

Back to the Sea Society

Director at Large, Volunteer Role Description



The current Board of the Back to the Sea Society is seeking local citizens with a passion for community and marine education to join a volunteer team that leads the direction, oversight, governance, fundraising, and growth of the Back to the Sea Aquarium and all other related projects.

The Back to the Sea Society is a non-profit organization and registered charity. Its mission is to spark curiosity for local marine life and foster a sense of responsibility for the conservation of our ocean. This is accomplished through live animal displays, interpretation, direct action and inquiry based learning.

In conjunction with the Executive Director, the Board of Directors will oversee the organizational leadership necessary to establish a successful collect-hold-and-release “community aquarium”. This model has been tried-and-tested in five locations (4 in BC and 1 in NI) as well as with the Touch Tank Hut ran by Back to the Sea. This pilot project will open for its 4th season in summer 2020 while we continue to work towards opening the permanent Back to the Sea Aquarium. The goal for this future establishment is to break ground in 2023, however Board members must remain flexible and foresee that this date may change.

As our team works together to establish the Back to the Sea Aquarium, all members will be contributing to a working board. That is to say, all Directors must be ready to take on the dual responsibility of governance and operations.

Responsibilities of all volunteer Directors of the Back to the Sea Aquarium include:

- Ensuring the mission and vision of the Back to the Sea Society is upheld throughout all activities
- Ensure the sound financial well being of the society
- Help plan, forecast and monitor the Society’s budget
- Work directly with the Executive Director of the organization in the execution of its mission
- Promote the Society’s mission at all possible and appropriate opportunities
- Participate in major fundraising initiatives, foster fundraising relationships and draw on networks to support fundraising efforts when possible
- Attend Board meetings and the Annual General Meeting each year
- Creatively seek opportunities for partnerships with businesses, government, other non-profits and citizens
- Maintain clear communication through regular reporting via email, telecommunications and at meetings
- Support events and operations
- Support the strategic plan creation
- Ensure Board succession planning

Board Norms

- Passionate about our ocean’s future
- Prone to fun and play at work
- Supportive of the collect-hold-and-release philosophy
- Supportive of the strong focus on hands-on, inquiry based learning
- Promotes an inclusive environment that encourages bright ideas and action
- Dedicated, hard workers with fulfilling lives
- Transparent, respectful and professional communications

Commitment

- Two year term, renewable
- Weekly email communications and 48-hour response times from all board members
- Approximately 1-3 hours per week should be expected for board duties depending on season, events and cycles. Leading up to the opening, 3-6 hours can be expected.
- Attendance at all monthly meetings (in person or via phone/skype).
 - Meetings are currently held on the third Monday of every month but the schedule is subject to change (see schedule below).
- Attendance at all important major events, such as opening day and fundraisers.

Thank you for your interest in the Back to the Sea Society. To show your enthusiasm and commitment to joining the Back to the Sea Society Board of Directors, please send your resume and a letter of intent outlining your interest in joining, skills you wish to apply or build while serving, and your time availability.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Please send application to:

Magali Grégoire,
Founder and Executive Director
magali@backtothesea.ca
www.backtothesea.org
(902) 817-2007

2020 Board Meeting Schedule:

All meetings run from 7-9pm and take place in Downtown Dartmouth.

April 20

May 18

June 22

September 21

October 19

November 23

December 14