



BEING A TRUSTEE

- answers to your questions -

What do Trustees do?

Trustees oversee the governance, fiduciary and strategic aspects of the Trust's work. It is the responsibility of Trustees to ensure that the benefits plan is cost effective, administered equitably and supports the needs of our plan members.

Trustees collaborate regularly with senior AOMBT staff and external stakeholders to ensure that the mission of the Trust is being fulfilled and that compliance and reporting requirements are maintained. This is carried out through regularly scheduled Trustee and Committee meetings.



What are the benefits of being a Trustee?

Past Trustees have communicated that the experience provided them with a strong sense of collaboration, intellectual stimulation, and the opportunity to learn new skills, such as leadership and critical thinking. Trustees contribute to the sustainability of the profession and support the midwifery community in a meaningful way through their important work. Trustees participate in regularly scheduled education and information sessions, which deepen their learning and understanding of Trust work.



How often do Trustees meet? How much time would I need to devote to the Trust? Am I expected to be off-call during meetings?

Trustee meetings are scheduled four (4) times a year via teleconference for 3 hours, in addition to two (2) in-person meetings, each over a 2-day period. In addition, Trustees are obliged to participate in one of our standing committees, which meet monthly for 90 minutes by teleconference. These meetings are scheduled between the months of September and June with no meetings being held in July or August.

Trustees are expected to be off-call only for in-person meetings twice a year.

Active engagement in meetings is a pre-requisite for Trustees. Meeting documentation is pre-circulated and, as a general rule, Trustees spend 1-2 hours preparing for each meeting, whether it is a Committee meeting or Trustee meeting.

The term of office is 3 years, renewable up to 3 consecutive terms.



Is there an orientation process for new Trustees?

Recognizing the extensive body of knowledge our Trustees will need to acquire, we do provide a comprehensive orientation for new Trustees. In addition, we are developing a new Trustee Mentor program, which will partner a new Trustee with a seasoned Trustee in the first year as part of the on-boarding process. We view orientation as an ongoing learning and development process.



Do I need to have a background in finance or benefits to be an effective Trustee?

In a word, no! The ability to share ideas, think strategically, and work collaboratively with others are integral to the work of Trustees. A desire to learn and a passion for supporting plan members are equally as important as having knowledge or financial management or experience in benefits.



If you have any other questions or would like to set up time to chat with a current Trustee about their experiences, contact us at chair@midwivesbenefits.ca.