

Bios of QCC Board of Director Nominees



Abby Katz Starr

Abby Katz Starr has just retired from the Ontario Public Service as the Assistant Deputy Minister for the Seniors Policy and Programs Division of the Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility.

Abby has an extensive background in seniors' issues, beginning her career as a social worker with a gerontology focus working in both institutional as well as community settings.

Abby has been with the OPS for over 26 years in a variety of different ministries, including Ministry of Government Services, as the Director of Corporate Policy, the Ontario Women's Directorate, Ministry of Community and Social Services (Child Abuse prevention), The Ministry of the Attorney General, in the Office of the Public Guardian and Trustee/Family Justice Division, The Children's Lawyer, the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care as the Registrar of the Health Services and Health Professions Appeal and Review Boards as well as the Chief Operating Officer for the Health Boards Secretariat, and over a very public and high profile period, at the Ministry of Public Infrastructure Renewal as the Manager of Gaming Policy.

Abby has extensive experience in organizational leadership, regulatory policy, corporate governance, policy development as well as strategic and corporate planning and reporting. She is recognized for her leadership within and outside OPS for building consensus, and for achieving results on complex projects.



Bernadette De Souza

With over 30 years as a senior leader in the Ontario Public Service (OPS), the not-for-profit sector and international agencies, Bernadette's career has focused on leading and implementing major transformational initiatives, with a focus on people impacts.

As Director of the OSS 5-year Strategic Blueprint, she leads a team of professionals who provide strategic advice and support that will propel OSS forward as it evolves to become the best provider of business solutions to the OPS.

Prior to this role, as Director of the Transformation Consulting Services Branch (TCSB), she was responsible for building transformation capacity across the OPS and promoting the use of best practice and shared learning in alignment with enterprise goals.

	<p>Before TCSB, Bernadette was Service Ontario’s Program Director for Research, Stakeholder and International Relations, in a unique partnership between the OPS and the Institute for Citizen-Centred Service (ICCS).</p> <p>Before moving to Canada, Bernadette was an international diplomat, working in liaison, program management and disbursement roles at the United Nations New York, the U.N. (FAO) in Rome, Italy, the World Bank in Washington D.C., and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.</p>
	<p>Paul Byron BA, MMCCU, LLIF, CIP, CLU</p> <p>Paul is semi-retired after a 34-year career with one of Canada’s largest cooperative insurers. Part of his responsibilities included leading teams that built value-added affinity insurance programs for some of Canada’s largest cooperative, voluntary nonprofit and federative organizations.</p> <p>In addition to his insurance industry designations, Paul’s Masters of Management (St. Mary’s) has a specialty in coops and credit unions.</p> <p>Paul is convinced that well governed and mission focused voluntary nonprofit and cooperatively owned organizations are a cornerstone of healthy, stable, caring communities. He is actively using much of his time to help organizations provide their essential services to members and the broader community.</p> <p>Paul is an active volunteer including giving time as a national board director of one of Canada’s largest youth serving organizations. He also has a reputation of being easy to convince to “roll up his sleeves” to contribute to any endeavour that makes his community safer and healthier.</p> <p>Paul and his wife Lise have two grown sons. They enjoy spending time at their cottage in northern Ontario, wood working and wintering in the south.</p>