



Communities Health Network

## Membership Policy

### **Membership Overview**

The Cowichan Communities Health Network is an open network and invites any citizen to participate. The CCHN strives to consist of a minimum of 25 members, with a cross-section of geographic, organizational, local government and citizen participants. A concerted effort is made to ensure diversity at the table.

To ensure broad regional representation, the CCHN endeavors to include a minimum of 4 members from central Cowichan communities, 3 from southern Cowichan communities, 2 from northern Cowichan communities, and 2 from western Cowichan communities.

The CCHN seeks participation from a wide range of groups, organizations, communities and citizens to inform its focus on the “determinants of health”. Representation from each sector will be limited to 5 representatives until a balance of sector representation is established.

### **Membership Includes:**

1. First Nations / Métis
2. Local Government
3. Education
4. Aboriginal Health
5. Early Years
6. Children & Youth
7. Senior/Elder
8. Protective Services
9. Employment Services
10. Social Services
11. Health Services
12. Patient Voices
13. VIHA
14. Multicultural
15. Economic Development / Business

### **Membership Represents:**

- 1. Central Cowichan Communities:**  
North Cowichan, Duncan, Cowichan Bay, Glenora, Sahtlam, Cowichan Station, Penelakut FN, Halalt FN, Cowichan Tribes;
- 2. Northern Cowichan Communities:**  
Ladysmith, Saltair, Gulf Islands, North Oyster, Diamond, Stz’uminus FN, Lyackson FN;
- 3. Western Cowichan Communities:**  
Town of Lake Cowichan, Lake Cowichan FN, Youbou, Meade Creek, Cowichan Lake South, Skutz Falls, Ditidaht FN;
- 4. Southern Cowichan Communities:**

Cobble Hill, Shawnigan Lake, Mill Bay, Malahat, Malahat FN.

### **Membership Term**

Membership term is two years; with half renewing each year on January 1st; all terms are renewable, keeping diversity goals in mind.

### **Member Recruitment**

Membership recruitment is ongoing as required to meet diversity goals. Members and prospective members will complete an application and commit to a two year term. All applications go to a selection committee that considers both current network make up and individual suitability. Membership recruitment is ongoing as required to meet diversity goals. Prospective members are encouraged to attend a minimum of 3 meetings prior to application.

### **Membership / Participation**

The CCHN recognizes several different types of participation:

1. Members (regular attendance, participation in decision making)
2. Corresponding Liaisons (receive regular CCHN updates, share information, minimal participation in meetings, no participation in decision making).
3. Guests / community members/ prospective members

### **Membership Accountability**

Members are expected to attend and fully participate in regular monthly CCHN meetings. Members may also be requested to participate in working groups and/or community events. Whenever possible, members will notify the Facilitator at least three days prior to any anticipated absence from a regular CCHN meeting. Members absent from two consecutive meetings without regrets will be contacted by one of the co-chairs. Members absent from three consecutive meetings without regrets are deemed to have vacated their seat, and an appropriate replacement will be recruited.