

***Hearing Aid Board***

**Chairperson**

James Ryan, Winnipeg <sup>(1)</sup>

**Board Members**

Robert Richard, Winnipeg ^

Robert Graham, Winnipeg ^

Ms. Gayle Hryshko, Winnipeg ^

Mark Nitychoruk, Winnipeg <sup>(2)</sup>

Dr. Brian Blakley, Winnipeg <sup>(3)</sup>

Ms. Jan Forster, Director – Board Secretary <sup>(4)</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Audiologist

<sup>2</sup> Non-Audiologist

<sup>3</sup> Otolaryngologist – University of Manitoba Appointee

<sup>4</sup> Director, Consumers' Bureau – Secretary of Board

^ Government appointment

**Mandate:**

The Hearing Aid Board has been established in accordance with *The Hearing Aid Act* of Manitoba. The Board regulates the examination and certification of hearing aid dealers in Manitobans through the Act. The Act is administered by the Consumers' Bureau, under the jurisdiction of Consumer and Corporate Affairs.

**Responsibilities:**

The board may:

- regulate and promote the education of hearing aid dealers and for that purpose may utilize such vocational or educational institutions as it considers advisable;
- appoint an examining committee of competent person and confer on that committee whatever powers and duties with respect to examinations that the board considers necessary and desirable;
- certify hearing aid dealers to perform specific types of services and prescribe:
  - the form and content of any document that shall serve as evidence of certification; and
  - the period within which the certification shall be renewed;
- prescribe the qualifications of applicants for certification as hearing aid dealers;
- prescribe standard testing procedures for the uniform calibration of audiometers;
- prescribe requirements for the maintenance or records to be kept by hearing aid dealers;
- prescribe rules of conduct and advertising in the sale or servicing of hearing aids;
- at its discretion, evaluate any hearing aid as to performance, price, construction or serviceability and publicize its findings; or
- withdraw certification of any hearing aid dealer who fails to satisfy any requirements prescribed by the board.

**Membership:**

The board shall consist of:

- the Deputy Minister of Health, Seniors and Active Living or such other person as may be designated by the Lieutenant Governor in Council, who shall serve as chair;
- the director or his or her appointee, who shall serve as secretary;
- a qualified otolaryngologist nominated by the University of Manitoba, or in the absence of such nomination, a person who is considered by the minister to be equally qualified; and
- four persons appointed by the minister, at least one of whom shall be a hearing aid dealer.

**Length of Terms:**

Except as otherwise designated by the minister, the members of the board, other than the chair and secretary, shall serve for a period of three years and are eligible for re-appointment.

**Desirable Expertise:**

- a dispenser of hearing aids
- an audiologist
- someone with some background or interest in hearing impairment issues or experience with hearing impairment.
- It is imperative that the public representative be comfortable advocating in the public interest.

**Time Commitment:**

Meetings are held as needed (average of 2 - 3 times per year) during the day.

**Meetings:**

Meetings are held in Winnipeg.

**Remuneration:**

The members of the board, other than members who are civil servants, shall be paid such remuneration and allowances as may be fixed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council. Currently Chair and members each receive \$45.30 per half day (up to 3.5 hours) or \$90.60 per full day (3.5 hours or more).