

Matthew Miller, CRGS (British Columbia)

WHY ARE YOU INTERESTED IN THIS POSITION?

Working as a sonographer brings me great satisfaction and this career instills in me a sense of purpose for which I am grateful. Sonography Canada is an important organization which helps shine a light on both the successes and challenges that we face now, but also those that we must undoubtedly grapple with in the future. I aspire to lend my vision to the Board by volunteering to take part in the leadership decisions that will impact us all.

The challenges facing sonographers are complicated, and we often find ourselves at the crossroads between increasing management expectations, physician demands, and patient care needs. This leaves little time and energy for us to consider our own health and well-being while doing what we love. It's the paradox of working in healthcare; the work we do is touted as 'essential' during a crisis, yet the weight we bear from the day-to-day struggle goes unrecognized far too commonly. Given the opportunity to serve on the Board of Directors, I would be excited to engage with the challenges facing our profession and increase public awareness of just how vital we are to the Canadian healthcare system.

WHAT PERSONAL STRENGTHS CAN YOU BRING TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS?

Having served on a Board of Directors in the past, I understand the value that a balanced group of leaders can bring to an organization. Possessing a broad set of financial knowledge and interpersonal skills is important, and I am confident that my previous experience will be a strength I bring to Sonography Canada. If elected to the position of Director-at-Large, I believe that I can help the Board develop governance policies that will benefit sonographers across the country.

In addition to my regular employment at the Nanaimo hospital on Vancouver Island, I have had the privilege of working in many beautiful parts of rural Canada. Some of the highlights being the kindred spirit of Labrador, the remoteness of Baffin Island, and the historic Klondike. I have also had the opportunity to work in Northern Manitoba, the Cariboo, and on the Acadian Coast. While the majority of sonographers - and our patients - reside in proximity to cities, it is imperative to have representation for the concerns of sonographers living in these vast regions of our country. Another often overlooked aspect of our organization is that it serves an important number of Francophone members. Born on the West Coast, my first language is English, however I am proudly bilingual. Being a part of the national voice for sonographers is a humbling responsibility, and I intend to bring these diverse perspectives to the Board of Directors during my term.

WHAT PREVIOUS VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE DO YOU BRING TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS?

Volunteerism is the backbone of any strong community, and as sonographers, we are part of an ensemble of healthcare professionals that spans across Canada. Over the years, I have made an effort to support those around me and helping others continues to be a pillar of what I want to achieve in my personal and professional life.

When I attended BCIT for my ultrasound program, I decided to become involved with the student association and served as vice president. The experience I gained provided me with insight as to how non-profit organizations manage their financial affairs, and this knowledge will be of great benefit to Sonography Canada.

Currently, I am an active member of my worksite's occupational health and safety committee, and this experience has fueled my desire to reduce the occurrence of musculoskeletal injuries among sonographers. If elected to the position of Director-at-Large, I will lend my voice to highlight the importance of our profession and engage with sonographers in both the urban and rural regions of our country.