



Recruitment for Founding Board Members for the imagiNorthern Network

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Join the Founding Board of imagiNorthern

Help build a new northern-led arts and cultural organization

imagiNorthern is entering an important new chapter.

Over the past several years, imagiNorthern has grown as a regional network that connects artists, cultural workers, organizations, makers, and communities across Northern Manitoba. It has helped strengthen relationships, support local initiatives, advance shared strategy, and build momentum for a more connected northern arts and cultural sector.

Now, imagiNorthern is preparing to become an independent non-profit organization.

To make that transition well, we are seeking people to join the Founding Board — a group of committed northerners who will help guide incorporation, implement the community-ratified governance model, and oversee the transition from the current incubated structure through the Flin Flon Arts Council to an independent organization.

This is a rare chance to help shape a new northern network from the ground up.

By the North. In the North. For the North.

Why this matters

The North needs strong, credible, community-rooted structures that reflect northern realities and northern leadership. imagiNorthern has been built through years of conversations, strategy work, community engagement, and partnership. The recent summit and governance process confirmed broad support for moving toward an independent organization with its own board, membership, and accountability framework. The Founding Board will implement that framework and handle the details required for the transition. In short, this is a practical, strategic, governance role at a key moment in imagiNorthern's development.

Who We Are Looking For

The founding board should work as a balanced group of between 5 and 8 individuals. Therefore, we are seeking a mix of board members who collectively bring:

Northern perspective and regional understanding

We want people with strong connections to Northern Manitoba/Saskatchewan communities (North of 53) and a real understanding of the opportunities, challenges, and diversity across the region. Founding Board members need to think beyond their own community and contribute to the strength of the whole network.

Commitment to arts, culture, and community

We welcome artists, arts and culture leaders, makers, food and cultural innovators, community builders, and people who understand the role of arts and culture in local and regional vitality, identity, belonging, and economic development.

Indigenous representation and leadership

imagiNorthern must reflect the North it serves. We are seeking First Nations, Métis, and Inuit voices and leadership as part of the Founding Board, and people who can help ensure the organization is grounded in respectful relationships, northern realities, and inclusive governance.

Governance and professional strengths

We are especially interested in finding at least some people with experience in one or more of the following areas:

- board governance, organizational development
- finance, budgeting, fund development
- legal or policy matters
- human resources and employer oversight
- communications and partnerships, community engagement

Personal qualities that matter

Founding board members should be people who are:

- Thoughtful and collaborative
- Able to work at a strategic level
- Willing to ask good questions and make sound decisions
- Committed to imagiNorthern's mandate, vision and values

What the Founding Board will do

The Founding Board has two main responsibilities:

- 1) to get imagiNorthern to incorporation, and
- 2) to guide the transition to independence.

1. Lead the organization to incorporation

Founding Board members will:

- implement the governance model described in the Summit 2026 report
- implement the membership structure described in the Summit 2026 report
- finalize and approve bylaws and establish the governance policies and board practices
- prepare imagiNorthern to operate as a legal non-profit organization

2. Oversee the transition from incubation to independence

At present, imagiNorthern is being incubated through the Flin Flon Arts Council. The Founding Board will help manage a careful and respectful transition so imagiNorthern can stand on its own. This includes:

- working with the Flin Flon Arts Council to clarify current responsibilities and arrangements
- overseeing the transfer or establishment of governance, administration, and financial systems
- helping ensure continuity for existing work, staffing, partnerships, and community relationships
- ensuring the transition is orderly, transparent, and credible

The board's job is governance, not day-to-day delivery. The board will **not**:

- Run daily programs
- Usurp the role of Champions or act as local organizers for imagiNorthern
- Manage routine operations
- Make every small implementation decision

Instead, imagiNorthern needs a board that governs well so staff and Champions can do their work effectively.

Time Commitment and Expectations

This will be an active founding year. Board members should expect:

- Regular meetings, likely a mix of virtual and occasional in-person working sessions
- Additional work during the incorporation and transition phase
- Preparation time for meetings and governance decisions
- As needed sit as a member of a hiring committee for regional champions
- Participation in orientation and governance training
- A commitment to act in the best interests of imagiNorthern as a whole

Founding directors should be willing to serve through the transition period up to incorporation and the early launch of the independent organization, after which the regular board election cycle can begin. This entire process is expected to require about a year, until an AGM is called and a new board can be elected.

Expression of Interest

We welcome expressions of interest from people across Northern Manitoba and Saskatchewan who feel they can contribute to this important stage of imagiNorthern's development.

Expressions of interest should include:

- your name and community
- a short note on why you are interested
- any specific experience, knowledge, or perspective you would bring to the Founding Board

Additional details on process, timelines, and next steps will be shared as the recruitment process proceeds.

Please send your expression of interest to: projectlead@imagiNorthern.ca and projectmanager@imagiNorthern.ca.

Deadline for expressions of interest: June 1st 2026