

Slate of Nominees for Board of Directors September 2023-2024

Current Board Members (terms to end September 2024):

Hollie McKeil

Hollie is an experienced community planner specializing in housing policy and homelessness solutions. She brings a range of experience in the public, non-profit and private sectors to her role as Board Member. Hollie is committed to the VWTH Society's vision of creating communities free of intimate partner violence and abuse, through a trans-inclusive, and intersectional approach. Beyond her profession, Hollie finds joy in sewing, cycling, and sea kayaking.

Kerrilee Jones

Kerrilee started her policing career in 1997. She spent her first few years in the Patrol Division. She then transferred to the Bike Squad in the Targeted Policing Division; this is where she was first introduced to Undercover Work. She carried on her Undercover work after taking the Provincial Level 2 Undercover course and was fortunate to have had many opportunities in the field, especially when she was transferred to the Strike Force Unit, a covert surveillance unit.

In 2015, Kerrilee transferred back to Patrol and was promoted to the rank of Sergeant. She and another colleague wrote a business case to create a Threat Assessment Unit that merged the two Domestic Violence Officers within Investigative Services, the High Risk Offender Officer and the High Risk Missing Persons Coordinator into a single Unit. This proposal was implemented, and Kerilee became Sergeant of the Behavioral Assessment and Management Unit (BAMU). She is passionate about Intimate Partner Violence and this passion was strengthened further in the 3 ½ years she supervised the Unit and provided oversight and training to the frontline officers. She feels that it was an honor to work alongside community partners. In February 2019, Kerilee was promoted to Staff Sergeant and worked in Human Resources until she was promoted to the rank of Inspector in January 2021. She worked in the Community Services Division until January of 2023 when her path led her back to Human Resources where she is now the OIC. She spent nine years on the Greater Victoria Emergency Response Team as a Crisis Negotiator and the last three years as the Team Leader. She stepped down from the Team in January 2020, but will never lose her love and passion for ERT or Crisis Negotiation.

Kerrilee has a University Degree in Sociology and Psychology and completed her courses in Mediation and Third-Party Intervention certificate through the Justice Institute of B.C. Conflict Resolution Program. She is the proud mother of two beautiful girls who are the love of her life. They inspire her every day to make the world a better and safer place. Kerrilee's hobbies are hiking with her dog Louis and her partner Chris and his dog Lola and all things fitness!

Kimiya Missaghi

Kimiya is a PhD student at the Institute of Feminist and Gender Studies at the University of Ottawa, focusing her research on migration and resiliency from a gender-based perspective. Alongside her academic pursuits, she holds the role of Research Lead at PeaceGeeks, a tech non-profit dedicated to empowering newcomers through digital tools. Kimiya plays an active role in both contributing to and learning from the efforts to advance the economic security of racialized newcomer women, serving as a member of the Her Mentors National Steering Committee at the Women's Economic Council. Outside of her professional engagements, she enjoys accompanying her pup on outdoor escapades, and perfecting the art of crafting specialty coffee. Kimiya looks forward to her continued service at the Victoria Women's Transition House.

Liette Bates-Eamer

An Audit Partner with KPMG, Liette has more than 18 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.

Nikki Petersen

Nikki is a lawyer for 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 VWTHS.

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

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 Districts 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, 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.

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. She 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, Greater Victoria Public Library, Victoria Conservatory of Music, Open Space, Pacific Opera Victoria, and Blue Bridge Reparatory Theatre 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 has 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.

New Board Members seeking election (terms to end September 2025):

Lauryn Kerr

Lauryn works for the Civil Resolution Tribunal (CRT) as in-house legal counsel. The CRT is Canada's first fully online administrative tribunal. Lauryn's role includes considering how gender-based violence may impact people who seek to access the CRT, particularly with respect to the CRT's upcoming jurisdiction over non-consensual distribution of intimate images. Lauryn's background is in law, innovation, technology and transformation. She earned her Juris Doctor (JD) from the University of Victoria, and her Master of Laws (LLM) from Osgoode Hall.

From 2017 to 2022, Lauryn served on the Board of Directors of the Justice Education Society, a Vancouver based legal capacity and development organization. Born and raised in Victoria, Lauryn is a firm believer in the importance of fostering safe communities for women, and she looks forward to the opportunity to contribute to the society as a member of the board.

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 and 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 has responsibility 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, and with meaningful impacts in the community. She is proud to serve and represent Victoria Women's Transition House.

Retiring Board Members

Dawn Robson

Dawn Robson is a Human Resources professional with over 25 years of experience supporting both for-profit and non-profit businesses. She has worked as an independent HR consultant and has held senior HR roles in a number of sectors including financial services, high tech, retail, and manufacturing. She has prior Board experience with the Chartered Professional in Human Resources, BC & Yukon, and has volunteered with a number of other non-profits/charities. In her spare time, she enjoys kayaking, cycling, and spending time with family and friends.

Dawn has a strong belief in the mission and values of the Victoria Women's Transition House. She has completed five years on the VWTH Board and will be supporting the organization as the Past-Chair for the 2022-2023 term.

Lydia Jim-TUWOSELTENOT

Í SZÁCEL - Good day

My traditional name is TU WOSEL TENOT. My known name is Lydia Jim. I am from Tsartlip First Nation. I would also like to recognize where my mom is from, which is Coldwater Reserve in Merritt, B.C. I have always worked and supported indigenous families, individuals, and or communities. I am currently working with NIL TU O child and family services society as the Family support worker. I am working towards my Child and Youth care degree at the University of Victoria. I have my Community, Family and Child studies diploma as well as my Special Education Assistant certificate.

Outside of work I love spending time with my family, doing crafts, and going for walks. I love challenges!

HÍSWŪE- Thank you for a wonderful first year of being a volunteer board member! I look forward to working along side with the other board members.

Mackenzie Curran

Mackenzie is a lawyer who completed her law degree with a co-operative distinction at the University of Victoria. She started her career articling with a non-profit organization, acting on a pro bono basis on behalf of marginalized community members. After articling, Mackenzie joined a small firm that focuses on Indigenous rights issues on behalf of First Nations and Indigenous organizations. She volunteers with Rise Women's Legal Centre, providing pro bono family law services to women in remote areas of the province, many of whom are fleeing situations of intimate partner violence. Outside of the office, Mackenzie spends most of her time on the roads and trails, walking and hiking with her family, friends, and dogs.
