

## *2023-2024 Board and Board Committee Member Profiles*

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### *Heather Broddy, Chair*

Heather Broddy is the Board Chair of Family & Children's Services Board of Directors. She is a retired Elementary School Principal with combined 30 years' experience teaching, and working as a principal, in both rural and urban school settings in the Waterloo and Upper Grand District School Boards. Her skills include communication, instructional leadership, staff development, organizational development, child advocacy and building community supports. Heather holds an Honours BA in Early Childhood Education and Developmental Psychology from the University of Waterloo, and Bachelor's and Master's degrees in education from the University of Toronto.

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### *Al Potma, Vice-Chair*

Al Potma is self-employed in the telecommunications field as President of Potma Solutions Inc. which serves the Guelph, Wellington, and Waterloo regions. He has extensive experience with children's aid societies as a foster parent, adoptive parent, and volunteer driver. He is actively involved with organizations concerned with poverty, housing, civil rights, advocating for children with special needs, and aboriginal issues. He is the adoptive parent of three children.

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### *Shaun Valeriote*

Shaun Valeriote is a Financial Planner and the Principal founder of Valeriote Financial Inc. In 2019, he earned his Certified Financial Planner® professional designation, Canada's most prestigious designation for Financial Planners. In his spare time, Shaun plans and runs an annual event for the Karri Oksanen Memorial Foundation. He also enjoys playing a variety of sports recreationally including golf, tennis and volleyball. Shaun and his wife can often be found planning their next travel adventure or trail hiking with their black lab.

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### *Chase Collver*

Chase Collver is the Manager of Operational Quality & Performance in the Community Services Department at the Region of Waterloo and he also works for McMaster University in the School of Social Work as a Sessional Faculty. Previously, he worked as a Community Engagement Worker for Peel Children's Aid Society where his responsibilities included building ethno-cultural partnerships with various organizations representing a wide range of ethnic backgrounds and service programs. He has also been a Family Services Worker with an Ontario Children's Aid Society.

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### *Shikha Jain*

Shikha is an engineer and also holds a psychology degree from Western University. She is the CEO of GET Corp., a green energy company that provides agricultural sustainability programs. Shikha has expertise in strategy, organizational design, HR, strategic communications, and government relations through her previous roles as CEO of Career Colleges Ontario and Chief Strategy and Administrative Officer with the Dairy Farmers of Ontario. Shikha believes in the power of people and is passionate about building engagement. In her pastime, she enjoys world travel with her family.

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## *Nicole Kucherenko*

Nicole Kucherenko is a wills and estates and family law lawyer working in Guelph. She believes it is important to give back to your local community when you can. She is passionate about helping others and enjoys volunteering her time. Most recently, Nicole volunteered as the Chair of the Board of Directors for a non-profit organization in the Halton Region. Nicole is a Queen's University and Lakehead University alumni.

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## *Sharon Mayne*

Sharon Mayne Devine is the Chief Executive Officer of Catholic Family Services of Peel Dufferin, lead agency for both the Safe Centre of Peel and the Honourable William G. Davis Centre for Families, a multi-service centre located in Peel. Prior to this, Sharon taught at the University of Guelph. Her professional experience and interests include developing innovative approaches to addressing violence and trauma in families, and leading systems change to address social inequality created by racism, marginalization, discrimination, and trauma. Sharon is the mother of two adult daughters and proud grandma of Joseph. In her spare time, she can be found cooking lovely meals or hiking in the woods near her home or on the Bruce Peninsula.

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## *Conor Russell*

Conor Russell is a young masters graduate who works in the areas of environmental advocacy, human rights, and agri-food security. He is an avid volunteer for Royal City Mission's meal program, various environmental groups, and donates international development expertise to an NGO in Uganda that supports young girls in accessing education. Supporting families and youth is close to his heart and he is glad to contribute to Family & Children's Services of Guelph & Wellington County.

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## *Christine Sowden*

Christine Sowden is a Board-Certified Behaviour Analyst with a Master's Degree in Disability Studies with a specialization in Applied Behaviour Analysis from Brock University. She began her career working in group homes and regionally funded Intensive Behaviour Intervention programs in both the York and Guelph-Wellington regions. Currently, Christine works for the Wellington Catholic School Board supporting students with a variety of exceptionalities. Christine strives to reduce barriers individuals and families face when accessing supports and resources required for individuals to reach their full potential. Lastly, Christine believes that in order to work effectively with individuals and families, it is imperative to create safe, inclusive spaces for all involved.

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## *Animesh Vadaparti*

Animesh is currently a Senior Research Associate at the University of Guelph. He has served as a volunteer director of the Guelph Run for The Cure for the last 3 years. Animesh is an active volunteer in the community and has extensive experience with fundraising, advocacy, and working with vulnerable populations. He holds a bachelor's degree in Neuroscience from Carleton and a master's degree in Bioinformatics from the University of Guelph.

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## *Delbert Williams*

Delbert Williams is currently a marketing professional in the Guelph-Wellington region. Delbert started out in marketing and communications by walking alongside brick-and-mortar small businesses in his current residence of Waterloo region to better embrace the digital needs of their consumers and encouraging a better online connection between the two. His education is in eCommerce and digital marketing, and he is a Wilfrid Laurier Alumnus. He is a resident of Kitchener.

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## *Megan Harron*

Megan is the Free to Grow and Adopt-A-Family Program Manager at the Children's Foundation of Guelph and Wellington, where she uses her passion for accessibility, equity, and inclusion to ensure everyone has access to the resources and supports they need to thrive. Megan is a registered social worker who acquired her BSW at Carleton University, specializing in psychology and disability studies. Megan is also very passionate about volunteerism; Kids Ability, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Centre Wellington, and the Distress Centre of Niagara's Text and Chat Crisis Line are the places she currently extends her volunteer efforts. In her spare time, Megan enjoys reading, sports, and spending time with friends and family.

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## *Community Committee Members:*

### *Eric Ouellette (Service Excellence Committee)*

Eric is a member of the Procurement Leadership Team of PepsiCo Foods Canada, and holds a B.Sc. and M.Sc. in Agricultural Engineering. As an adoptive parent of 3 children, he is familiar with the work of F&CS and with other local community organizations. He has professional experience in financial accountability, human resources, and change leadership.

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### *Michele Preyde (Service Excellence & Nominating Committees)*

Michele is a former F&CS Board member who continues to actively volunteer on two Board committees. She is a Professor of Family Relations and Human Development at the University of Guelph. Her research is primarily in the area of child and youth mental health.

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Please contact Ava Gorch at [ava.gorch@fcsqw.org](mailto:ava.gorch@fcsqw.org) if any changes are needed.