



Autism
Alliance of Canada

Alliance canadienne de
l'autisme

Annual Election of Directors 2026

New board members

Paul Grossman, MBA

Paul Grossman is a senior advancement leader with more than 20 years of experience helping mission-driven organizations grow their impact and build long-term sustainability.

Most recently Associate Vice-President, Advancement & Alumni Relations at Sheridan College, and previously Executive Director of Development at McMaster University, Paul has played leadership roles in fundraising efforts approaching \$1 billion, built and led teams of up to 40 professionals, and overseen annual private revenue portfolios exceeding \$85 million.

Throughout his career, Paul has worked closely with CEOs, boards, and community partners to connect purpose with opportunity—bringing people together around shared goals and building the relationships and support needed to move important work forward. He is known for helping organizations strengthen their fundraising efforts, engage donors in meaningful ways, and create a strong foundation for future growth.

As the father of an autistic son, Paul's connection to the autism and neurodivergence community is both deeply personal and ongoing. He is passionate about supporting inclusive communities where individuals and families feel understood, supported, and able to thrive, and is proud to contribute his time and experience to that work.





Moira Robertson

Moira Robertson is an autistic woman who is passionate about enhancing quality of life and understanding for autistic individuals. As an autistic advocate, she uses her lived experience and professional insight to work towards creating an inclusive Canada and to make sure all voices are valuable and important. Moira's advocacy emphasizes practical strategies to empower neurodivergent individuals to thrive. A Child and Youth Care professional, she has supported neurodiverse children and youth in various settings, including schools and summer camps. She is involved with advocacy work with Autism Ontario, Aide Canada, Community Living Ontario, Holland-Bloorview, Footprints4Autism, consulting on a TV show, and countless other advocacy work with individuals and organizations. Moira is a lived-experience HubTeam Member with ECHO Autism at Holland-Bloorview Hospital in Toronto. Moira is currently completing her Masters of Rehabilitation Sciences at the University of Toronto and is a research trainee with CAMH, focusing her research on autism and addiction.



Patrick Martin

Patrick Martin is an autistic, parent of four (including an autistic), and a seasoned governance leader with more than 25 years of volunteer experience across local, provincial, and national organizations. Diagnosed in his mid-40s, he brings lived experience navigating social, professional, and sensory challenges, alongside a strong commitment to early support and inclusion for autistic individuals and families.

Patrick has served in numerous board and executive roles, including with the Autism Society Newfoundland and Labrador and the Canadian Mental Health Association (NL), where he contributed to governance, finance, policy, and CEO recruitment. He has also held leadership positions with various organizations and remains an active member of the Rotary Club of St. John's.



Professionally, Patrick is the Executive Director of Plum Creative Works, a creative and technology agency he has led for nearly 30 years. He holds degrees in Computer Science and Philosophy from Memorial University of Newfoundland. He brings expertise in strategy, communications, and organizational leadership, and is committed to advancing advocacy,



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strengthening national collaboration, and ensuring autistic voices are central to decision-making at the Autism Alliance of Canada.

Joanne Fodchuk

Joanne Fodchuk, R.SLP, MSLP (C), is a senior leader in autism services with a background in speech-language pathology and experience advancing inclusive, community-based supports for children, families, and adults. She has led programs across early intervention, adult services, respite, and community settings, with a focus on improving access, reducing wait times, and building more responsive systems of care. Her work emphasizes cross-sector collaboration and system-level change to create more coordinated and equitable pathways for support.

She brings governance experience through her involvement with Alberta College of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists, the Edmonton Academy, and the Canadian Alliance of Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Regulators, contributing to oversight, strategy, and professional standards across sectors.



Joanne leads with curiosity and kindness to build trust, foster connection, and support meaningful, sustainable change.

Erin Dekker

Erin Dekker is an autistic self-advocate, PhD candidate, and employment coach specializing in work with neurodivergent adults. They hold an MA in Disability Studies, a post-baccalaureate diploma in Human Resources Management, and a BA in Psychology. As a doctoral student in Community Psychology at Wilfrid Laurier University, Erin is dedicated to advancing inclusion through a focus on social justice, equity, and community engagement. Their community-based research centers on 2SLGBTQ+ and disability communities, with particular attention to healthcare, wellbeing, and social inclusion. As a public speaker, trainer, educator, and advocate, Erin has shared their expertise at United Nations World Autism Awareness Day, Toronto Public Library, and in numerous universities and non-profit organizations.





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Aimée-Mihkokwaniy McGillis

Aimée-Mihkokwaniy McGillis (They/Them) is a 2Spirit, Neurodivergent (Autistic/ADHD), Red River Michif/Métis (MMF) from Willowbunch (SK). They have ancestral connections through one great grandparent to Rocky Boys Cree (MT), and through another to Turtle Mountain Chippewa (ND). They are a parent to two neurodivergent children, an artist, seed keeper, sundancer and ceremony person living in Treaty one territory, one of their ancestral homelands. They are the grand-daughter and niece of residential school survivors, but the most importantly they belong to a family that are intergenerational polylingual language speakers (of Michif, Nehiyawewin, Aanishnaabemowin and Lakota), knowledge carriers and ceremony people. Aimée has an advanced Bachelor of Arts in Indigenous Studies, and they are completing their Masters in Community Health Sciences. Currently they are a student project coordinator and researcher for Ongomiizwin – Indigenous Institute of Health and Healing at the Rady Faculty of Health Sciences (University of Manitoba) completing a project that is rooted in enhancing culturally safe(r) supports for Indigenous neurodiverse learners in the faculty. They are an advocate for culturally grounded policies, practices, resources and research created by First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Autistic scholars and researchers.



Board members for re-election

Anne Kresta

Anne Kresta, MSc., is President/CEO of Level IT Up and Chair of Neurowrx (www.neurowrx.org), an international alliance of organizations and businesses dedicated to increasing the employment of Autistic persons in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. Anne has worked for many years at the local, provincial, national, and international levels to develop and advance inclusive and diverse communities. This has included work in inclusive childcare, inclusive K-12 and post-secondary education and training opportunities, and workplace diversity. In her outreach work Anne highlights both the autism advantage and the many straightforward accommodations and strategies that can be implemented to create





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welcoming and empowering environments. In her spare time, Anne enjoys gardening, travelling, reading, and drawing inspiration from time spent with her amazing family.

Priscilla Burnham Riosa

Priscilla Burnham Riosa is an Associate Professor in the Department of Applied Disability Studies at Brock University. She earned her PhD in Human Development at the University of Guelph and MSc at Western University in Developmental Psychology.

She subsequently completed a postdoctoral fellowship with Dr. Jonathan Weiss at York University, where Priscilla conducted clinical research in mental health and autism. Priscilla is a Doctoral-level Board Certified Behaviour Analyst and has worked in the disability field for approximately 20 years.



Cyndi Gerlach

Cyndi is a settler on the unceded territory of the Coast Salish people. Specifically, the Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) and the sə́lilwətaʔt (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations, also known as North Vancouver in British Columbia, where she currently resides with her husband and three grown children, two of whom are diagnosed autistic.

Cyndi has been a lifelong advocate since 1974, when her sister first started school, and she saw how her sister was treated. In 2001, Cyndi helped create a grassroots movement to advocate against cuts to services for children and adults with disabilities. With a strong desire to see change within the education system, Cyndi ran and was elected in 2011 to the North Vancouver School District Board of Education. Cyndi believes that change must come through policy; and to do that, one must have a seat at the table. Cyndi believes in giving back to organizations that hold the same values as she does, and in 2017, she was elected as a Board Director of Inclusion BC. Cyndi was appointed to a municipal committee, the North Shore Advisory Committee on Disability Issues, in 2023 and was recently elected Chair. Cyndi believes the entire continuum of the autism spectrum must be represented and wishes for a world that





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accepts people for who they are. Cyndi was diagnosed in 2020 at the age of 57 with Autism and believes in breaking down the stigma and the barriers faced every day by Autistic Canadians. Cyndi is humbled to work with like-minded Autistics, staff, and allies on the Autism Alliance of Canada's Board of Directors to continue to support the vision of a National Autism Strategy in Canada.

Stacey Herperger

Stacey has worked in the non-profit and disability sector for almost 20 years. She has been working at the Autism Resource Centre (ARC) in Regina since 2013 and has enjoyed taking on a variety of different roles within the organization. ARC empowers autistic people in realizing their potential and participating in their communities through the pillars of inclusion, collaboration and education. Currently Stacey is the Director of Advocacy, Development and Support Living Programs. She enjoys working with ARC members, community partners, and the local community to advocate for a high quality of life for the autistic community. Stacey has a passion for learning and is dedicated to staying relevant through professional development. In 2023 she finished a certificate program in Nonprofit Sector Leadership and Innovation through the University of Regina to add to her Bachelors Degree in Sociology from the University of Regina, and her Diploma in Recreation and Leisure Services from Algonquin College in Ottawa as well as many other certifications.

