



Call for expressions of interest in standing as a Canadian candidate for election to the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

INSTRUCTIONS FOR APPLICANTS

Intent

The intent of this process is to solicit applications by Canadians interested in presenting their candidacy for election to the United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (the CRPD Committee). Upon review of the applications, the Government of Canada may decide to nominate one candidate for election. It also reserves the right not to nominate any candidate for election.

Background information on the CRPD Committee and upcoming elections

The 2006 Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (the Convention) requires States Parties to promote, protect, and ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights by persons with disabilities. Canada ratified the Convention in 2010 and acceded to the Optional Protocol to the Convention in 2018.

The CRPD Committee monitors the implementation of the Convention by the States Parties. It is composed of 18 independent experts of high moral standing and recognized competence and experience in the field covered by the Convention. Members are elected for a term of four (4) years, and may be re-elected if nominated. The next CRPD Committee elections will take place at the June 2022 Conference of States Parties to the Convention, in New York. These elections will aim to fill nine (9) CRPD Committee seats for the term covering the period between 1 January 2023 and 31 December 2026.

To learn more about the work of the CRPD Committee, please visit <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CRPD/Pages/CRPDIndex.aspx>. To learn more about elections to United Nations human rights treaty bodies, please visit <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/Pages/ElectionsFAQ.aspx>.

Important information on the position of CRPD Committee member

Applicants should note the following:

- CRPD Committee members serve in their personal capacity, and must remain independent and impartial throughout their term. They are not United Nations staff members, and they are not based in United Nations offices in Geneva nor at any other United Nations location. They also are not representatives of the State that nominated them as a candidate.
- CRPD Committee members do not receive a salary or other financial compensation, except for travel expenses and daily subsistence allowances directly related to CRPD Committee meetings. These are paid for by the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.
- Accessible materials and accessibility-related accommodations for CRPD Committee meetings are provided by the United Nations.



- The candidate who may be selected through the present process and nominated by the Government of Canada would need to be actively involved in an international campaign, which would last several months before the elections.
- No financial support would be provided by the Government of Canada, either during the campaign period or following a potential election. Nevertheless, the Government of Canada will cover the reasonable costs of promotional materials/activities it deems to be appropriate. The Government of Canada will cover accessibility-related accommodation costs related directly to approved activities during the campaign process and prior to election only. All costs will need to be pre-approved by the Government of Canada.

Application process

The closing date is 30 May 2021 at 23:59, Pacific Time.

Only Canadian citizens are eligible to apply to this process.

Applicants should provide the following information by email to HRnominations-nominationsDH@international.gc.ca before the closing date :

- Their résumé.
- Their fully completed application form.
- A minimum of one reference letter demonstrating support from one or more Canadian disability organization(s).

Applicants should be available for a virtual or telephone interview between 1 and 3 June 2021. Applicants invited for an interview will be asked to respond to the questions that are provided on the last page of this document, under the section entitled “Interview Questions.”

Applicants are entitled to participate in this process in the official language of their choice (English or French), American Sign Language or Langue des signes québécoise.

Alternate formats can be requested through HRnominations-nominationsDH@international.gc.ca.

Final decisions will be communicated to applicants by email.

We thank all those who apply.



APPLICATION FORM

Part I. Personal Data

1. Family (last) name:
2. First (given) name:
3. Other name, if any:
4. Gender:
5. Year of birth:
6. Nationality(ies):
7. Do you self-identify as a member of one (or more) of the following equity groups?
 - a. Woman
 - b. Indigenous person
 - c. Person with disability
 - d. Visible minority
8. What is your preferred official language? (English or French)
9. Please identify any personal accommodation requirements, if any.
10. Email address:

Part II. Relevant Knowledge and Experience

1. Do you have educational qualifications and/or professional experience in the field of human rights, particularly the rights of persons with disabilities? Please describe when, where and how this was acquired.
2. Do you have specific knowledge of the *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities* and related international instruments, norms and principles? Please describe when, where and how this was acquired.
3. Do you have professional experience in the United Nations, international, or regional context? Please describe when, where and how this was acquired.

Part III. Ethics and Integrity

Please note that all CRPD Committee members are required to abide by the *Guidelines on the independence and impartiality of members of the human rights treaty bodies* (“the Addis Ababa Guidelines”). (The Guidelines can be consulted at https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=A/67/222&Lang=en.) The Addis Ababa Guidelines provide that the independence and impartiality of members of the human rights treaty bodies is essential for the performance of their duties and responsibilities.

1. Are there any factors that could directly or indirectly influence, or be perceived as influencing, your ability to act independently and impartially in discharging your mandate as a potential member of the CRPD Committee? If yes, please explain.



Part IV. Personal Information and Consent

Global Affairs Canada (GAC) is committed to protecting the privacy rights of individuals and safeguarding the personal information under its control according to the [Privacy Act](#).

The personal information being collected will be used by GAC in order to assess competencies of candidates for this selection process.

Information collected by GAC will be stored in the department's corporate repository on a secured server, accessed only by those with a working need to do so. Your personal information will be shared with Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC) and will only be used by GAC for this purpose.

The information is collected under the authority of the *Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Act*, Paragraph 10(2)(j).

Personal information will be used, disclosed and retained under the provisions of the *Privacy Act* and description published in Treasury Board Secretariat's Info Source, Standard Personal Information Bank, [Members of Boards, Committees and Councils \(PSU 919\)](#). Your personal information will be retained by GAC for 5 years following the close of this process, after which it will be disposed of in accordance with section 6 of the *Privacy Act*.

The information you provide is voluntary and you are encouraged to make fact-based statements that do not include your personal views and opinions about other individuals, as the *Privacy Act* considers such views and opinions to be personal information pertaining to those individuals. Under the *Privacy Act*, you have the right of access to and/or correction (if you believe there is an error or omission) of your personal information. You may contact GAC's Access to Information and Privacy Protection Division at dcp@international.gc.ca to exercise this right – please refer to this specific collection and date of undertaking. In addition, you have the right to file a complaint with the [Privacy Commissioner of Canada](#) regarding GAC's handling of your personal information.

Kindly note that no changes can be made after your application has been submitted and the deadline for applications has expired.

I hereby certify that all of the statements made in this application are true and complete. Please insert your name and date to indicate agreement.

Name:

Date:



INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

Applicants invited for an interview will be asked to respond to the following questions:

1. Please explain your motivation to apply. What do you hope to achieve in this position?
2. What do you see as the biggest challenges for the upcoming years of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (the CRPD Committee)?
3. What do you see as the most effective way to help guide States in the effective implementation of the Convention?
4. The work of CRPD Committee members is unpaid, and those elected serve in their personal capacity. Do you anticipate having the flexibility and availability required to perform effectively the functions of the mandate?