

Slate of Nominees for Board of Directors September 2025-2026

Current Board Members (terms to end September 2026):

Kimiya Missaghi

Kimiya Missaghi is a doctoral candidate in Feminist and Gender Studies at the University of Ottawa and a research affiliate at the University of Victoria. Her dissertation examines the intersection of forced migration and gender, focusing on the experiences of Afghan women and girl refugees in transit to Canada, and is grounded in feminist, intersectional, and decolonial methodologies. Outside of academia, Kimiya leads UX research for digital platforms that support forcibly displaced communities through accessible, trauma-informed technologies. She is currently in her fourth year of service on the Victoria Women's Transition House Board.

Nikki Petersen

Nikki is a lawyer at the Province of British Columbia. She enjoys gardening, good books, and exploring the coast with her family. Nikki is proud to be involved with this feminist organization and looks forward to further opportunities to contribute, learn, and grow at VWTSH.

Current Board Members seeking re-election for another term (terms to end September 2025):

Lauryn Kerr

Lauryn's background is in law, innovation, technology, and transformation. She is a lawyer and earned her Juris Doctor from the University of Victoria, and her Master of Laws from Osgoode Hall.

Lauryn currently works for the BC Civil Resolution Tribunal (CRT) as in-house legal counsel. The CRT is Canada's first fully online administrative tribunal, and it resolves many different types of claims, including small claims disputes \$5,000 and under, strata property claims, motor vehicle accident claims, and claims relating to the non-consensual disclosure of intimate images. Particularly with respect to the claims involving non-consensual sharing of intimate images, Lauryn's work involves working closely with organizations supporting people who experience gender-based violence.

Born and raised in Victoria, Lauryn is a firm believer in the importance of fostering safe communities for women. She has been a member of the Victoria Women's Transition House Society board of directors since 2023.

Lori Smith

Lori Smith has over 15 years of experience in financial management of government and non-profit organizations. She is currently employed as the Director of Finance at the Greater Victoria Harbour Authority. In her role there she looks after the finance department, insurance, enterprise risk management, and investments with a focus on financial sustainability. She has an Honors B.Comm from Laurentian University and is a CPA.

Lori has volunteered as a CPA mentor with the CPA Financial Literacy program. Lori feels very privileged for the opportunity to sit on this Board with a mission that is so close to her heart. She is honored to be able to use her experience with domestic partner abuse in a positive manner to help others who are experiencing this in their lives.

May Han

May Han is a Finance Director with a Canadian institutional investor. She is responsible for finance, reporting, regulatory and compliance, strategy, risk management, and internal controls. Previously, she held Director of Finance roles with provincial pension plan administrators, pension investment fund manager, and invested time in public accounting practice. She holds a Bachelor of Management, Chartered Professional Accountant (CPA) designation, and Certified Internal Auditor (CIA) designation.

May is passionate about the vision and mission of Victoria Women's Transition House. Victoria Women's Transition House continues to make important contributions in advocating and advancing the needs and interests of the women and families they serve, with meaningful impacts in the community. She is proud to serve and represent Victoria Women's Transition House.

Rosalie (Roz) Walls

Rosalie (Roz) Walls grew up in Victoria and moved to Vancouver after completing her undergraduate degree at the University of Victoria. She lived in Vancouver for 35 years working in various aspects of the social services including child protection, mental health, teaching at UBC and City University, clinical private practice and providing clinical supervision to agencies which included transition houses. She completed her MSW and specialized training in family therapy and early attachment in the early 1980's leading to a career with a continued focus on supporting women and children as they navigated the complexities of trauma.

Roz was Executive Director of Act II which led to her learning that direct clinical work and clinical supervision and teaching were her heartland. She greatly enjoyed her 35-year career and remains attached to the team she worked with in Richmond BC where they worked collaboratively between Vancouver Coastal Health and Ministry for Children and Families weaving together services and support for families where mental health and child protection were systems they tried to navigate. Roz and her partner retired in 2014 returning to her childhood roots and to be close to siblings, nieces and nephews. She is a passionate gardener, dog owner, supporter of the arts, reader of books and environmental concerns. She is committed to supporting women and children to lead the best lives they can.

Sandra Hudson

Born and raised in Toronto, Sandra Hudson moved to Victoria in 1989. Since then, she has worked locally in media, communications, and public relations, including roles with CHEK TV, Tartan Public Relations, and Good Relations Inc. In 2016, Sandra launched Sandra Hudson Communications Inc., a public relations firm specializing in strategic communications, primarily working with Victoria's arts and culture sector. Sandra currently works with the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria, Craigdarroch Castle, Victoria Conservatory of Music, Open Space, Pacific Opera Victoria, and Canadian College of Performing Arts amongst others.

Sandra is committed to her community, dedicating a great deal of her time to various organizations. Sandra is a past board member and Board Chair for The Children's Health Foundation of Vancouver Island, and she is a past board member and Board Chair of the YMCA/YWCA of Vancouver Island. Sandra is also currently Vice-Chair of the City of Colwood Heritage Commission. As a parent, Sandra volunteered over the years for many local sports organizations including the Castaway Wanderers Rugby Football Club, Saanich Minor Hockey, the Saanich Braves Jr. B Hockey Club, the Greater Victoria Ringette Association, and the Reynolds Secondary School Track and Field and Cross Country Teams.

Sandra and her husband, Steve, live in Colwood. Sandra has two adult children, a son, Seamus, and a daughter, Maeve.

**Current Board Members seeking re-election for an extended term of one year
(term from September 2025 to September 2026):**

Maurine Karagianis

Prior to serving in elected office, Maurine Karagianis spent 15 years in the fashion industry and 10 years in publishing for tourism and specialty markets, including some television production and large event planning.

She was elected to Esquimalt municipal council in 1996 and was re-elected in 1999 and 2002. She also served as the Capital Region District Arts' chair from 1999 to 2005.

Maurine served as a Ministerial Assistant to three Cabinet Ministers in the BC provincial government from 1998 to 2001 and from 2001 to 2005, and was an affordable housing consultant in the non-profit sector.

Maurine was first elected to provincial office as a Member of the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia in 2005 and re-elected in 2009 and 2013. She served in a variety of Opposition portfolios and was caucus whip for six years.

Maurine is devoted to her many grandchildren, is a beekeeper, gardener, and avid kayaker.

New Board Members seeking election (terms to end September 2027):

Donna Hobbs

Donna Hobbs is an experienced financial leader with two decades of experience, currently serving as a Director at BC Transit. She holds a CPA, CA designation and enjoys utilizing her finance expertise to foster collaborative environments that support operational success. She previously served for eight years on the Board of Big Brothers, Big Sisters Victoria, including five years as Treasurer and three as Board Chair.

Donna is passionate about serving the community, particularly in causes that enhance the lives of children. Her commitment to the Victoria Women's Transition House Society stems from a strong belief in the critical importance of the work of providing safety and support to women and children in the community. She is honored to contribute her financial expertise to the Board to help ensure the organization's long-term sustainability and growth.

Kate Donahue

Kate Donahue is currently the Vice President of Marketing and Communications with the Deveraux Group of Companies. With over 20 years of industry expertise, Kate has successfully led strategic marketing campaigns, digital transformation initiatives, and brand development programs across diverse sectors.

She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology with a minor in Psychology from the University of Alberta and is known for delivering creative, data-driven marketing solutions that drive meaningful results.

In addition to her corporate leadership, Kate brings valuable experience working within the nonprofit sector and is deeply passionate about community engagement. She is actively involved with the Gadsden Initiative through the Victoria Foundation, where she supports philanthropic efforts among Millennials. Her commitment to fostering inclusive, vibrant communities is reflected in both her professional and volunteer work.

Nicola Lemmer

Nicola is a recently retired employee of the BC public service. Her 28-year career began as a frontline staff member for the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction. She subsequently moved into policy positions with increasing responsibility in the social development ministry, in addition to ministries responsible for K-12 education and post-secondary education. Nicola's final posting was as an Assistant Deputy Minister with the Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills. Part of her portfolio included initiatives to support the participation and success of Indigenous students, former children in care, and other underrepresented groups; as a result, she learned a great deal about equity, diversity, and inclusion practices and approaches.

Nicola served as a director on the board of the Our Place Society for six years during the time of amalgamation with another society and the construction of a new facility.

Nicola has been privileged to be a resident of Victoria since 1997. She has a husband and a son, and enjoys being active, playing tennis, reading, gardening, the live arts, and travelling. Nicola has been a volunteer cook at VWTH for the past six months.

Retiring Board Members

Hollie McKeil

Hollie McKeil is a community planner with expertise in housing policy and experience across the public, non-profit, and private sectors. She is dedicated to creating safer, equitable communities and to the VWTH Society's vision of ending intimate partner violence through an intersectional and trans-inclusive approach. Outside of work, Hollie enjoys spending time outdoors and on creative pursuits like pottery and sewing.

Kerrilee Jones

Kerrilee has just retired from her 26 years of policing. Her lengthy career included opportunities in patrol, undercover work, surveillance, and nine years on the Crisis Negotiator Team retiring as the Team Leader. Her passion for working in the field of intimate partner violence was recognized in the detective office as she spearheaded the Behavioural Assessment Management Unit, and it was here she connected with Victoria Women's Transition House. Kerrilee proudly retired early in 2024 as the Inspector in the Human Resources Division.

Kerrilee has taken on a new position with the City of Victoria working for the City Manager in the area of Community Safety and Wellbeing. She is the proud mother of two beautiful girls and loves all things fitness. You can find her hiking with her fiancé Chris, and their dogs Louis and Lola.

Liette Bates-Eamer

An Audit Partner with KPMG, Liette has more than 20 years of experience in performing financial statement audits, and in providing advice on operations, control processes, and financial reporting matters, for the public sector and not-for-profit organizations. She has strong technical skills in the public sector, managing engagements both small and large in scale. She is a regular speaker at public sector and not-for-profit educational seminars. She is a member of KPMG's National Not-for-profit Network. She leads the Community Involvement Initiatives for the Victoria KPMG office and champions local diversity and inclusion programs. She previously served as Treasurer on the Board of Victoria Women's Transition House Society from 2010 to 2016 and has made valuable contributions to VWTH as an expert on financial matters as they relate to not-for-profit societies.
