

Structure and Governance

1) How is SSC governed?

SSC is governed by a Board of Directors, which is comprised of 16 members who are either elected or appointed.

2) How are Board Members elected or appointed?

Ten of the 16 positions are filled by members who represent the provincial societies. Each provincial society puts forward up to three names, from which one representative is selected by SSC to represent that provincial society.

Five of the positions are filled by members who are elected by the members through a general election, which is held once every three years.

The remaining 16th position is occupied by the Past President. This is the only non-voting position on the Board.

3) What are the role and responsibilities of the SSC Board?

The role of the Board is to provide leadership to the organization by:

- a) Establishing and providing ongoing evaluation of the organizational vision, mission, values and strategic direction
- b) Overseeing the financial health of the organization
- c) Ensuring there is sufficient and appropriate human resources (especially leadership)
- d) Overseeing organizational operations
- e) Ensuring effective community relations.

The Board carries out these responsibilities by working with and giving direction to the SSC staff and where applicable, the provincial societies through the Federation.

4) What is the Federation?

The Federation is comprised of all the schizophrenia societies across Canada and in turn represents all support groups, chapters, branches, regional officials and the national organization. It was formed in March 2004 with the signing of a Federation Agreement by all of the provincial and national societies.

The Federation is an unincorporated association with each society remaining independent in its own internal affairs.

5) How does the SSC Board work with the Federation?

The Federation has a Members Roundtable which includes a representative from each society (provincial and national). Its purpose is to provide a mechanism for the societies to work together on an operational/implementation level.

The Members Roundtable and SSC Board are connected together through the SSC Chief Executive Officer's position (CEO). The CEO sits as the secretariat on the Roundtable and he/she communicates the recommendations/decisions/work of the Roundtable to the SSC Board so that it is informed of the strategic direction of the societies.

As well, a number of the SSC Board Members sit in on Roundtable meetings in their capacity as either a national or provincial society president. This provides them with the opportunity for additional dialogue and clarification.

6) What is the relationship of an individual member at the local level to the SSC?

When an individual or a family becomes a member of their local chapter/branch, they become a member of the provincial society. It is through this provincial society membership that they also become a member of SSC.

7) What are the rights of these members?

As long as a member is in good standing with their respective provincial society, they have the right to:

- Vote for elected SSC Board members once every three years (via national newsletter)
- Actively participate in the Annual General Meetings, which are held in conjunction with the Annual National Conference, at various venues across Canada. This would include voting privileges.
- Receive our national newsletter three times a year
- Qualify for special rates on selected events (including conferences)
- Be put forward as a nominee (with the appropriate documentation) for an elected position on the SSC Board.