

board nominees

2021-2022

(in alphabetical order)



Neil Cutler

Neil Cutler grew up having Left-Hemi Cerebral Palsy. As a result, he has become passionate about the quality of life and the sense of connection for people with disabilities. He is a Community Support Worker working for Nanaimo Supportive Lifestyles and has been running Nanaimo Community Dances, which has offered free/by donation dances to the Community Living BC (CLBC) community since 2006. Recently, as a result of COVID-19, these have become weekly virtual dances – drawing people from around North America. He is also a certified yoga therapy teacher, and a crisis worker who enjoys sharing wellness practices with his clients with diverse abilities. Neil believes strongly in a sense of inclusion for everyone, believes strongly in the values of NACL, and brings a strong passion for creating accessible, inclusive opportunities for the community. Neil officially joined the NACL Board as a Director on September 21, 2020.

Margaret (Marg) Fraser

Marg Fraser is the mother of Leanne, a woman who currently receives services at NACL and is a resident of our Uplands Housing Project. Marg, along with her husband Dave and her daughter Leanne, have been longstanding members of NACL – and have supported our housing project since Day One. In the last five years of her career, Marg was the manager of Nanaimo Mental Health and Addictions, and previously had an extensive career in mental health and addictions services both in Nanaimo and Victoria. In her retirement, Marg enjoys being both a member and the Treasurer of the Zonta Club of Nanaimo, which is a worldwide organization working to improve the lives of women locally and internationally through service and advocacy. Her spare time is filled with looking after her two “little” granddaughters (aged 2 and 5) – keeping her as busy as she was while working, but absolutely loving it! As stated in her application, Marg fully appreciates NACL’s work, and is extremely grateful for the support her daughter has received. She welcomes the opportunity to give back by joining the NACL Board of Directors. Marg was officially added to our Board as of December 16, 2019.

Phyllis Horn

As a parent of a daughter with Down Syndrome, Phyllis has been involved with the community of persons with developmental disabilities for about 40 years. Phyllis strongly believes that every individual can be productive in the life of the community. She supports and hopes to contribute to NACL's efforts to personalize productive plans for each of the people it serves. Phyllis is a semi-retired CPA, CMA, and currently an associate with a firm providing planning support to the farm, food, and drink manufacturing industry in BC. Phyllis has served on the Board of Directors for the United Way as both Treasurer and Vice President, and as the Treasurer for Nanaimo Citizen Advocacy Association. Phyllis was originally elected to NACL's Board of Directors on April 29, 2008, and during her tenure served as Director, Treasurer, Vice President, and President. After taking some time away in 2017 and 2018, we were very pleased to have Phyllis return to our Board on November 27, 2018.

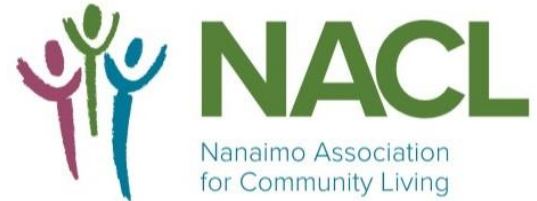


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John Jessup

John Jessup retired in 2000 from the City of Vancouver Housing Centre, where he was the Lead Housing Development Project Manager. He then came to Nanaimo to become a private housing development consultant, promoting and developing non-profit housing projects north of the Malahat, accessing Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) and BC Housing funding programs. For the past 15 years, he worked with persons served, families, and senior staff at NACL to pursue development of a townhouse project for young adults, which ultimately came to fruition as the Uplands Drive Housing Project – and had its first tenants move into their new homes as of October 2020. John has advanced degrees in Economics, Community Planning, and Performance Accounting for Police Services from UBC, Western Ontario, and Simon Fraser Universities. While at the City of Vancouver for over 25 years, he was a Senior Social Planner in the Social Planning Department, being responsible for community services and affordable housing initiatives. Given his background and long-term involvement with NACL, John is looking forward to enhancing and extending housing, support, and care services to persons with diversabilities and their families in Nanaimo. John officially joined NACL's Board of Directors on July 28, 2021.

Daniel (Dan) Johnston

Daniel (Dan) Johnston was elected to the NACL Board of Directors at their meeting held on April 27, 2015. Dan's daughter has attended our Actions Day Program for over 10 years. Along with his wife Trish, Dan is very involved with the COCO Cafe, a social enterprise they co-created with three other families in Cedar with the objective of providing employment and social integration opportunities for persons with developmental disabilities within their community. Dan is a lawyer with over 30 years of experience. While Dan's initial practice focused on corporate/commercial matters, it has evolved over the years. Dan now practices primarily as a mediator, dealing with a wide range of aboriginal, environmental, corporate/commercial, public policy, and labour issues across Canada, with a specialty in large, multi-party conflicts. With Dan's extensive legal background and social enterprise experience, we have been extremely pleased to have him on our Board.

Kirsten J. Madsen

Kirsten J. Madsen is the mother of a lovable but challenging son who has multiple diagnoses and special needs. She has been a full-time practicing trial lawyer for over 30 years. She is also a trained family mediator. She and her husband and their son relocated from Vancouver to Nanaimo in 2011 for a different life. While in Vancouver, Kirsten served on the Board of the Developmental Disabilities Foundation. Kirsten is a long-term, active volunteer with the Fragile X Research Foundation of Canada, and has been the parent liaison for a medical disability in Victoria, British Columbia for several years. Kirsten is also a past Board member of the Trial Lawyers Association of British Columbia, and has held various elected positions through the Canadian Bar Association. For many years, Kirsten was also volunteer legal counsel for a program run by the MS Society of BC. Kirsten has presented on legal topics related to disability as a lawyer, as well as from a personal perspective of having severely disabled special needs child. When not doing other things, you can find Kirsten with her son searching for animals like Canada geese, seagulls, and deer around Departure Bay. Kirsten was elected to NACL's Board of Directors at the Annual General Meeting on September 23, 2019.