

Board of Directors

As a registered charity, the Adoption Council of Ontario has a volunteer Board of Directors. Each member contributes freely their time, energy, skills, and knowledge to provide governance and leadership to the ACO. We do this by having monthly Board meetings as well as operating three standing committees: **Finance Committee, Governance Committee, and Fund Development Committee**. (link the Terms of Reference to each of these please) Additional committees are formed on an ad hoc basis when needed.

We are most fortunate to have the following individuals serving as Board Members for 2010-2011:

Chair: Kirsten Schmidt-Chamberlain

Kirsten is an adoptive parent. She adopted two of her sons in 2007 through Native Child & Family Services and has one biological son. Kirsten works in a leadership role in the hospice palliative care field in the Central East LHIN Region. She has a Master's degree and is working to complete her Graduate Certificate in Human Resource Management. In 2009, Kirsten was awarded the Ajax-Pickering Board of Trade Business Person of the Year. Kirsten has volunteered in a variety of capacities within the non-profit sector – primarily focusing on marginalized people (homelessness, violence against women, Native issues, HIV/AIDS). She and her spouse, Liz, live in Pickering. To contact Kirsten, please email chair@adoption.on.ca



Vice Chair: Denney Morrison

Denney Morrison is a husband and father. He became a parent through a private domestic adoption in 2007. His volunteer experience extends beyond 15 years in many capacities with a local baseball/ softball association and with his employer. After becoming a parent, Denney made a decision to devote his energy in ways to support the adoption community. He has been a panelist at the “how to adopt” seminars and is a member of the Adoptwalk committee. Professionally, Denney is an Assistant Vice President in the Cayman and Alternative Investment department with State Street Corporation.

Get to know Denney

Favorite quote: “do, or do not, there is not ‘try”, Yoda

Favorite book: Give a little, Wendy Smith

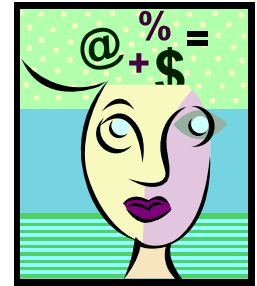
Favorite food: Pizza

Favorite pastime: Cycling with my son and wife



Treasurer: Carolyn Ling

Carolyn is a Chartered Accountant working in the tax group of a large insurance company. With over 12 years of experience Carolyn brings the financial discipline to the ACO. She is the adoptive mother of a wonderful little boy who joined the family through a private domestic adoption. Carolyn and her family have the fortunate opportunity to be part of an open adoption. She is active and passionate around adoption issues.



Secretary: Daniela Rodrigo

Daniela works in Fund Development within the charitable sector.



Christina Fox

Christina is a Chartered Accountant in Ontario and a Certified Public Accountant (Connecticut). She is a senior manager with PricewaterhouseCoopers in the financial services and audit assurance practice. She has over ten years of experience working to help small to large business with accounting, financial reporting and regulatory matters. Prior to joining the board, Christina has volunteered with a number of local charities. In 2009, she received a Volunteer of the Year award from her employer for her commitment and role in organizing a community event aimed at raising awareness and funds for a local charity devoted to helping children who have faced abuse. Christina is a proud adoptive parent and she and her family reside in southern Etobicoke.



Debbie Jamieson

In her role providing post adoption services at the Children's Aid Society of Toronto, Debbie works extensively with adoptive families through the facilitation of parent groups, linking families to resources and the provision of post adoption and parenting support. Debbie has a particular interest and commitment to children with special needs. Prior to joining Adoption Services, Debbie was part of the Developmental Care Program within The Children's Aid Society of Toronto Child and Youth services where she worked with children and youth with special needs and complex health issues. Debbie and her husband Kryst are also the busy parents of three sons.



Chris Lafrance

Born and raised in North Bay, Ontario, Chris adopted her son from Viet Nam in September of 2001. In December of 2009 her son and her returned to Viet Nam where she was able to spend time with his first parents and all his family. Truly an amazing experience for all and she feels very honoured to be my son's mother. Professionally, Chris has worked as a Police Officer with the Toronto Police Service and later with the City of North Bay Police. Since 2004 she has operated her own paralegal firm, Legal Department Paralegal. The firm offers service from several satellite offices, with two main offices in Sudbury and my headquarters in North Bay. Chris enjoys spending time with her son. Together they enjoy biking and camping. She loves going to the movies at the theatre and reading.



Eranga Peduruarachchi

Eranga has been a Human Resources professional for over 14 years. She is currently the Manager of Human Resource and is responsible for all facets of Operational HR and some Strategic HR for kidsLINK[®] (An agency providing services to kids with behavioural and mental health challenges). Prior to this, Eranga worked in various HR capacities in the Community Care Access Centers, where she made significant contributions to the community health sector through her skilled leadership style and forward-looking vision. Eranga has significant transformative leadership experience and a passion for excellence in the Human Resource Management field. Eranga holds a Masters degree in Human Resource Management with a specialization in HR Metrics from the University of Surrey, United Kingdom and she holds the Certified Human Resources Professional (CHRP) designation from the Human Resource Professional Association.



Valerie Petroff

Valerie has been connected with the adoption community since 2002, when she and her husband began their journey to parenthood, resulting in the adoption of their toddler son from Bulgaria in 2004. She has since become even more involved with adoption, through joining the ACO Board in 2005, attending numerous adoption-related support groups and conferences, and speaking at ACO Education Days on the topic of post-adoption depression and attachment challenges. In addition to the ACO, Valerie has also volunteered her time over the years on her church's board, her son's School Council, Big Sisters/Girls Inc., and Alcohol & Drug Concerns, amongst other activities. On the professional side, Valerie is a Certified Human Resource Professional, with over 20 years of HR experience. Several years ago, she left the corporate world to devote more time to her son, and has recently resumed her HR passion through consulting for non-profit organizations.



Mary-Claire Whelpton

Mary-Claire is both a birth mother and an adult adoptee. She has an excellent open relationship with her birth son. Adoption has always been a passion of Mary-Claire's. She is very interested in helping to raise public awareness regarding birth parents and their role in adoption as well as establishing the lines of communication between birth and adoptive parents. She also brings a unique perspective as she is able to understand all sides of the adoption process due to her distinctive background. She has also been a panel participant for open adoption information sessions and welcomes any questions regarding the process. Professionally, Mary-Claire is a Naturopathic Doctor with locations in Oakville and Toronto. She looks forward to educating birth and adoptive parents on issues pertaining to health, development and behavior. Mary-Claire is also a volunteer ski instructor with Track 3, an organization that teaches skiing to children living with disabilities.



Committees

Non-board members are welcome to join committees to provide expertise in a specific area. Our current memberships on the Committees include:

Finance: Chair – Carolyn Ling, Steve McGuiness, Bruce Wood, Kirsten Schmidt-Chamberlain (ex-officio). To contact this committee, please email finance@adoption.on.ca

Fund Development: Chair – Denney Morrison, Daniela Rodrigo, Mary-Claire Whelpton, Christina Fox, Kirsten Schmidt-Chamberlain (ex-officio). To contact this committee, please email funddevelopment@adoption.on.ca

Governance: Chair – Chris Lefrance, Debbie Jamieson, Eranga Peduruarachchi, Valerie Petroff, Kirsten Schmidt-Chamberlain (ex-officio). To contact this committee, please email governance@adoption.on.ca