PROFILES OF MID-TERM BOARD MEMBERS 2025

# Claudette Paul Timmins

Claudette has been on other boards for at least 6 years total. She has lived experience living on reserve for 12 years and work experience on reserve for 16 years. On and off reserve, she has been an advocate for marginalized indigenous people including those with disabilities in such roles as a National Native Drug and Alcohol Program worker (NNADAP - addictions worker), an Early Childhood Educator, a Family Support worker, an Aboriginal Best Start Service Connector, and in her current role as an Indigenous Student Advisor for the District School Board Ontario North East (DSBONE). She currently teaches the Cree language and continues to advocate for those that need her to be their voice.

# Dolly Menna-Dack Toronto

Dolly is the Senior Bioethicist at Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital, the Manager of the Youth Engagement Strategy, and the Interim Vice-Chair of the Research Ethics Board.

She is particularly interested in pediatric rehabilitation issues that arise in both clinical care and research with children and youth with chronic illness and disabilities. Dolly was the first former patient to join the SickKids Research Ethics Board as a Community Member and has held progressive leadership positions on REBs since, including Ethics member, Vice-Chair and Interim Chair. Dolly has over fifteen years’ experience on pediatric research ethics boards, acute and rehabilitation focused boards as well provincial review boards.

Dolly is a nationally and internationally sought after leader in Lived Experience roles and has been the Youth Engagement Strategy Lead at Holland Bloorview since its inception in 2012. Dolly has extensive experience training and supporting youth and young adults in advocacy and partnering in the areas of service & care delivery, teaching & education of healthcare providers, clients & families, as well as research and policy.

Dolly’s own lived experience of growing up with a physical disability led her to advocate for a Lived Experience role on the clinical healthcare teams. Dolly created the Youth Facilitator role, which has been Ministry-funded since 2006 at Holland Bloorview. She also supported the implementation of the Youth Facilitator role at Toronto Rehab, UHN.

# Jason Mitschele Toronto

Jason Mitschele has been practicing law as a Federal Prosecutor since 2003 for the Public Prosecution Service of Canada. His practice involves the prosecution of firearms and narcotics offences. He currently leads the Toronto Superior Court Litigation Team where he manages a team of over 20 prosecutors conducting jury trials at the 361 University Avenue courthouse.

He previously managed the Integrated Road Team where he led a team that prosecutes wiretap and large-scale prosecutions. He graduated from the Faculty of Law at the University of Toronto in 2002.

Jason is a proud advocate for the rights of persons with disabilities and contributes to the following organizations as:

* National Advisor for Persons with Disabilities for the Public Prosecution Service of Canada
* Board Chair, ARCH Disability Law Centre
* Member of the Ontario Courts Accessibility Committee, Vice Chair, Criminal Law Practice Group of the Advocates Society
* Member of the Customer Standards Development Committee established under the Accessibility for Ontarians With Disabilities Act
* Past Member, of the Toronto Accessibility Advisory Committee
* Director for the Canadian National Institute for the Blind Foundation (CNIB)

Jason has been a member of the Trial Advocacy Teaching Team since 2018. In July, 2019, Jason was proud and honoured to be the recipient of the National Heads of Prosecution Courage and Perseverance Award in Quebec City. Jason continues to argue criminal cases at Provincial Court, The Superior Court of Justice and the Ontario Court of Appeal.

# Jennifer Hiseler Toronto

Jennifer is an accessibility specialist with a background in the built environment, training, and policy work around the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act. She is a graduate of the Accessible Media Production programme at Mohawk College and works with the City of Toronto in the People and Equity Division.

Other experience with accessibility, disability, and inclusion comes from her education as an Orthotic and Prosthetic technician, work as a custom seating technician for high technology wheelchairs, and volunteer involvement with various organizations, primarily with #a11yTO (or Accessibility Toronto). Jenny also wears a prosthesis and always has. This lived experience brings insight and depth to her professional and volunteer work.

# Kathryn Underwood Toronto

Dr. Kathryn Underwood is a professor in the School of Early Childhood Studies at Toronto Metropolitan University. Dr. Underwood’s interests are in disabled children and their families’ experiences and contributions to our understanding of social services, social life, and society. The focus of her program of research has been on how constructions of disability in early childhood programs and care, early intervention, and health and social service contexts are used to organize children, with particular interest in intersectional identities of all disabled children. Dr. Underwood has conducted a number of studies that focus on parent viewpoints and the work of families to engage with institutions.

# Michael Samakayi Toronto

Michael is a passionate advocate for diversity with a strong commitment to creating inclusive work environments. Currently working as an Employment Consultant at Canadian Hearing Services and services as the President Deaf Youth Canada, Michael brings a deep understanding of how to transform corporate culture, ensuring it is positive, inclusive, and supportive of all individuals. He is highly engaged, intuitive, and collaborative, with a proven track record of executing multiple projects with integrity and excellence.

Michael’s passion for promoting accessibility and equity is reflected in his diverse experience, including advocating for the promotion of ASL classes at the University of Toronto under the Linguistics department. As a graduate with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from the University of Toronto, Michael has demonstrated his dedication to both his academic and professional pursuits. His lifelong dream is to run for public office, where he aspires to further his impact on creating equitable and inclusive environments for all. He has a strong analytical ability to deliver tailored solutions that drive social impact within communities and has successfully created and implemented diversity and inclusion initiatives across various organizations.

In his free time, Michael loves to volunteer within the Deaf community, where he continues to make a significant impact. His strategic thinking, strong communication, and leadership skills make him a valuable asset in any role focused on advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion.

# Paul Scotland Toronto

Paul was born and raised in Toronto, Ontario with the neuro tube birth defect, Spina Bifida & Hydrocephalus.  He hold an Honours, Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from York University and graduated from the University of Ottawa, Faculty of Law.

He has an interest in promoting and growing equality seeking groups and wants to see the disabled community continue to visibly advocate for breaking down barriers that impede accessibility to a society and environment responsive to equity, diversity and inclusion everywhere!

He is a member of the Criminal Lawyers Association, Diversity Committee; Criminal Lawyers Association, Abilities Discussion Group; and, the City of Richmond Hill, Accessibility Committee.