

Our Place Society's Board Development Committee is privileged to present the following candidates for confirmation, re-election and/or election to the Our Place Board of Directors.

The following two current Board members were appointed mid-term to fill vacancies and need to be confirmed:

Andrea Jakeman-Brown

Prior to her early retirement in 2015, Andrea was Centre Director with Scotia Private Client Group with Scotiabank, responsible for managing a team of ten wealth advisors and previously Branch Manager of Scotiabank's Victoria main branch for seven years. Because of her strong belief in the mission and values of Our Place, Andrea was the first Chair of our Advisory Cabinet, a team of business and community leaders who assisted Our Place's development team, since its inception in 2013. In addition to her extensive experience in financial services such as retail, commercial and wealth management, coupled with expertise in HR, team development, and project management, Andrea has served as Financial Services Chair with United Way, Treasurer for the Rotary Club and volunteered with the Canadian International Council and West Coast Motorcycle Ride to Live.

Kristina d'Sa

Kristina believes that the work done at Our Place, offering time and care to individuals, is changing Victoria by helping the most vulnerable find community. Kristina has served as a long time volunteer for many not for profits in Victoria including the BC Special Olympics. She has a BBA in accounting and is working to complete her CPA designation in 2016.

The following two Board members are seeking re-election, having reached the end of their current two-year terms:

Scott Daly

Scott is currently Secretary of the Our Place Board and is seeking reelection for a third two-year term. A long-time volunteer with a number of community organizations in both Victoria and his native Ottawa, Scott has been on the OPS Board since 2012 and has served as Secretary since March 2013. Scott volunteers at Our Place because he believes it's important to bring together the broader community to help alleviate the challenges faced by Victoria's most vulnerable citizens. Scott has a B.A. in political science and economics from the University of Victoria.

Bernice Kamano

Bernice is seeking reelection for a second two-year term on the Board. With an understanding of what it means to try and live life to the fullest when faced by barriers and closed doors, Bernice has unique experience and knowledge to bring to the Board of Our Place. Bernice knows her insight will help the board to better understand the concerns and needs of the First Nations community and incorporate programs what will be relevant and rewarding to everyone involved. Bernice was one of the first Legal Advocates trained by Tim Richards at TAPS (Together Against Poverty Society) office. Bernice has worked as a Native Employment Counselor for United Native Nations, and was one of the founding members of Makola Housing Society. She has also served on the Board of Directors at the Native Friendship Centre and various First Nations agencies in Victoria, and works as a Facilitator for Alternatives to Violence.

Our Place Society bylaws provide for up to 16 Board members. If the four current Board members seeking either confirmation or re-election (see previous page) are affirmed, five more individuals may be elected to bring the Board to its full complement. The following have been nominated for election to these five positions on the Our Place Board of Directors:

Karen Adams

Since changing careers a few years ago, Karen took additional training and began working in special education. Through these experiences, she has become increasingly interested in social justice issues and opportunities to help people living in vulnerable situations. Karen has an extensive thirty plus year career in accounting and financial services. Since moving to Victoria in 2004, she has worked in accounting, banking and now works as an educational assistant helping students with learning disabilities and special needs. Her volunteerism includes working currently as a facilitator and mentor for Restorative Justice Victoria and previously as Treasurer for the Victoria Highland Games Association and for Bays United FC (youth) for four years before becoming its President in 2008-09.

Bill Cantelon

Bill believes “it would be a privilege to share in the governance of a centre that embodies a socially-engaged spirituality where hope, compassion, acceptance and vision abide in harmony”. Reverend Cantelon is currently the Minister of Cordova Bay United Church. He is past Chair of Victoria Presbytery and serves on both the Victoria Downtown Churches Association and Aboriginal Neighbors. He is an ordained Minister and holds a BA in Philosophy from the University of Alberta and a Masters in Divinity from the University of Toronto.

Jill Cater

Jill is both a volunteer and family member at Our Place and grateful for “the hope, sense of belonging and belief they had in her when she didn’t believe in herself”. She believes strongly in giving back, not only the support she received but also the skills she feels fortunate to have acquired. Jill’s work experience involves a number of entrepreneurial initiatives and, more recently, with Our Place’s Peers Helping Peers program and the Society of Living Illicit Drug Users (SOLID). Her volunteerism is extensive, including serving as Secretary/Treasurer of SOLID. She is also the Founding Member of Street College, a partnership between Aids Vancouver Island (AVI) and SOLID, co-developed the entire curriculum and co-taught every class.

Brett Hayward

Brett “has seen the healing power of love and compassion” firsthand since he began financially supporting and then becoming involved with the Nanaimo Working Group on Homelessness Issues (NWGHI). As a veterinarian, he has delivered compassionate care of animals and people for 33 years, through practices that he has owned and managed. His volunteerism has included chairing the NWGHI for two years, being a Director with the Island Crisis Care Society (ICCS) for eight years and personally providing stable housing for 19 – 29 year-olds in a house now run by Island Health. Having recently moved to Victoria, Brett “sees Our Place as a great organization and facility to be involved with, and to continue his volunteer work with the marginalized and people in need” and also looks forward to assisting with Our Place’s Vets for Pets program.

Linda Ryder

Linda has volunteered at Our Place since 2011 and coordinated the Angel Gift program for the past three years, actively demonstrating her belief in our mission and values and in the work we do for and on behalf of our family. Prior to retirement, Linda worked at Colliers International as Administration Manager and initiated their first involvement as a Sponsor a Breakfast sponsor. She has served as President or Treasurer for Victoria Target Theatre Society, Colliers Care Foundation, Via Choralis Society and For the Love of Africa Society and as a member of numerous other not-for-profits including Peninsula Business Women’s Network, Ballet Victoria’s Seniors Programs Committee, Victoria Symphony and Leadership Victoria.