



Rise: Who We Are

Rise is the only national organization operating at the intersection of mental health and addiction and entrepreneurship. Rise empowers individuals with a history of mental health and addiction challenges to pursue entrepreneurship as a means of employment, economic participation, and ultimately, self-reliance. The results are that clients improve their financial stability, reduce reliance on social assistance, and make positive life changes to benefit their families and communities alike. Moving into our 13th year of operations, we have disbursed 800+ loans valuing over \$3 million and coached or trained over 1,400 entrepreneurs across Canada.

Rise's impact lies in others' success. Our recent Business Survivability Survey shows that **four out of five Rise lending clients are still operating a business five years after receiving a Rise loan.**

Vision for Growth

In 2021, Rise launched an ambitious three-year Strategic Plan. A major goal of this plan, which ends in April 2024, is for Rise to disburse 125 loans annually by the end of FY24. Currently, on track to meet this goal, we believe we have an opportunity to have an even greater impact. At a macro level, the current environment in Canada is ripe for Rise to excel:

- Canadians' mental health continues to be negatively impacted by the COVID-19 global pandemic.
- Self-employment and entrepreneurship rates are increasing.
- Demand for Rise programs is at an all-time high.

We intend to grow our Small Business Lending Program to 300 loans per year by the end of five years. To achieve this ambitious growth, we will build sustainable operating and loan capital revenue through philanthropy and impact investing.

Be Part of the Impact

We are seeking diverse Board candidates from across Canada who are passionate about mental health and entrepreneurship and want to contribute their expertise to helping Rise achieve our ambitious goals. Directors are responsible for acting in the organization's and community's best long-term interests. They will bring broad knowledge, a long-range view, diversity of perspective, and openness to learning.

The ideal candidate(s) will bring, in some combination:

- Networks/connections that benefit Rise's programs and operations
- Financial acumen
- Experience on a not-for-profit or charitable board
- Social impact experience
- Fundraising expertise

The term of office for Rise Directors is three years and will expire at the third Annual Meeting following the election. A Director is eligible for election for three consecutive full terms and will not be eligible for re-election for eleven months from the date such person ceases to be a Director.

Time Requirements

- 4 Board meetings a year (2 hrs. per meeting), plus pre-reading.
- 3 to 4 Committee meetings a year (1.5 hrs. per meeting), plus pre-reading; each Director serves on one committee.
- Occasional conference calls, ad hoc working groups, or auxiliary board meetings (30 to 60 minutes).
- Attendance and engagement with Rise events, including the Rotman Family Entrepreneurship Awards, Volunteer Appreciation Event and Rise Holiday Marketplace.



Further Reading:

- [Who We Are](#)
- [F2023 Impact Report](#)
- [Stories That Inspire](#)
- [Social Impact Results](#)

Application

This position is open to candidates from across Canada. Rise is committed to fostering Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion within our leadership. We actively seek candidates who bring unique perspectives, champion equity, and embody our dedication to creating a boardroom that mirrors the richness of our diverse stakeholders. Interested individuals should [complete an application here](#).