

2025-2026 Board and Board Committee Member Profiles

Animesh Vadaparti, (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.

Shikha Jain, (Chair-Elect)

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.

Conor Russell, (Secretary -Treasurer)

Conor Russell is a young master's 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.

Heather Broddy,

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.

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.

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.

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.

Janet Shuh

Janet Shuh serves as the Dean of Continuing Education & Academic Development at Mohawk College. With over 20 years of experience in post-secondary education, her skill set includes organizational leadership, planning, budgeting, strategy, operations, and the execution of special projects and initiatives in the education sector. She has supported community partnerships and held policy and research roles within both federal and provincial governments. Janet's lived experience as a foster caregiver has given her a deep understanding of the critical role these caregivers play in ensuring that children and youth can grow and thrive in safe and supportive environments. She is passionate about empowering children and youth to find their voice and build resilience.

Michelle Fach

Michele Fach has served as Executive Director/Director at the University of Guelph from 2012 to 2024. Previously the chair of the St. Joseph's Health Centre Board of Directors, serving on Ethics & Quality, Governance and Housing Committees over her term. Within her role at University of Guelph, she advocated for educational outcomes for youth entering post-secondary education and assisting in alleviating barriers. She has passionately supported the advancement of youth and making meaningful contributions to vulnerable populations through innovation, quality and building strategic alliances. Michelle has a diverse skill set in human resources, financial strategies, organizational leadership, government relations, Board of Directors, partnerships and strategic planning.

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 (Corporate Services Committee & 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.

Genevieve Barlow (Service Excellence & Accountability Committee)

Genevieve Barlow is a clinical child and adolescent psychology graduate from the University of Guelph. She is passionate about aligning her academic and professional background with community organizations that promote the well-being of children and families in the Guelph Wellington Community. Her skill set includes research and evaluation, with a strong emphasis on evidence-based solutions. She has a deep understanding of the role of equity and the importance of community connections and accessibility in developing and maintaining well-being for children, youth, and families. She has volunteered with The Grove Hubs, Michael House Pregnancy and Parenting Services, and Community Living Guelph.

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