- Foster respect and confidentiality at all times for survivors.
- Promote anti-discrimination policies on race, culture, sexual orientation, religion and ability.
- Partner with other organizations to meet the needs of women in the community.

Board of Directors

The Board of Directors oversees and guides the management of SAVIS in accordance with the strategy and governing policies and regulations of the organization from a feminist anti-oppressive framework. The Board consists of up to 9 directors and directors may be appointed for up to two two-year terms. The Executive Committee of SAVIS is comprised of the Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and Treasurer, who are elected from the board of directors. There are other Board committees, and a board orientation will be provided. Board members are expected to commit to regularly scheduled monthly meetings virtually or in person.

Directors are expected to serve on one or more Board committees, that meet an average of 6 times a year and each committee is required to be chaired by a director.

Directors are expected to attend 12-monthly evening Board meetings of approximately 2-3 hours duration

Directors are encouraged to engage at SAVIS ' expense, in courses and seminars related to the roles and responsibilities of directors and financial affairs of the organization

Director Qualifications:

Preferred Knowledge

- Understands and commits to the Mission and Values of SAVIS
- Understands the socio-economic climate and aspirations of the general public in the areas of Halton served by SAVIS
- Directors must understand Gender-Based Violence, Violence against Women, and Sexual Assault
- Understanding of Anti-Racist and Anti Oppression Intersectional Feminist Practices including intersectionality, anti-racism best practices, and knowledge of the relationship between privilege, oppression, and social location
- Understands the fundamentals of the social services sector within the Region of Halton
- Understands principles of governance and management of charitable organizations
- Understands By-laws, legal and fiduciary duties and responsibilities of directors

Preferred Skills and Experience

- Experience developing policies and strategic plans
- Overseeing and evaluating budgets, contracts and agreements
- Evaluating financial statements
- Experience with community services, funding agencies and government relations
- Expertise in at least one of the following: human resources, fundraising, accounting, legal, information technology, marketing, business administration, corporate management, labour relations, and education or women services.
- Ability to relate effectively with fellow directors and senior management in a consensus building framework.
- Directors need to have an understanding of Gender Base Violence
- Understanding of Anti-Racist and Anti Oppression Intersectional Feminist Practices
- Understanding of sexual assault
- Members are expected to support SAVIS at SAVIS hosted events, annual meeting, Take Back the Night, fundraising events and community awareness events.

We strongly encourage folks who are BIPOC and LGBTQ2+ to apply. We strongly encourage folks with lived experiences to apply.

Contact: Please send letter and resume to: boardofdirectors@savisofhalton.org