



2024-2025 Board and Board Committee Member Profiles

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 and Master's Degrees in Education from the University of Toronto.

Animesh Vadaparti, Vice-Chair

Animesh Vadaparti was first elected to the FCSGW Board of Directors in 2021. He is the Chair of the Board's Fund Development Committee and is a member of the Governance Committee. Animesh is currently a Senior Research Associate, focusing on institutional research and planning, at the University of Guelph. He is an active volunteer in the community and enjoys spending his time involved in work related to fundraising, advocacy, and working with vulnerable populations. He holds a Bachelors in Neuroscience from Carleton and Master's degree in Bioinformatics from the University of Guelph.

Conor Russell, Secretary -Treasurer

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.

Al Potma,

Al Potma has been an active member of the FCSGW Board of Directors since 2018. He is currently the Chair of Kindle Communities Inc. Board. Al 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 Indigenous issues. He is the adoptive parent of three children.

Chase Collver

Chase Collver has been an active member of the FCSGW Board of Directors since 2018. Currently he is Chair of the Service Excellence and Accountability Committee and a member of the Governance Committee and is also on the Board of Kindle Communities Inc. Chase is the Manager of Strategy & Partnerships in the Community Services Department at the Region of Waterloo where he has worked for the past 7 years.

Shikha Jain

Shikha Jain was first elected to the FCSGW Board of Directors in 2021. She is currently the Chair of the Nominating Committee and a member of the Corporate Services Committee. Shikha is an engineer and also holds a psychology degree from Western University. She is the CEO and founding board member of an agriculture green energy company, as well as federally appointed Commissioner of the Canadian Dairy Commission. She brings expertise in strategic planning, organizational design and HR, communications, and government and stakeholder relations. She previously worked as Chief Strategy and Administrative Officer at the Dairy Farmers of Ontario, and prior to that partnered with her husband in establishing Jain Dental Care, a dental practice in Guelph. Shikha believes in the power of people and is passionate about building engagement. In her pastime, she enjoys world travel with her family.

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.

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.

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.

Eric Ouellette

Eric Ouellette has been a community member on the FCSGW Board's Service Excellence and Accountability Committee for several years. He recently retired from his role as 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.

Tracy McLennan,

Tracy McLennan is the Associate Director of Corporate Services and Treasurer for the Wellington Catholic District School Board, and an Adjunct Professor at the University of Guelph. She is a CPA and a Certified Public Finance Accountant who holds an Honours BBA in Business Administration from Wilfrid Laurier University. Tracy has extensive experience on other Boards and committees in Guelph-Wellington and Ontario and is an advocate for early intervention strategies to support children, youth and families.

Community Committee Members:

Cathy Dean (Service Excellence & Accountability Committee and Nominating Sub-Committee)

Cathy Dean has retired from a 40-year career in nursing. Her primary focus was in the area of maternal child nursing in Public Health with a significant number of years spent with the Healthy Babies Healthy Children program. She has worked at front line, management, and administrative levels and is committed to community development and advocacy. Cathy holds a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from McMaster University.

Michele Preyde (Service Excellence & Nominating Sub-Committees)

Michele Preyde 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.

Mike Hallett (Corporate Services Committee)

Michael Hallett, a member of the Family & Children's Services Board of Directors since 2016 and has served on the Kindle Board since 2013. Michael is a CPA, CA with an extensive financial background including executive roles in the manufacturing and homebuilding sectors.

Niru Sharma (Fund Development Committee)

Niru Sharma joins the Fund Development Committee this year bringing a wealth of knowledge of Human Rights, Social Work, Peace and Conflict and International Humanitarian Law. She is a Victim Witness Services Worker, for the Ministry of the Attorney General. She is committed to advocacy for those navigating matters with government organizations, Crown Counsel, Police and other affiliated supports and organizations.

Please contact Ava Gorch at ava.gorch@fcsqw.org if any changes are required.