

Municipal Natural Assets Initiative **Board Member(s)**

Opportunity

The Municipal Natural Assets Initiative (MNAI) is seeking 1-3 dynamic, experienced, volunteer board members. MNAI has five committed, experienced board members who would like to add additional, diverse perspectives to help MNAI with the next stage of its growth and development to ensure it achieves its mission of making natural asset management a mainstream practice across Canada.

Responsibilities

- Serve as a leading ambassador of natural assets management and MNAI.
- Commit time to:
 - Attend and participate in quarterly board meetings and related meetings
 - Accept special assignments or leadership positions
 - Stay informed on issues and read materials
- Support MNAI in identifying and building relationships with potential funders including Canadian and international foundations, individual donors, and private sector foundations and entities.
- Approve necessary organizational policies.
- Participate in oversight process of the Executive Director.
- Stay informed about Board matters, prepare themselves for meetings, and review and comment on issues of importance.
- Participate in implementation of strategic plan reviews of progress.
- Respond to requests for feedback or decisions between meetings in a timely manner.

Qualifications for Service

- Able to commit to a two-year term with option for renewal.
- Significant past or current experience as not-for-profit board member in Canada.
- Deep commitment to, and interest in, advancing MNAI's goals and objectives.
- Experience with philanthropic and private sector resource mobilization a strong asset.
- Strong financial background (e.g., CPA) a definite asset.
- Substantive knowledge / understanding of one or more of the following or related fields: watershed management, ecology, climate change, resilience.
- Municipal government experience a definite asset.

Organization

MNAI, a Canadian not-for-profit society, has defined and pioneered municipal natural asset management, a practice that motivates and supports municipalities to understand, protect, enhance and restore nature as a vital asset that provides core local government services (e.g., flood management) and diverse co-benefits (e.g., recreation, health). Municipal natural asset management is a counterpoint to more traditional asset management approaches that ignore nature entirely or understand it only in terms of green or aesthetic benefits, which result in it being overused and under-acknowledged.

MNAI works both *directly* with local governments to provide methods, tools and advice, and at a systems level to help ensure there is market demand for municipal natural asset management, multiple entities that can help local governments meet the demand, and professional norms, national standards, and curriculum to ensure that work is comparable, effective and replicable.

MNAI has worked with 90+ local governments on projects ranging from natural asset inventories to complex initiatives in multi-use, multi-owner watersheds from a baseline of 1 single initiative five years ago. To support these efforts, MNAI has:

- Developed, introduced, tested and refined multiple methods and tools for municipalities to adopt and implement municipal natural asset management (MNAM).
- Played a key role in the ongoing development of Canada's first *National Standard for inventories*, which are a first foundational step in natural asset management.
- Played a key role in the emergence of Canada's first *natural asset guidance for engineers and geoscientists*.
- Played a key role in developing academic programming and training for natural assets management in partnership with *Royal Roads University*.
- Helped municipalities address challenges that are stalling full implementation and scaling of MNAM within municipal operations.

Throughout, MNAI has cemented its leadership role, demonstrated a consistent ability to deliver projects on time and on budget, and been recognized for its efforts with several awards.

Diversity

MNAI is committed to meeting or exceeding:

- 1/ 50% gender parity (“50% women and/or non-binary people on Canadian board(s) and/or senior management”)
- 2/ 30% representation of other equity-deserving groups: Racialized, Black, and/or People of Colour (“Visible Minorities”), People with disabilities (including invisible and episodic disabilities), 2SLGBTQ+ and/or gender and sexually diverse individuals, and Aboriginal and/or Indigenous Peoples on its Board and staff

Meetings

Most meetings will be virtual. Travel costs will be covered per MNAI policy in the event of an in-person meeting.

Applications and more information

Please send a cover letter and CV to info.mnai@gmail.com. For more information, please visit mnai.ca. Vacancy notice will stay active until roles are filled.