

## **SLATE OF NOMINEES**

### ***for OMSSA's 2020-2022 Board of Directors***

---

#### **Cathy Cousins**

**Director, Homelessness and Community Engagement**  
**REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA**



Cathy has previous experience on the OMSSA Board and is currently part of the OMSSA Executive Committee as Vice President. She holds an Honors Commerce Degree, CPA, CA, and worked for the Region of Niagara in Corporate Services for 10 years until 2005, when she began to hold a variety of roles in Community Services including Director of Support Services, Acting Commissioner, and Director of Homelessness Services and Community Engagement. She has experience with labour negotiations and job evaluation, and involvement in a variety of committees with OFMEM for emergency management and emergency social services. She is skilled in budget preparation and management, financial reporting and committee presentations.

Prior to joining the OMSSA Board, Cathy participated in various OMSSA networks and assisted with special projects for OMSSA, such as the funding formula changes for social assistance. The areas of OMSSA's board work that are of particular interest to Cathy are housing and homelessness, financial stability of the human services sector, human services integration, emergency social services, and integration opportunities with MOH, in particular mental health and addictions supports for clients.

---

#### **Cheryl Faber**

**Director, Social Assistance | DISTRICT OF MUSKOKA**



Cheryl holds the role of Director, Social Assistance in the Community and Planning Services Department with the District Municipality of Muskoka. Since March 2016, she has held various portfolios at the District, leading out on innovative and collaborative human services initiatives. Most recently she collaborated with her team to manage change as a prototype municipality with the transformation of Ontario Works and the Employment Services Transformation. She had an interim role of Director, Children and Seniors' Services. She also previously worked with the lead for Muskoka Health Link, to collaboratively develop the Muskoka Community Health Hubs, instrumental in Long-Term Care development. This work was of note to the Project Director for the Muskoka and Area Health System Transformation project which led to the establishment of an Ontario

Health Team in Muskoka.

---

Prior to working with the District, Cheryl was with the North Simcoe Muskoka Local Health Integration (NSM LHIN) for 10 years. Her portfolio encompassed areas of strategic planning, stakeholder engagement and system integration, leading out on many change and health services transformation initiatives across the region. Cheryl also brings experience working with the Ontario Public Service, as the Regional Consultant serving London and Middlesex Counties, with the Ministries of Citizenship and Immigration, Culture and Health Promotion.

Cheryl has a Masters level education prepared in Leadership, along with passion, commitment and drive to achieve positive outcomes and make improvements. Cheryl is intrigued with the opportunities that lay ahead for OMSSA and to build on the human services leadership momentum gained during the pandemic.

---

## James Lapierre

**Director, Employment & Social Services | CITY OF TORONTO**



As part of his progressive career development at the City of Toronto, James has played leadership roles in a number of key City workforce development and human services projects that have resulted in innovative programs and services, financial and resource efficiencies, and government and community stakeholder partnerships, ultimately leading to improved social and economic outcomes for city residents and businesses. Some notable examples of these projects include: the implementation of the City's Workforce Development Strategy; the development and implementation of the City of Toronto's Social Procurement Policy and Program; and the development and implementation of a construction sector workforce development initiative aimed at increasing inclusivity and diversity in the skilled trades, called Construction Connections, for which he led the

development of an intergovernmental MOU, a multi-stakeholder governance structure, and an integrated service delivery model. James has also played a lead role in the City of Toronto's Human Services Integration work throughout 2019 and 2020.

James possesses a Specialized Bachelor of Arts in Psychology with a focus on organizational behaviour from York University (2002), as well as a Certificate in Project Management from the University of Toronto in Mississauga (2014). In 2019 he achieved a Graduate Diploma in Public Administration (GDPA) from the University of Western Ontario where he received the Ron Farrow Academic Award for achieving the highest grade in the program. He is also a Metcalf Foundation Toronto Sector Skills Academy Fellow (2017).

James had a leadership role in supporting the development and delivery of the OMSSA 2019 Employment Forum in Toronto as a member of the planning committee. The two areas of OMSSA's Board's work that he is most interested in are Policy and Issues Management, and Partnership and Collaboration, with the aim of increasing diversity, inclusion and accessibility across policies, programs and practices.

## Shelley VanBuskirk

### Director, Housing | CITY OF OTTAWA



Shelley is currently on the OMSSA Board of Directors effective 2018. She has a 26-year career in a human-services setting and is skilled in strategic, system planning, partnership development and change management. She has experience at all levels over multiple services areas in the City's Community and Social Services Department (Ontario Works, Employment Services, Housing Services). Shelley is currently the Director of Housing for the City of Ottawa, a position she has held since 2016 and was previously the Program Manager of the Homelessness Programs and Residential Services Homes Branch since 2011. Shelley's is adept at managing political/stakeholder relations, has significant budget experience, and is an experienced presenter and media spokesperson.

Shelley is a graduate of Carleton University (Law/Psychology). Shelley also has a Certificate in Municipal Management from Schulich, York University, and leadership training from the Telfer School of Business, University of Ottawa.

OMSSA's work around housing and homelessness is of particular interest to Shelley. The opportunity to be involved in influencing this work at a municipal, provincial, and federal level is one of her passions.

---

## Heidy Van Dyk

### Director, Social Services & Housing | NORFOLK COUNTY



As the Director of Social Services & Housing, Heidy manages the administration of the Ontario Works, Children's Services, Housing Services and Homeless Prevention Services programs for the Counties of Haldimand and Norfolk. This gives her knowledge and experience with the program areas under the responsibility of the Consolidated Municipal Services Manager. She currently participates in OMSSA Policy Advisory Committee meetings and is familiar with OMSSA's structure and mandate.

Heidy has been invited to participate on various Service Manager engagement tables by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing and provided input to the Ministry on housing policy related matters, such as the Long Term Affordable Housing Strategy, Community

Housing renewal and the Special Priority Policy statement. Heidy brings a unique perspective as a Service Manager from a smaller and rural area.

Heidy served one term as a Ward Councillor for Norfolk County from 2006-2010 and chose not to seek re-election to pursue studies in the Master of Public Administration program at Western University. Previously she also sat on the Board of Directors of a local community living agency, Community Living ACCESS Support Services as a family member of a person who receives support.



Heidy has been employed with Norfolk County in the Health & Social Services Division since January 2013. She was initially hired as the Manager of Social Housing and in 2015 took on the role of Director of Social Services and Housing as part of a pilot to pursue human services integration in Ontario Works, Children's Services, Housing and Homeless Prevention Services. Previous to her employment with Norfolk County, she was employed for 15 years with Haldimand & Norfolk Women's Services in various roles supporting women who have experienced domestic violence, and their children, including the role of Residential Services Manager for the 19 bed Violence Against Women shelter.

Heidy is most interested in OMSSA's work in policy, governmental relations and advocacy.