# cnib-inca no tag.jpgAdvocate Position Description

Advocacy is persuading a person with influence, the public, businesses, organizations or governments to change their attitudes, policies and/or practices around an issue. In collaboration with our advocates who are blind or partially sighted and the wider community, we advocate collectively to advance key issues and break down barriers to accessibility.

## Position name

Advocate (Ontario)

## Supervisor

Coordinator, Advocacy and Stakeholder Relations

## Objective

Advocate for an inclusive and barrier-free society in which people with sight loss can participate fully and are seen as equal in every respect.

## Responsibilities and Tasks

* Become part of a network of active volunteers and create positive change for individuals who are blind or partially sighted
* Act as a community representative to raise awareness and deliver key messages on advocacy issues
* Participate in community events and consultations relating to advocacy
* Work with decision makers, such as local elected representatives and senior officials, to discuss issues and concerns facing individuals living with sight loss
* Build community relationships to work together to break down barriers to accessibility for Ontarians who are blind or partially sighted
* Raise advocacy issues for discussion with the wider community and provide regular feedback on your community advocacy initiatives
* Take part in CNIB advocate training opportunities when required
* Subscribe to Equalize and CNIB advocacy mailing list at <https://confirmsubscription.com/h/d/4C47A5A10F9B6DB0>

## Qualities, Skills and Training

* Excellent communication skills and confident speaking on the phone and in-person
* Strong public speaking skills and comfortable with delivering presentations
* Comfortable interacting with elected representatives and senior officials
* Ability to make connections and mobilize others to take action
* Ability to keep calm even in high pressure situations or in conflict
* Ability to articulate key messages clearly and concisely
* Close connection to sight loss and/or knowledge of issues and concerns facing individuals with sight loss
* Reliable, organized and able to work with minimal supervision
* You’ll learn about CNIB, our community, and sight loss
* We'll be making society a more accessible place together, and will have fun doing it!

## Commitment

This role is a 'set your own schedule' and there is no fixed time commitment. However, when advocacy issues arise we expect that you will work with us to plan and take action.

As a CNIB Volunteer you are agreeing to CNIB’s Volunteer Code of Conduct, including policies and procedures. When advocating as an official representative of CNIB, you are agreeing to keep to CNIB's messaging and not express personal opinions that are in conflict with CNIB's mission and values.

## Onboarding

After completing our short advocate questionnaire <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LW93RNL>, we will contact you for a telephone discussion to talk more about the role and your advocacy interests.

After the telephone discussion, we encourage you to attend an in-person orientation at your local CNIB office, and you will be sent our orientation package with our advocacy training videos, tools and resources to get you started.

You may or may not be asked to undergo a police check.

## Supervision

The supervisor for this role is available for ongoing support.

## Benefits

* Being part of a larger movement of advocates across Ontario working towards the same goal
* Support on grassroots community initiatives and access to CNIB resources
* Making a difference for people who are blind or partially sighted in your community and across Ontario by making sure their concerns and issues are heard
* Access to advice on individual advocacy issues and learning from other advocates who have overcome a similar situation
* Opportunity to gain or share skills in communications, media and government relations, strategic planning and advocacy
* Being part of a dedicated and passionate team of staff and volunteers working to further CNIB’s mission

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Volunteer Signature:** |  |
| **Parent Signature (if under 18):** |  |
| **Supervisor** **Signature:** |  |
| **Date:** |  |