


<b>Policy Name:</b>	<b>BOARD GOVERNING STYLE</b>		
<b>Policy Number:</b>	<b>GOV-205</b>	<b>Formerly</b>	<b>BG-201</b>
 West Elgin Community Health Centre	<b>Creation Date:</b> <b>October 1996</b>	<b>Reviewed Date:</b> <b>November 2018</b>	<b>Approved by:</b> <b>Board of Directors</b>

## POLICY STATEMENT

The Board of Directors (the “Board”) of the West Elgin Community Health Centre (the “Centre”) is responsible for providing overall direction that aligns with the organization’s Mission, Vision and Values as well as its legal obligations. The Board Executive’s roles and specific responsibilities are set out in the Position Descriptions.

## APPLICATION

The Board will conduct itself and approach its responsibilities and tasks with a style of governing which emphasizes the principles of:

- Strategic leadership;
- Encouragement of diversity in viewpoints;
- Identification of a clear distinction between the role of the Board versus that of staff and the proper delegation of authority to Committees of the Board and staff;
- Accountability and monitoring through clear policies and procedures;
- Collective rather than individual decision making responsibilities; and
- Pro-active rather than re-active identification of issues and decision making.

## IN THE SPIRIT OF THESE PRINCIPLES, THE BOARD WILL:

- Operate in all ways mindful of its obligations to those to whom it is accountable including clients, members, the community it services, other stakeholders or organizations with common interests and the government agencies which regulate and oversee the Centre and its operations.
- Focus its attention on the development of the Centre’s Strategic Plan and overseeing its implementation and review, rather than the day-to-day delivery of the Centre’s programs and services, which shall be the responsibility of staff under the direction of the Executive Director.
- Lead and inspire the Centre’s stakeholders through the careful development of comprehensive policies and making of well-informed and balanced decisions in consultation with stakeholders as appropriate in the circumstances.
- Provide such assistance and direction as staff may request with respect to the development and delivery of specific programs and services by and through the Centre, and review and consider all verbal and written reports provided to it with respect to such program, services and other operational matters of the Centre.
- Initiate policy and planning discussions and reviews on a pro-active basis.

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- Draw upon the expertise and vision of the Centre's stakeholders including members, staff, clients and community members to enhance the ability of the Board to make informed policies and decisions.
- Enforce upon itself and its members such discipline as required to ensure that it governs with excellence in the spirit of its governance principles which will include, without limitation, such matters as attendance, adherence to policy making principles, respect for clarified roles, speaking with one voice and self-policing of the Board's adherence to the style of governance adopted in Board policies.
- Monitor and discuss the Board's own process and performance on an annual basis.
- Ensure the continuity of its governance capability through the comprehensive orientation of new Directors and ongoing Director education, training and development programs.