



# NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Report to the Membership

June 17, 2025

As recommended by the 2025/26 Nominating Committee.  
Chaired by Robert Tomek, Past Chair.



*Inspiring Possibilities*

## Current Board of Directors (2024/25)

(the late) Sue Desjarlais	Chair
Chad Sutherland	1 <sup>st</sup> Vice Chair
Michelle Mastellotto	2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair
Gillian Heisz	Treasurer
Robert Tomek	Past Chair (ex-officio)
Diane Bourbeau	Director
Ron Giofu	Director
Sharon O'Hagan-Wong	Director
Ian Phillips	Director
Raymond Renaud	Director
Brianne Taggart	Director
Secretary to the Board:	Karen Bolger

### Board members whose term expires June 2025:

Ron Giofu  
Gillian Heisz  
Michelle Mastellotto  
Brianne Taggart



## Nominating Committee Report – June, 2025

### Nominating Committee Members

- Robert Tomek, Chair
- Sharon O'Hagan-Wong, representing the Board of Directors
- Franca Bonanno, member
- Audrey Bajic, member
- Dan Gemus, member

### Staff Support:

- Karen Bolger, Executive Director
- Linda Hurst, Executive Assistant

The Nominating Committee met twice to determine the list of nominees to the 2025/26 Board of Directors.

There are four two-year terms expiring on the Board of Directors. Four current Board members will stand for another two year term.

Resumes of the following nominees to the 2025/26 Board of Directors follow for:

- Ron Giofu
- Gillian Heisz
- Michelle Mastellotto
- Brianne Taggart

## About the Candidates Standing for Re-Election and/or Election to the Board in June, 2025

- All four candidates are current Board members who are pleased to stand for re-election and continue their outstanding contributions to the agency.

<p><b>Ron Giofu</b> Editor, Reporter, Co-Publisher, River Town Times</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ron joined the Board of Directors in 2012</li> <li>▪ He has held positions on the Executive Committee for much of his time on the board (2013-2021), most recently as the Past Chair. He currently is serving as a director.</li> <li>▪ As a long time local journalist, Ron's involvement with Community Living Essex County predates his work on the Board given his long standing media coverage of local events.</li> <li>▪ Ron has been a member of several agencies and continues to cover many of our stories and events for the River Town Times, where he is now the Editor and Co-Publisher.</li> <li>▪ In March 2025, Ron became a recipient of the King Charles III Coronation Medal.</li> <li>▪ Born and raised in Essex County, Ron has lived in Amherstburg since 1995.</li> <li>▪ Ron is pleased to stand for election and a return to the Board to continue his meaningful contributions. His experience, insight, and knowledge make him a very valuable candidate</li> </ul>
<p><b>Gillian Heisz</b> Vice President, Finance and Operations University of Windsor</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Gillian is seeking her fourth nomination to the Board of Directors and has served as Treasurer since 2019.</li> <li>▪ She is a resident of Amherstburg.</li> <li>▪ Gillian is a CPA, CA (Chartered Accountant) in good standing and holds an HBA from the Ivey Business School (Western University)</li> <li>▪ Gillian has 14 years' experience in financial accounting, audit and financial reporting practices and has been employed at the University of Windsor since 2015. Gillian is the Vice-President, Finance &amp; Operations, where she is responsible for institutional budgeting and planning, financial reporting, campus safety, risk, capital projects, maintenance and facilities.</li> <li>▪ Previous to her time at University of Windsor, Gillian was a Manager in the Audit &amp; Assurance practice at EY LLP where she provided assurance and financial consulting services to dozens of not-for-profit organizations in Ontario</li> <li>▪ Her professional experience includes proven communication and leadership skills along with exceptional insights into the financial challenges and risk management encountered by not-for-profit organizations.</li> <li>▪ Gillian is a life long learner, very active in her community and is a frequent volunteer.</li> <li>▪ Gillian's expertise, experience, energy and enthusiasm will continue to greatly benefit Community Living Essex County.</li> </ul>

<p><b>Michelle Mastellotto</b> Parent</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Michelle is pleased to stand for a third term on the Board of Directors. Michelle is currently on the Executive Committee of the Board in the position of 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair.</li> <li>▪ Michelle has a degree in Mathematics and Engineering from Queen's University and is now retired after over 27 years at Green Shield Canada as a Systems Engineer with a specialty in IT security, privacy and governance.</li> <li>▪ Michelle is a resident of Tecumseh where she and her husband raised three children. Their oldest son has an intellectual disability with a dual diagnosis and has been receiving supports and services from Community Living Essex County since May 2009.</li> <li>▪ Michelle is an active fundraiser and volunteer and has supported many organizations, including Community Living Essex County.</li> <li>▪ She was on the Board of Directors at the Windsor Essex Down Syndrome Association for over 20 years. She currently serves on the Board of Directors of a local bird observatory and is a past Board member for a local cycling organization.</li> <li>▪ Michelle has a wealth of valuable experience both professionally and personally. She is looking forward to continuing to contribute to the Board of Directors.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Brianne Taggart</b> <b>Self Advocate</b> <b>Self Employed</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Brianne is seeking her third term on the Board of Directors.</li> <li>▪ She is a resident of Kingsville, is self employed and owns Brianne's Art Creations and Photography.</li> <li>▪ Brianne is active on social media and her artwork has appeared at many art shows. She is a regular vendor and volunteer at local festivals. She is also an art teacher having hosted many paint classes both in person and virtually.</li> <li>▪ She is an active member of the Ruthven Apple Festival Steering Committee and the Speaking Out Conference Planning Committee.</li> <li>▪ Brianne Joined New Day, Leaders of Today in 2017 and is currently the President. She is an excellent role model and works to enhance the lives of others and ensure peoples' voices are heard.</li> <li>▪ Brianne was elected to the Council of Community Living Ontario in 2024 and her involvement, learning and advocacy with the Council has been invaluable.</li> <li>▪ Brianne provides written reports with updates for both New Day and the Council, CLO for each Board meeting.</li> <li>▪ Given Brianne's experience, advocacy and skills she continues to be an ideal candidate who will continue to be a valuable, contributing member of the Board.</li> </ul>