



Position Description — Independent Chair

JOB DESCRIPTION:

Job Title	Independent Chair, Ontario Racing
Salary	Minimum 20 hours per week; salary to be negotiated
Term	One year term with potential for two-year renewals
Location	Remote; Toronto and Milton; travel to member locations
Accountable to	Ontario Racing Board of Directors and members
Key Relationships	Racetracks, Horseperson's Associations, Breeder Associations, OLG, AGCO, Non-member Associations, Provincial MPs, other key stakeholders

BACKGROUND:

The economic impact of the Ontario horse racing industry is estimated at \$2 billion annually, with direct employment of an estimated 24,000 full time equivalent jobs involved as breeders, owners, horse people, racetrack personnel, and compliance employees, as well as those involved in various supporting industries. Additionally, the Ontario horse racing industry generates \$327 million per year in Provincial taxes.

As the province's representative horse racing industry association, Ontario Racing (OR) is responsible for execution of the Long-Term Funding Agreement signed with the Province of Ontario and Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation (OLG) in 2018. Subject to the terms of the agreement, the first of two possible extensions of the Long-term Funding Agreement is scheduled to take place in 2024.

Among OR's initiatives are directing breed improvement programs, setting an annual program of races and purses, attracting new horse owners, building a fan base, and connecting the industry with government and the public. These initiatives are undertaken by the Board of Directors through the support of a robust committee system and by the staff of Ontario Racing Management (ORM), a wholly owned subsidiary of Woodbine Entertainment Group.

ROLE AND REQUIREMENTS:

Working closely with the OR Board of Directors, ORM staff and the OLG, the Independent Chair provides bold strategic leadership to the horse racing industry in Ontario.

Fulfilling this role requires substantial senior leadership experience, preferably at the CEO or Executive Director level, and experience working with government. The ability to see the big picture and clarify key issues is essential, along with the communication and interpersonal skills to build consensus.

An energetic commitment to the Ontario horse racing industry — Quarter Horse, Standardbred and Thoroughbred — is required. Developing and maintaining productive relationships with all stakeholders and leading with integrity are critical.

The Independent Chair must be an individual who is not in a relationship that could reasonably be expected to interfere with the exercise of independent judgement in relation to the business affairs of Ontario Racing, and cannot be a shareholder, partner, member, director, officer, or employee of any member or affiliate of Ontario Racing.

KEY FUNCTIONS OF THE ROLE:

1. Governance

- Chairing board meetings; setting agenda, building consensus, guiding discussions to a clear decision, recognising competing interests.
- Attending committee meetings; supporting the work of committees with strategic knowledge and guidance.
- Serving as a key liaison to the OLG, Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO) and provincial government representatives.

2. Mediation and Mentoring

- Serving as a source of impartial and trusted guidance for OR members and ORM staff.
- Smoothing disagreements between OR members.
- Providing personal development support for the ORM Executive Director.

3. Ambassador

- Promoting the horse racing industry to municipal, provincial and federal members of government, stakeholders, media, and the public.
- Supporting the development and execution of communications and engagement strategies on matters of critical importance to the horse racing industry.

4. Contract Delivery

- Supporting ORM staff in the delivery of all elements of the Long-term Funding Agreement.
- Liaising with the OLG and government representatives regarding current contract obligations and requirements for extension of the Long-term Funding Agreement.

Those interested in the role of Independent Chair, Ontario Racing are asked to forward their resume in confidence to Ontario Racing Management Executive Director, Gordon Thain at gthain@ontarioracing.com. We thank all those who express interest, however only those selected for further consideration will be contacted.