

Volunteer Opportunity

Board of Directors Position

Our Mission:

Effective, just and humane responses to crime and homelessness causes.

Who we are

The John Howard Society of Prince Edward Island (JHSPEI) is an incorporated, non-profit organization founded in 1960 through the support of the Kiwanis Club of Charlottetown. JHSPEI is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors and is led by an Executive Director who works closely with the staff team. JHSPEI is an affiliate of the John Howard Society of Canada and collaborates with affiliated societies across the country.

JHSPEI was originally founded with the intent to support people who were involved in the criminal justice system. While its role has evolved over the last 60 years, this focus remains an important part of the JHSPEI mandate. JHSPEI's role is to work with people to help address social needs with a specialized focus on the criminal justice system and housing issues. This involves providing client-focused supports, transitional services, and supports for prevention and diversion from homelessness and incarceration.

Our role is to **provide client-focused supports that use strengths-based and harm-reduction approaches**. Strength-based approaches emphasize the saying, "the person is not the problem; the problem is the problem."¹ Harm reduction "is an approach or strategy aimed at reducing the risks and harmful effects associated with substance use and addictive behaviours for the individual, the community and society as a whole."²

Examples of JHSPEI supports include life and employment skills development as well as assistance and support for housing, employment, and other needs to help people to achieve their potential in society. Housing issues refer to relative or absolute homelessness or other issues, such as eviction or inadequate housing. Housing is a basic life necessity, and meeting housing needs first promotes a harm-reduction approach to recovery and other social issues.

A key area of focus for JHSPEI is **helping to address prevention and diversion from homelessness and incarceration**. In part, this is done through involvement as the Community Entity for Reaching Home: Canada's Homelessness Strategy established by the Government of Canada, with strong provincial government and community collaboration. Reaching Home was established to support projects that promote strategic partnerships and structures, including housing solutions and supports, to stabilize the lives of individuals who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless and to assist individuals in moving toward self-sufficiency. These priorities are supported by client-focused supports as well as the role JHSPEI plays in homelessness prevention and diversion.

We carry out this work by **building connections in the community so we can provide and receive warm and supportive referrals** with other community services so that those we serve and those who approach us with a need are supported.

As a non-profit organization, the John Howard Society consists of a volunteer Board of Directors that oversees the direction of the organization. The John Howard Society recognizes the importance and the contribution made by the Board of Directors.

We are seeking enthusiastic and experienced board members with expertise in one or more of the following areas.

- Addictions
- Mental Health
- Social Work
- Law enforcement
- Legal
- Board Governance
- Financial
- Lived experience in justice system involvement or homelessness

Term:

- 2-year term with potential to renew for an additional term

Meetings:

- The Board meets once a month, 10 times per year.
- Committees meet as required.
- AGM is held in November.

How to apply:

Please send a resume outlining your experience and desire to become part of our organization to Keith@jhspei.ca

Application Deadline:

October 25th, 2024

We welcome your interest in the John Howard Society of Prince Edward Island. To learn more about our programs and services, our website can be viewed at <https://www.johnhowardsocietypei.com>