

# BOARD POSITION ELECTIONS

## Current Federation Board of Directors

Elections for positions for the Board of The Federation of Community Social Services of BC will be held at the Annual General Meeting on September 22, 2021, virtually on Zoom.

<b>VICE PRESIDENT</b>	<b>2-YEAR TERM</b>	<b>2021–2023</b>
Current Vice President	Renata Aebi	
<b>SECRETARY-TREASURER</b>	<b>2-YEAR TERM</b>	<b>2021–2023</b>
Current Secretary-Treasurer	Kendra Gage	
<b>DIRECTOR AT LARGE</b>	<b>2-YEAR TERM</b>	<b>2021–2023</b>
Current Director at Large	Julia Staub-French	
<b>DIRECTOR AT LARGE</b>	<b>2-YEAR TERM</b>	<b>2021–2023</b>
Current Director at Large	Tim Veresh	
<b>DIRECTOR AT LARGE</b>	<b>2-YEAR TERM</b>	<b>2021–2023</b>
Current Director at Large	Liz Barnett	
<b>DIRECTOR AT LARGE</b>	<b>2-YEAR TERM</b>	<b>2021–2023</b>
Current Director at Large	Christine Mohr	

Please note, the current Federation Bylaws state:

- 21.4 One Director from each of the five geographical regions corresponding to the current regional service delivery areas.
- 22 All of the Directors, other than the immediate Past President and Regional Directors shall be elected by the full membership of The Federation. Elections shall take place at the Annual General Meeting and the Directors so elected shall hold office for 2 years.
- 22.3 Regional Directors shall be elected by the members of their region at the Annual General Meeting and ratified by the membership at large.
- 23 No person shall hold a specific position on the Board of Directors for more than two full consecutive terms.
- 35 Regional Directors shall be responsible for providing a focus for Federation activity at a regional level and providing a communications conduit for The Federation and regional members.



# BOARD POSITION ELECTIONS

## Nominees for The Federation Board of Directors

POSITION	NOMINEE
Vice President	Kendra Gage
Secretary-Treasurer	Julia Staub-French
Director at Large	Christine Mohr
Director at Large	Julie Chadwick
Director at Large	Karen Dickenson Smith
Director at Large	Liz Barnett
Director at Large	Melanie Mendonca
Director at Large	Tim Veresh
Director at Large	Todd McDonald



### **POSITION: VICE PRESIDENT** **NOMINEE: KENDRA GAGE**

**BIO:** Kendra Gage is the Executive Director of Hulitan Family and Community Services Society. She has worked in the field of social services since 1996 in both Indigenous and Non- indigenous not-for-profit organizations. Kendra is passionate about high standards of practice, CARF accreditation, accountability, youth issues, and most importantly, being an ally within the Indigenous community walking

alongside the community and aiding in whatever manner she can to improve outcomes for Indigenous children and families while honoring an Indigenous worldview.

Her career began in Alberta, working with under-privileged children and sexually exploited youth. In 2000, she moved to Victoria to continue her work with high-risk youth and their families. In 2003, she was hired by Hulitan as the program supervisor where she continued to be promoted and was appointed as the Executive Director in 2010. Kendra also currently serves on the Board of Directors for The Federation of Community Social Services of BC as Secretary-Treasurer and is in her 6th year as a Board member in addition to being an alumni of Leadership 2020.

**REASON:** I would like to continue to serve on the Federation Board as Vice President as I feel we have more work to do around truth and reconciliation. I would like to offer my time, knowledge and experience in this and many other areas to support the great work of the federation and the social services sector. In addition, I am committed to running for the presidents position once it becomes available in order to ensure consistency and stability within the Board. I have learned so much from my fellow Board members and the Federation staff and I look forward to continued reciprocity of knowledge transfer and friendship.



## **POSITION: SECRETARY-TREASURER**

### **NOMINEE: JULIA STAUB-FRENCH**

**BIO:** Julia has served as a Director-at-Large on the Federation for from 2017-2019. As Executive Director at Family Services of the North Shore, Julia Staub-French has overall responsibility for an Agency that serves over 10,423 children, youth, couples, families, adults and seniors each year. She works with various Ministries to deliver a diverse mix of services including MCFD (Family Preservation and Support), MCFD/

CYMH (Sexual Abuse Intervention Program), MPSSG (Stopping the Violence), PHSA (Jessie's Legacy Eating Disorder Prevention), ESDC (Allies in Aging), and MCFD (Family Resource Programs).

Julia is registered as a Clinical Counsellor in British Columbia and licensed as a Marriage and Family Therapist in California. She served as a member of the United Way of the Lower Mainland Campaign Cabinet and has held various non-profit Board positions over the last 15 years. Julia brings her extensive fundraising, strategic planning, public policy, collective impact, LGBTQQ+ diversity training and leadership capabilities to her role as Executive Director.

**REASON:** I am putting my name forward for the position of Secretary-Treasurer for The Federation because I want to lend my strengths and experience to this team as it continues to encourage and invite collaboration while pushing for accountability. There has likely never been a more challenging time in our sector. In addition to managing the pandemic environment, there remain pre-pandemic issues that still require solutions.

But the true power of the Federation is an informed membership that is politically aware, informed, and working collectively in the same direction. We must continue engaging all of the various Ministries that are represented in the funding streams of our members. I believe a whole-of-government approach to our work will yield the most sustainable positive outcomes for our sector. The Federation's focus on both short term and long term goals is key.

I think my fellow board members would say that I have brought a strong voice, a strategic lens, an openness to all ideas, and a sense of humour during my tenure on The Federation board. If I am chosen to continue on the Federation Board for the next two years, I will continue to bring my best efforts and energy, working on behalf of the members and the sector as a whole. If you have any questions or thoughts for me, please let me know. You can reach me at [jsfrench@familyservices.bc.ca](mailto:jsfrench@familyservices.bc.ca). Thank you for considering my nomination.



## **POSITION: DIRECTOR AT LARGE**

### **NOMINEE: CHRISTINE MOHR**

**BIO:** Christine holds a BSW degree and studies in various relevant fields. She has extensive experience working in both health care and community social services within government and at several large non-profit organizations. With over 25 years of executive leadership experience, Christine has been the CEO at Options Community Services since 2006. Options provides services including employment,

mental health, regional crisis line, homelessness and housing, immigrant settlement and integration, information and referral, stopping the violence, counselling and family, children and youth services.

**REASON:** I have been a member of the Federation since 1993 when I first left working for the provincial government. At the time, I recall being anxious about not being connected to others outside of the new organization that I joined, a great organization. I was quickly introduced to the Federation and was thankful to be connected to wonderful colleagues throughout the province. There has never been a time since that

I did not know who to call when in need of a sounding board or for support. The Federation's philosophy of 'Altogether Better' is one that I believe in deeply. We are stronger with a united voice for our communities and organizations.

My desire to continue being on the Federation Board is to give back to the organization that has given so much to me and the organizations that I have been part of. I believe that my experience working in complex organizations with funding from multiple provincial social service ministries as well as several federal sources and my experience leading through challenging times and circumstances is an asset that I have to offer.



**POSITION: DIRECTOR AT LARGE**  
**NOMINEE: JULIE CHADWICK**

**BIO:** The Executive Director of Deltassist since 2016, prior positions at Deltassist - Manager of Counselling Services, Manager of Residential Programs, Prevention and Addictions Counsellor. Taught at Vancouver Community College for 30 years in the Continuing education department, Assessment Practices and Ethics, the Chair of the BCACC Ethics Committee for the past 4 years. Worked in the non-profit

sector since 1988, previous Board experience with the Elizabeth Fry Society. Holds a Masters of Science in Clinical Psychology from Illinois State University and a BA from UBC. Chairs several Delta committees, Child and Youth Committee, Delta Organizing Against Racism and Hatred, Delta Homelessness, and the Delta Community Action Team to address the Opioid Crisis.

**REASON:** Working within the non-profit sector for the past 33 years, I have noticed that the non-profit sector does not have an equal voice at the table with government. In the past several years the relationship between government and the non-profit sector has deteriorated to the point where non-profits are asked to fund raise to support government contracts. Wherever there is a sticking point around the funding needed in a contract to completely cover the contracted services, any deficit is downloaded onto the non-profit. This affects the ability of non-profits to fully address the needs and well-being of communities particularly those that are vulnerable and struggling.

I think that I am well-placed to serve as a Board member as I come with a wealth of knowledge regarding the non-profit sector, of contracting with the government, and having good relationships with both funders and the other organizations in my community that are charged with addressing the needs of the most vulnerable. I also sit on other committees that cross several municipal and geographic boundaries that has assisted my understanding of how the non-profit sector is working as a whole. I think that the Federation is an excellent vehicle to promote the changes needed in the relationship between the non-profit sector and the government, I am committed to improving this relationship, and am more than willing to be involved on committees to this end to improve the well-being of the communities that the non-profit sector serves.



**POSITION: DIRECTOR AT LARGE**  
**NOMINEE: KAREN DICKENSON SMITH**

**BIO:** Karen Dickenson Smith is the Executive Director of the Fraser Valley Child Development Centre, a six-time accredited multiservice organization with 100 staff serving communities throughout BC's Fraser Valley. She has dedicated 20+ years within the community social services sector, from front-line to senior management in agencies across BC's Lower Mainland and beyond, serving people across the

lifespan. Karen envisions a world where all people are healthy, thriving, included, and contributing in their communities. She served on the Federation Board in 2018/19 as a Director-at-Large and continues on the

Support to Practice advisory. She strongly believes in the Federation as a force for positive social change. Karen enjoys spending time with her husband and two teenagers, hiking, kayaking, and appreciating nature.

**REASON:** I am energized at the prospect of rejoining the Federation Board to further support the organization to be a catalyst for social change. The Federation is an incredibly diverse network of committed, caring member agencies and staff. To me, it is a privilege to collaborate broadly with members and partners to inform and strengthen our collective impact.

I agree with the Federation that 'Altogether Better' is not just a slogan but a guiding philosophy. My leadership style is inclusive, collaborative, and outcome-focused. My 20+ years in BC's community social services give me an appreciation for the diversity of this province and the importance of respecting many voices. I enjoy helping people, organizations and communities align and contribute in service of a shared vision. I would be honoured to serve again as a Director-at-Large, supporting my fellow members to continue to do great work and advancing the Federation's vision, mission, and strategic direction, which strongly resonate with me.



**POSITION: DIRECTOR AT LARGE**  
**NOMINEE: LIZ BARNETT**

**BIO:** Since 1978, I have been involved in the service and support of people with disabilities and their families. I joined the Bloom Group in 2019 to put my decades of experience and passion into the effort to address the lack of adequate housing and drive change for vulnerable citizens.

I have an invisible disability that shaped my experience as a person who has received services while being an administrator and leader of some of those same services. My proudest career achievement was assisting people to leave institutions, to rejoin their families and communities. I enjoy the gift of a family including 2 wonderful grand daughters and a cat. I am an avid birdwatcher.

**REASON:** In 1978, my first paid job was as a summer camp counselor for children with disabilities. In 2001, I became the ED of that same organization. In 2019, I left that position to join The Bloom Group Community Services as their Executive Director. Each move in my career path allowed me to strengthen my voice and skills to tackle the issues facing our neighbours; poverty, isolation, institutionalization, racism and sexism.

I bring decades of experience in pursuing social justice for some of BC's most vulnerable citizens and their families. I have been involved with all aspects of community social services; administrator, advocate, fund raiser, leader, mentor and champion. I have demonstrated my ability to balance an articulate vision of citizenship with the pressures of managing a charity. My provincial leadership included; CSSEA Board vice-Chair and Chair of CSSEA's General Services Panel, member of 2 Bargaining teams, Community Services Benefits Trust, Trustee as well as a myriad of Provincial initiatives over the years.

As a member of the Fed Board I believe I have been able to contribute to efforts to create a vital and sustainable social services network that strengthens our entire community. I bring insight from my many roles, personal and professional, that supported citizenship, community building and resiliency. Working alongside the talented and dedicated people I've seen on the Board over the years continues to be inspiring and exciting. Thank you for your consideration.





## **POSITION: DIRECTOR AT LARGE NOMINEE: MELANIE MENDONCA**

**BIO:** I have been working in the Social Service sector for the past 28 years. I started as a front line worker and gradually worked towards my current position as the Community Living Director. I have a bachelors degree with a focus on criminology, a diploma in management and behavioral management. I have taken the Leadership 2020 program offered by the Federation and continue to use the teachings from this program. I am the proud aunt of an amazing young adult living with Cerebral Palsy and complex medical needs. He has taught me about compassion, strength and courage.

**REASON:** feel that I am able to contribute to the Federation not only as a person who has been in the social sector for 28 years but also as a family member of someone who uses these services. As a professional, I work with Vancouver Coastal Health, Providence Health Care, CLBC and MCFD and see how each of these funders are very different in their processes and I feel that this knowledge would be valuable to the Federation. I believe that there is a need for more funding for the individuals we support but also for our staff members to be better compensated for the hard work they do day in and day out. This sector has not been given the recognition it needs from the Province. I enjoyed serving on the Board in the past for 2 consecutive terms and feel that I have more to give.



## **POSITION: DIRECTOR AT LARGE NOMINEE: TIM VERESH**

**BIO:** Tim is the Executive Director of PLEA Community Services Society and currently serving on the Board of Directors of the Federation of Community Social Services. Previously he was the Executive Director of the John Howard Society of the Lower Mainland for thirteen years and eight years as the Executive Officer of The John Howard Society of British Columbia. He is on the Board of Directors of the Community Social Services Employers Association (General Services), Canadian Criminal Justice Association, BC Criminal Justice Association, Realize Strategies Cooperative and Board of Trustee with the Health Benefits Trust.

**REASON:** I have enjoyed participating on the Federation Board since September 2018 and look forward to being considered for a Director at Large position. I am committed to enhancing the quality of services for children, youth, adults and families. I believe in addressing systemic issues by working in partnership with other agencies, sectors and government to address challenging issues and provide solutions. I believe in the value of having collaborative space for members to meet, find support, and learn new things through dialogue with leaders within our sector and Province.

I have over 19 years experience as an Executive Director with PLEA Community Services Society, the John Howard Society of the Lower Mainland, and John Howard Society of British Columbia. I am a confident strategic leader, developing programs and services that promote public safety. I have proven experience resolving challenges relating to operations, human resources and labour relations within the social service sector. Furthermore, I have been an active member of the Community Social Services Employers' Association, having served on the Board of Directors, General Services Panel and participated in three rounds of Collective Bargaining with CSSEA, settling agreements 2010, 2007 and in 1999.

Throughout my career I have served on Boards of Directors for a number of community agencies. I empower a holistic approach to governing organizations, addressing performance management and scanning an ever changing and complex environment. My positive attitude and people skills are my trademark. I have a

proven ability to support social service agencies in addressing their operational needs while balancing the interests of government. I regularly and confidently engage with unions, senior government officials and social services sector agencies.

I look forward to the opportunity to furthering the interests of the Federation of Community Social Services of BC.



**POSITION: DIRECTOR AT LARGE**  
**NOMINEE: TODD MCDONALD**

**BIO:** I am the owner, and Director of IDM Youth Services Inc. IDM is an agency that provides residential group home care for children in the South Island region. As a youth I lived in several group homes and foster homes during the 1980's. It is that experience that drives my passion to provide care that is second to none for our persons served.

I have a background in education and I was a teacher in the Burnaby, and the Sooke School Districts before founding IDM in 2010. I have served as a board member for The Simon Fraser Students Society, and The SFU Faculty of Education Students Association. IDM has been a member of The Federation of Community Social Services of BC since 2018 - and I look forward to joining their Board of Directors!

**REASON:** My reasons for wanting to serve on The Federation Board are very simple - I would appreciate the opportunity to expand my knowledge and further advocate for the sector that our agency and other agencies like ours serve.

I would be very proud to be part of a group dedicated to helping all social sectors in our region, and our province. I feel that there is a need to educate, inform, support, (and recruit) service providers from the part of the sector that IDM provides services to; (i.e. child and youth group home care). I have received immeasurable support from The Federation, and I would now like to do my part in sharing such valuable advocacy and support with others in our sector.