

BOARD PROFILES

2020-2021

BOARD DIRECTOR CHAIR

Tara Gauld

Tara is Manager of the Teaching and Learning Centre at Confederation College, where she has experience as a full-time professor.

She previously worked in health and social services sectors, including Thunder Bay Counselling Centre. She is committed to supporting individuals who struggle with mental health issues – particularly through prevention and skill-building at an early age, as well as through parenting education and support.

Tara has extensive volunteer and leadership experience within our community, including: Board Member/President of Leadership Thunder Bay; and Board Member of Our Kids Count, Thunder Bay Regional Arts Council, and Habitat for Humanity.

BOARD DIRECTOR VICE CHAIR

Tricia Murdoch

Tricia holds the position of Manager, Recruitment & Retention at St. Joseph's Care Group.

She is a 2016 graduate of the Leadership Thunder Bay program, and has wide-ranging volunteer experience in our community – including Chair of the Society of Excellence, Styles & Smiles event for Children's Centre Thunder Bay.

Tricia is a strong advocate of early intervention for infants and children who are experiencing or are at risk of social, emotional, behavioural or developmental challenges. She is passionate about supporting programs that assist children and families, resulting in a healthy impact on our community.

Tricia brings to our Board her aptitude for an extensive range of experience and skills, including conflict resolution, analytical abilities, policy and program development, negotiation, and health and safety.

BOARD DIRECTOR
SECRETARY-TREASURER

Carolyne Leroux

Carolyne is the General Manager, Intercity Industrial Supply Ltd. and previously has served in various senior executive roles at Bombardier Transportation Americas for 20 years, including General Manager of the company's Thunder Bay plant.

Her work in the communities she's lived in includes being a founding member of the Mobilization Committee at Bombardier, and former Board Vice-President for La Croisée de Longueuil, Québec.

In 2014, Carolyne was named "Executive of the Year" at the Influential Women of Northern Ontario awards gala.

A mother, herself, Carolyne feels strongly about the well-being of children and is compelled by the Centre's Mission & Values. Carolyne brings to our Board her positive values and a strong commitment of support and advocacy towards improving the overall general mental health of children and youth in our community and region.

BOARD DIRECTOR

Sandra Beaulieu

Sandra is a Detective in the Criminal Investigations Branch of the Thunder Bay Police Service. Prior to policing, she worked as a Child and Youth Worker and as a member of the Thunder Bay Youth Suicide Prevention Task Force.

Sandra's involvement with many local agencies has given her the assurance that working together is the key to supporting children and youth in the community. As a mother, Sandra has chosen the Children's Centre Thunder Bay Board of Directors as an opportunity to give back.

Sandra has been an active volunteer with William W. Creighton Youth Services since 2010; working with high risk youth in various capacities in girls groups, cultural groups, and life skills teachings. She has assisted in connecting youth to community resources and facilitated discussions regarding personal safety and responsibility. She also sits as a member of the Anti-Exploitation Task Force; to educate youth and the community on Human Trafficking. Other volunteer efforts include organizing fundraisers for the Canadian Cancer Society and the Thunder Bay and District Humane Society.

BOARD DIRECTOR

Marie-Claude DeAgazio

Marie-Claude is the principal at Ecole Catholique Franco-Superieur and previous to that vice principal and teacher for 17 years.

She serves on the Board for Centre Grandir en français.

Her priority is her family and working with children to ensure they can be the best version of themselves and to succeed. She is committed to the mission and values of CCTB.

BOARD DIRECTOR

Crystal Edwards

Crystal's professional experience is within the Health Care sector, as a Registered Nurse and currently the Director of Women & Children's Program at Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre.

She has served on the Board of Directors for Thunder Bay and Area Victim Services for 2 terms, executive member of Registered Nurses Association of Ontario since 2009, regular volunteer within the community and at events, executive member of sports leagues and teams.

She is passionate about improving the quality of life for children and their families and is a strong advocate for the provision and access of services for children.

BOARD DIRECTOR

Paul Francis

Paul is a Manager at St. Joseph's Care Group. He is currently the President of the Board of Directors for Shkoday Abinojiiwak Obibiwedoon and volunteered for many years for Thunder Bay Indian Friendship Centre's Community Council Program, and previous Director for Leadership Thunder Bay and instrumental in the development of the Di-NO-Wi Gehmin Aboriginal Youth Leadership Program.

With the Children's Centre's commitment to have a more diverse voice on its Board of Directors, Paul feels he can offer that.

BOARD DIRECTOR

Jordyn Howie

Her interest in supporting children and youth, making a difference in the lives of young people and being a positive role model is evident by:

- Education; Student in the education program at Lakehead University;
- Training in ASIST (Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training) and strengthening children's mental health training;
- Volunteer work; Special Olympics.

Jordyn brings to our Board her positive values and a strong commitment of support and passion towards improving the overall general mental health of children and youth in our community and region.

BOARD DIRECTOR

Aiden Kivisto

Aiden is a professional, residential and commercial painter, and a community activist.

He is a Leadership Thunder Bay graduate, and Valedictorian.

Aiden has also been nominated three times for a Northern Ontario Visionary award for his community work.

He is a dynamic volunteer, involved in many community organizations and events, including Thunder Pride and Gender Journeys.

Aiden's skills include public speaking, art creation and business skills. He brings to our Board exceptional qualities such as strategic thinking, goal-setting and a passion to support our community through awareness and action.

BOARD DIRECTOR

Jim Lees

Jim recently retired as Counselling Supervisor at Confederation College in Thunder Bay – after joining the College's Faculty of Child and Youth Worker Program in 1987, and pursuing his career path to the College's Counselling Department in 2001.

He has studied economics, politics, recreation, social work and community development.

Jim, along with Thomas Russell and Alicia Scott, generated Thunder Bay's '**respect.**' initiative – promoting equality, inclusion, diversity and multiculturalism – demonstrating leadership to foster respect for others. The City of Thunder Bay presents annual awards to recipients who exemplify the principles of this initiative.

Jim has served for 12 years as an Executive Member in a variety of capacities with the Ontario College Counsellors (OCC).

In May 2016, a Lifetime Achievement Award was created by his OCC colleagues in Jim's honour – presented to him in acknowledgement of his dedication, vast accomplishments, and the integral role he has played in several ground-breaking initiatives for both Confederation College and the provincial post-secondary environment (including 'safeTALK' suicide prevention project; an analysis of counselling services in all 24 Ontario Colleges; 'Bridging the Distance' regional campus video project; and the lead developer of a 'Student Mental Health and Well-Being Strategy' which was launched in May 2015).

BOARD DIRECTOR

Michelle Probizanski

Michelle is the Superintendent of Education for Lakehead Public Schools. She currently serves as a Director and as an executive of the Board for Creighton Youth Services. She has expansive Board involvement at Lakehead District School Board (LDSB) as a Superintendent, and former elementary and secondary principal.

Michelle volunteers extensively in community training groups in a strengths-based approach to leading, teaching, learning and parenting. She also volunteers her time to train other organizations.

She works in collaborative partnerships on a variety of projects, and initiatives with a variety of community organizations, including many child centred organizations. These included successful pilots for student and parent mental health.

Her passion is advocating for children to ensure that they are set up with the opportunities to succeed no matter the circumstances.

August 2020

