

## Members' biographies

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### **Michelle Aarts, M.Sc., Ph.D., Trustee, Toronto District School Board**

Hailing from a farm in rural Ontario, Michelle attended Western University and McGill for postsecondary and graduate degrees in Pharmacology and Endocrinology respectively. Michelle then moved to Toronto to pursue a research career in Neuroscience, specifically focussing on interventions and treatments for stroke. Michelle's career path took her to the University of Toronto Scarborough, continuing her neuroscience research and including teaching in Biochemistry and Molecular Endocrinology, and taking on the roles of Biosafety Coordinator and Core Facility Director. Outside of work Michelle has taken on advisory and board member roles across pharmacology research, childcare, ethics, and education advocacy. Michelle became more involved in the TDSB when her children entered the public education system, especially engaged in policy consultations and parent resources, eventually leading her to her current role as TDSB Trustee for Beaches-East York. Michelle is an active community volunteer, especially with groups that serve poverty, equity, and community health.

### **Teresa Di Felice, AVP Government & Community Relations, CAA Club Group**

Teresa is AVP of Government & Community Relations at CAA Club Group, Canada's largest CAA club. She has been with CAA since 2005. She is responsible for the overall direction and execution of the organization's advocacy strategies and programs, representing and raising awareness on relevant issues to CAA's over 2 million Members and with policy makers in Ontario. Teresa's breadth and range of knowledge on infrastructure, transportation, safety, automotive and industry issues related to CAA's work has resulted in many contributions to the development and execution of sound public policy. These include input into the province's cycling strategy, being a member of the Premier's panel on the Transit Investment Strategy, tow industry reform and on the transition team of the Mayor of Toronto, to name a few. Over the last four years Teresa has released two Conference Board of Canada reports related to how much motorists contribute to the cost of infrastructure and various tools and strategies related to mitigating congestion.

### **Dr. Charles Gardner, MD, Medical Officer of Health, Simcoe Muskoka Health Unit**

Charles has been the Medical Officer of Health (MOH) for the Simcoe Muskoka Health Unit since 2005, after having served as MOH with the Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit for seven years. Prior to that, he worked in general medical practice in Newfoundland, New Brunswick, and Zimbabwe. Charles has been the chair of the Council of Ontario Medical Officers of Health, president of the Association for Local Public Health Agencies, president of the Ontario Council for Community Health Accreditation, member of the Ontario Public Health Leadership Council, and co-chair of the Healthy Environments Both Natural and Built Table for the Ontario Public Health Sector Strategic Plan. Most recently Charles was a member of the Ontario Tobacco Control System Committee and of the Modernization of the

Smoke Free Ontario Strategy Executive Steering Committee, and is a member of the Smoke-Free Ontario Scientific Advisory Group and of the Ontario Tobacco Research Network. Charles is active personally and professionally on the promotion of health through green, compact, complete, walkable and cyclable communities.

### **Barry Horrobin, Director of Planning & Physical Resources, Windsor Police Service**

Barry is a long practicing Environmental Criminologist who regularly combines meaningful civic engagement with technical expertise to improve the safety, comfort and functionality of our built environment. In a career spanning 30+ years of experience, Barry has made a strong commitment of using social networking to develop innovative solutions to community issues that impact public safety and security. He has combined his career pursuits with widespread volunteer involvement with organizations such as United Way, Habitat for Humanity, the Windsor Historical Society serving all Canadian Veterans, and the Alzheimer's Society; along with many years as a little league and travel baseball coach. Barry has enjoyed a fulfilling career to date with the Windsor Police Service and also as an independent safety design consultant for the past 20 years. A lifelong resident of Windsor, Ontario, Barry holds undergraduate and graduate degrees in Resource Management from the University of Windsor, a diploma in Municipal Administration from St. Lawrence College, and professional planning and municipal management designations. Barry is also a board-certified expert in Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED), having obtained his training at the University of Louisville.

### **Vicky Kyriaco, CAO and GM, Ottawa Student Transportation Authority**

Vicky Kyriaco is the Chief Administrative Officer and General Manager of the Ottawa Student Transportation Authority (OSTA). OSTA provides multi-modal transportation solutions for the students of the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board and the Ottawa Catholic School Board. Vicky drove the transformation of the organization, and its transportation systems, to eliminate funding deficits and increase services for students in the Ottawa community. The Ministry of Education rated OSTA as a highly efficient consortium. Vicky was named Businesswoman of the Year in 2016. Under Vicky's leadership, OSTA has evolved into an organization that integrates sustainable mobility, and active modes of transportation, as essential components in promoting the health and well-being of children across the city today, and in the future. She has been invited to speak in various forums including the ACT Canada Sustainable Mobility Summit, the Heart and Stroke Active and Safe Routes to School Provincial Summit, and the University of Western Ontario Children's Health and the Environment Conference, among others. Previously Vicky was involved in air and ground transportation of passengers and cargo for over 25 years. She also taught French Immersion, music, and physical education.

### **Leslie Maxwell, School Travel Planning Supervisor, Student Transportation Services of Waterloo Region**

Leslie was first troubled by the state of active school travel when her children attended an elementary school stateside, where not a single child could walk because of a lack of sidewalks. To Leslie, this negatively impacted her children's physical empowerment, their sense of community, and the safety of her neighbourhood. She since moved her family into a more walkable Canadian neighbourhood, and she sees her current work in School Travel

Planning as an opportunity to work towards more walkable school communities for all families. Leslie's involvement in School Travel Planning in various capacities from the school level to the national level has given her insight into the systemic needs of this work as well as the on-the-ground delivery and the impact it has on families. She now leads a team of School Travel Planners in the Waterloo Region that is housed at the transportation consortium, sponsored by two major school boards and three lower-tier municipalities, and bolstered by various local partners. This multifaceted collaboration has led to greater continuity of programming, greater alignment of walkability practices, and strength in policy development. In Active School Travel work, words have power. Leslie holds a Master of Arts in Professional Writing and an undergraduate degree in Honours English.

### **Craig Murphy, Consortium Manager, Student Transportation Services of Thunder Bay**

Craig is the Manager of Student Transportation Services of Thunder Bay (STSTB), the transportation consortium between the Lakehead District School Board (LDSB), Thunder Bay Catholic District School Board (TBCDSB) and Conseil scolaire de district catholique des Aurores boréales (CSDCAB). Craig has spent 14 of the last 20 years within the transportation profession both in Ontario and abroad. This includes managing student transportation for a school bus operator in the Waterloo Region, managing NATO base transportation in Afghanistan and has been with STSTB since 2012, including as its manager since April 2017. Craig became interested and then enthusiastically involved in Active School Transportation soon after becoming manager of STSTB when tasked by its member school boards to research significant transportation cost savings while minimizing impact on service. Among several recommendations made to and approved by the boards was that STSTB would take a leading role in promoting AST within our school communities. Since then Craig has become a founding stakeholder in the local AST Committee and promoter its Walk Or Wheel (WOW) TBay program. Originally from Windsor, Ont. Craig has a diploma in Business Administration as well as certificates in Industrial Relations, Human Resource Management and Pupil Transportation Management.

### **Nancy Wirtz, Senior Specialist, Cancer Prevention, Canadian Cancer Society**

Nancy has more than 10 years' experience in Health Promotion/Recreational Programming, and a passion for active living. As Senior Specialist, Cancer Prevention, Nancy's work supports Ontarians to address cancer risk factors. She is the provincial team lead for the Canadian Cancer Society's Walking School Bus program.

### **Staff Support - Green Communities Canada (GCC):**

#### **Wallace Beaton, Manager - Community Engagement & Capacity, Ontario Active School Travel**

Wallace discovered his passion for active school travel in 2007 as a parent volunteer directing bell-time traffic at his children's school. In 2009 he joined GCC as a School Travel Planning Facilitator and then Active & Safe Routes to School program manager for Ottawa where he was recognized by both the City of Ottawa and Ottawa Safety Council for his commitment to

safe, sustainable school travel. A graduate of Queen's University and Algonquin College, Wallace recently completed the Next Generation Transportation certificate at Simon Fraser University.

**Kate Berry, Program Director - Ontario Active School Travel**

Kate works with school boards, municipalities, public health and other civic organizations to promote active school travel and implement School Travel Planning in Ontario. Kate is a civil engineer and previously worked for Sustrans, a leading UK sustainable transport charity, where she managed the design and construction of active transportation infrastructure. Kate has also worked in Ontario as School Traffic Plan Coordinator for the Upper Grand District School Board, working with schools to improve traffic safety, reduce vehicle congestion, and increase student active travel.

**Mary Anna Zakula, Executive Assistant**

Mary Anna has worked at GCC since 2014. An avid (some might say rabid) proponent of active transportation, she makes the daily 5k trek to work by foot or bicycle. Prior to joining GCC, Mary Anna worked at Queen's Park.