

Social Services Appeal Board

Board Member

Chairperson

Bobbette Shoffner, Winnipeg

Vice Chair

Amanda Racine, Boissevain

Members

Songyan Liu, Winnipeg
Maxine Diamond, Winnipeg
Sandra Kaufmann, Winnipeg
Kim Harrison, Winnipeg
Barbara Craven, La Salle
Ganpat Lodha, Winnipeg
Rajinder Grewal, Winnipeg
Pamela Peketâwasin, Winnipeg
Prof. Israel Kabashiki, Winnipeg (bil.)
Beverley Zarazun, Dugald
Hamath Sy, Winnipeg (bil.)
Jackie Maxted, Winnipeg
Thomasina Sinclair, The Pas

Mandate:

The Social Services Appeal Board gives Manitobans a fair, impartial and informal process from decisions relating to various social services and programs.

Authority:

[*The Social Services Administration Act*](#)

Responsibilities:

The committee serves as an appeal board to ensure decisions made by the Department of Families are fair and equitable. The committee hears appeals for adoption agency licensing, child care facility licensing, child care licensing and subsidies, child care qualifications certifications, income assistance, Rent Assist, 55 Plus, the Manitoba Prenatal Benefit, residential care facility licensing and Community Living disAbility Services. The committee reports to the Minister on any matter referred to it, including matters that may be prescribed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council.

Membership:

Up to 15 members appointed by LGIC (Including Chair & Vice Chair)

Eligible Members Must:

- a) be representative of the regional, economic and cultural diversity of Manitoba;
- b) be knowledgeable about social services and programs under designated Acts; and
- c) not be employees under the control of a minister responsible for a designated Act.

Quorum:

Three (3) Members per Panel

Length of Terms:

Up to 2 Years Max per Term (6 years max)

A member continues to hold office until they are reappointed, a successor is appointed or the appointment is revoked.

Note: A member who has served for six years in consecutive terms may be re-appointed for a further term, but only if at least one (1) year has passed since the end of his or her last term.

Desirable Experience:

Experience in the field of social or health services, familiarity with interpreting legislation, and a background in adjudicating or resolving issues.

There is no formal educational requirement; however, potential board members should be able to demonstrate an understanding of cultural and social issues including but not limited to issues of poverty, cultural diversity, social welfare, disabilities, and human behaviour.

An effective board member must be able to read complex written material, analyze written and verbal information in order to ascertain facts, and apply relevant legislation to this written and verbal information.

Board members:

- must be able to communicate verbally and have the ability to ask questions using open ended, non-judgmental language;
- have active listening skills;
- be able to read and interpret policies/legislation and how it applies to the case;
- use plain language;
- adhere to a high degree of confidentiality;
- basic technology skill; and
- have the ability to make decisions in a fair and unbiased manner.

Time Commitment:

Hearings are held in Winnipeg every Tuesday and Thursday from 9:00 am to 4:15 pm, with occasional out of town hearings. Individual members should be available to serve a full day at least twice a month. The Chairperson will sit approximately 8 days per month.

Meetings:

Hearings Panels:

Frequency:	2 Days/Week
Location:	Winnipeg (Virtual Conferencing or Teleconferencing Available)
Duration:	Tuesday and Thursday (9am - 4:15pm)

Board

Frequency:	Semi-Annually
Location:	Winnipeg (Virtual Conferencing or Teleconferencing Available)
Duration:	Full Day (8:30am-4:30pm)

Remuneration:

Chair:	\$243 per meeting over 3½ hours
	\$138 per meeting up to 3½ hours;
	\$230 Bi-weekly Stipend

Members:	\$139 per meeting over 3½ hours
	\$79 per meeting up to 3½ hours

Members are reimbursed for out-of-pocket expenses in accordance with the General Manual of Administration.