



## NOMINATIONS TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

A “Call for Applications” to the Board of Directors and Resolutions for AGM 2025 were included in the Winter 2025 Volume 4 issue of *Child Care Bridges*. Applications were evaluated to ensure collective experiences and perspectives reflect the diversity of MCCA’s membership, including that of Child Care Assistant, Early Childhood Educator, Supervisor, Inclusion Facilitator, Executive Director, Family Child Care Provider, Nursery School, Educator/Instructor. We seek applicants who have knowledge in a wide variety of areas important to the governance of MCCA, including financial management; human resources; business; public relations; communications; fundraising; current or former board memberships; political; public speaking; national, rural, and northern child care; and fluency in French. MCCA strives to ensure diversity and inclusion are embedded and reflected in the mission and vision of MCCA in all aspects.

The following applications to the Board of Directors were received by the closing date of January 31, 2026.

### **Two Year Term AGM 2026 – AGM 2028**

**Position: President Elect**

**Nominee: Mariëlla Carr**

Mariëlla, ECE III, has been in Early Learning and Child Care since 1990. She is currently the Executive Director of Prairie Nature Children’s Centre. Mariëlla has been on MCCA’s Ethics Committee since 2008 and on the Provincial Board of Directors and Public Policy & Professionalism Committee since 2022. Mariëlla is a COSPC (Circle of Security Parent and Classroom) Facilitator through Circle of Security International. She is a founding member of the World Forum on Early Care and Education Joyful Organization working group. She is passionate about *Reconnecting Children with Nature and Inclusive Practice*.

**Position: Secretary-Treasurer**

**Nominee: Susana Lam**

With over 30 years of experience in Early Learning and Child Care, Susana has spent most of her ECE career and professional journey at Seven Oaks Day Care Centre, where she is currently serves as the Executive Director. She is a passionate advocate for inclusion, believing every child deserves to be seen, valued, and supported. Susana is deeply committed to mentoring and empowering educators to be the best they can be.

**Position: Director of Board Operations & Development**

**Nominee: Adam Manicom**

Adam has been working in Early Learning and Child Care for the past 24 years and has spent his time working with all ages of children. Passionate about professional development and diversity in the workforce, Adam spends time supporting, developing, and executing strategies to create a positive space for staff, children and families.

**Position: Director of Public Policy & Professionalism**

**Nominee: April Kalyniuk**

April is an ECE III, graduating from the class of 1980. She has been retired since October of 2024. In her career she has seen the sector moving slowly towards becoming a system like education or health care; there is a long way to go but, good things take time. April has held various positions throughout her profession – frontline ECE, supervisor, Assistant Director and for most of her career, a Director. She has always been an advocate for staff, families and most of all the children. She has spent all of her career involved with MCCA and CCCF in many roles. She continues in these roles now as a retiree believing that you must look at where you have come from to get where you are going. April recognizes that the work that needs to be done is a vital and pressing today as it was all those years ago when she entered the profession.

**One Year Term  
AGM 2026 – AGM 2027**

**Position: Member at Large**

**Nominee: Charanjit Singh**

Charanjit has been a member of the MCCA for over 20 years, with more than 30 years of experience in the field of Early Childhood Education. She has spent her entire career at Huron Child Care Inc., where she currently serves as the Administrative Director. She is deeply passionate about providing high-quality child care in Manitoba, creating a system in which families not only feel safe entrusting their children, but also feel proud to be a part of. Charanjit strongly believes that delivering quality care to children begins with investing in the future of Early Childhood Educators in Manitoba.

**Position: Member at Large**

**Nominee: Cortney Sim**

Cortney has been in the Early Learning field for 19 years in various roles. She is currently the Executive Director of Sunny Mountain Day Care Centre. When she first entered the profession, she thought of it as a job, but as the years went on and the more experience she gained, it turned into a passion. Cortney deeply values the impact that ECEs get to make on children, families, and the communities that we are a part of. She is amazed by all of the progress that has currently been made in the sector and is excited to see where it goes!

**Position: Member at Large**

**Nominee: Diana Metrik**

Diana, ECE III, is the Assistant Director at Early Grey Children's Centre with over 20 years of experience in Early Childhood Education. She immigrated to Canada in 2003 and has built a career grounded in leadership, advocacy, and service to children and families. Diana received her education in Russia, where she worked as an elementary school teacher, and in Israel, where she taught Judaism and History before continuing her professional journey in Canada. She has served on MCCA's Child Care Benefits Committee for 12 years and on the Conference Committee since 2018, contributing to sector-wide collaboration and discussions. She speaks three languages and brings a strong multicultural perspective to her work. Diana is a proud grandmother and is deeply committed to creating supportive, inclusive environments for children and families.

**Position: Member at Large**

**Nominee: Jennifer Heslop**

Jen is a multi-site Child Care Director with over 20 years of experience in Manitoba's Early Learning and Child Care sector. She has worked as a frontline educator, supervisor, and is active involved in educator training, practicum supervision, and mentorship. Jen brings a strong operational lens and collaborative leadership style, with a passion for workforce sustainability, rural equity, and high-quality programming. She currently serves on the MCCA School Age Committee and is proud to be nominated by the YMCA-YWCA of Winnipeg.

The following directors will remain on the board to complete their terms:

Cathy Gardiner	President	2026-2028*
Tracy Cosser	Past President	2026-2028**
Brenda Gill	Director of Branch Services	2026-2028
Janice Delf	Director	2026-2028
Michelle Normandeau	Director	2026-2028

\*Due to the current vacancy of President-Elect, Cathy Gardiner has agreed to assume the position of President for a 2<sup>nd</sup> term.

\*\*The Past President will be vacant as Lynda Raible's term will be complete. This is a non-elected position. Tracy Cosser, a current board member, will assume the position of Past President as a previous President to the Association.

Our deepest gratitude to the following Board Members who will be resigning ~

Caryn LaFlèche (2003 – 2026)  
Fernanda Hodgson (2013 – 2026)  
Lynda Raible (2017 – 2026)  
Laureen Brandson (2020 – 2026)

For your collective 51 years of volunteerism with  
Manitoba Child Care Association's Provincial Board of Directors.  
We also thank you for your commitment, support and advocacy of MCCA's work,  
as well as to Manitoba's  
early learning and child care profession.

*Merçi. Thank you. Miigwetch.*