

## Board of Directors - Biographies

### Co-chairs:

#### **Tony Pontes, Director of Education, Peel District School Board**

Tony Pontes assumed the role of director of education for the Peel District School Board, Canada's second largest and one of North America's fastest-growing public school systems, on March 1, 2010. With over 151,000 students, 236 schools, over 21,000 employees and a budget of over 1.5 billion dollars, the Peel board is one of the most significant and successful organizations in the Greater Toronto Area.



As a 33-year employee with the Peel board, Tony brings a network of positive relationships, extensive Peel experience and a deep understanding of community needs. His own experience immigrating to Canada as a child from Portugal gives him unique insight and a strong connection to Peel's newcomer population. Tony is committed to expanding the Peel board's work with diverse communities.

Tony lives with his wife Judi and with Kirk, Jake and Jordie. He enjoys golf, tennis and travel. Tony holds a masters degree from Brock University, undergraduate degrees from the University of Toronto, as well as supervisory officer, principal and other professional certifications.

#### **Paul Zarnke, Executive Director, Peel Children's Aid Society**

Paul Zarnke, has been the Executive Director at Peel Children's Aid Society since January 2003.

He was formerly the Executive Director at Family Service Association (FSA) of Metropolitan Toronto between 1989 and 2002 and for ten years prior to that was Executive Director of St. Christopher House a multi service Agency in Toronto.



Paul has been involved in many community initiatives over the past three decades. During this time he has had a strong interest in social policy, especially policies with the potential to improve the well-being of children and families. Paul believes strongly in the right of children to be safe, secure and in environments where they are loved and nurtured and supported to reach their full potential.

He is currently a member of the Board of Directors and Executive Committee of the Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies and co-chairs the Peel Children & Youth Initiative, a collaboration between all the providers of services to children in the Peel Region.

### **Joan Arruda, CEO, Family Day Care Services**

Joan Arruda has many years of experience as a Director and Teacher in the field of Early Learning and Care. Joan taught in the ECE diploma and post-diploma administration certificate program (continuing education) at Seneca College. Joan has worked in the multi-service sector as an Executive Director of a community-based agency that provides settlement and family support services.



As CEO of Family Day Care Services since 2004, Joan continues to be an active contributor to the field of Early Learning and Care in Ontario -- sitting at a variety of provincial and regional planning tables and acting as an advocate for the sector. Joan participated as a member of the Ministry of Education's, Early Years Implementation Advisory Group and is currently a board member of the Home Child Care Association of Ontario and co-chairs the Quality Early Learning Network.

### **Steve Asanin, Acting Deputy Chief of Police, Peel Regional Police Corporate Services**

Acting Deputy Chief, Steve Asanin joined Peel Regional Police in 1980, and worked as a uniform patrol officer in 21 Division. Following assignments in the Criminal Investigative Bureau and Homicide Bureau, where he was promoted to the rank of Sergeant, he returned to uniform supervisor and was promoted to Staff Sergeant.

After becoming an Inspector in 2003, he was assigned to the Duty Inspectors Office, then Crimes against Persons as Officer in Charge and later becoming the Officer in Charge of the Morality Bureau. In 2006, he was promoted to the rank of Superintendent and became the Executive Officer to the Chief of Police. In July 2008, he was promoted to the rank of Staff Superintendent, where he was Officer in Charge of Operations Support. In November 2009, he was Officer in Charge of Information Technology.

In November 2010, he was promoted to Acting Deputy Chief and is currently in charge of Corporate Services – a vast sector of the organization which deals with the administration side of Peel Regional Police. Acting Deputy Chief Asanin is an Honorary Chair for Cops for Cancer and is involved in supporting charitable organizations such as the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, United Way, amongst many others.

Acting Deputy Chief Asanin supports the Chief in managing the country's third-largest municipal police service, with a policing population of 1.2 million and an authorized complement of 1,900 officers and 900 civilian support staff.

### **Darius Chia, PCYI Youth Advisory Council**

Darius Chia is a second year student attending the University of Toronto Mississauga campus (UTM). Majoring in mathematics and physics, he also works as a volunteer in a research group at UTM that focuses on biophysics, specifically, at the single molecular level. In addition to academics, Darius is also heavily involved in social causes. He has been involved with the Peel Environmental Youth Alliance since November 2008, with August 2010 seeing him start his position as the PEYA Coordinator. Through his work in PEYA, Darius has been involved in many opportunities, such as sitting on the Environmental Advisory Committee of Mississauga, and creating recommendations to the City of Mississauga and a committee of the Region of Peel. Besides from PEYA, Darius is also the Vice President of Sol Music, which is a non-profit, volunteer-run organization based at UTM that provides free weekly after-school music classes to Grades 1-5 children from low-income families to foster self-confidence, creativity and discipline.



Through his involvement with PCYI, Darius hopes to be able to enhance and contribute to the great work that is already being accomplished, and is very excited to be a part of such an innovative organization that is already proving itself to be ground breaking in its approach in helping children and youth in Peel.

### **Rabbi Lawrence Englander**

Rabbi Lawrence A. Englander received his Honours B.A. degree from York University in 1970. He then attended Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion (one year in Jerusalem and four years in Cincinnati), receiving ordination as Rabbi in 1975. He is the founding Rabbi of Solel Congregation, Mississauga, and has served there since its inception in 1973.



Rabbi Englander received his Doctorate of Hebrew Letters from Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion in 1984, in the field of Jewish Mysticism and Rabbinics. He has taught in the Religious Studies Department at York University and spent a semester teaching rabbinical students at Leo Baeck College in London, England. He has written several articles on Jewish Mysticism, as well as a book, *The Mystical Study of Ruth*, published by Scholars Press. He is former Editor of the Central Conference of American Rabbis Journal.

Rabbi Englander has also played an active role in establishing two Mississauga interfaith organizations: Mississauga Food Bank, a community food bank; and Pathway, a non-profit housing corporation, of which Rabbi Englander was the founding President. In 2005 he was appointed as a Member of the Order of Canada for his work in the community.

### **Monica Grembowicz, PCYI Youth Advisory Council**

Monica Grembowicz is a recent (2010) Biological Chemistry graduate of the University of Toronto at Mississauga. Since graduating, Monica has been volunteering with human service sector to make current scientific research more accessible. She was a co-developer and speaker for the Social Planning Council of Peel's Oppression and the Brain seminar, for which she analyzed and translated recent literature and its underlying scientific concepts into a discussion-driving presentation



for social workers, teachers, Boards of Trade, employment counsellors, funders, regional councillors, and settlement agencies.

Monica served as the Social Affairs Officer (SAO) of the Erindale Society of Chemical and Physical Sciences (April 2009-April 2010) where she initiated and organized two new events, a Careers Night and first student Success Panel. Monica was awarded the 2009-10 Student Chapter Merit Award, offered by the Canadian Society of Chemistry in recognition of her initiative and originality in Student Chapter programming in chemistry.

Monica's extensive volunteer work includes sitting on the Youth Council of the Square One Youth Centre where she provided leadership and direction to programs and services, presented at a community forum, and chaired Council meetings that brought together youth, City of Mississauga Councillors and representatives of City affiliates. Monica is excited about working with PCYI's Youth Advisory Council where she hopes to contribute to the development of opportunities for children and youth in Peel.

#### **Kelly Henderson, Executive Director, Associated Youth Services of Peel**

Kelly Henderson is the Executive Director of Associated Youth Services of Peel, a multi-service organization serving the justice, children's mental health and child welfare sectors.

Kelly holds degrees from the University of Toronto, and Brock University in the areas of Exceptionality of Human Learning, Crime and Deviance, and Education (Adults).

As an instructor at Sheridan College she taught in the field of Human Services Administration, Staff Training and Development, Program Planning and Volunteer Management. As a member of a Canadian delegation, Kelly travelled to Lithuania to assist that country in the development of their youth justice system.

Kelly is an active volunteer working with non-profit/charitable organizations in the development of their strategic plans and has served as the President of United Way of Guelph and Wellington County.

#### **Monty Laskin, Executive Director, Caledon Community Services**

Monty Laskin is the Executive Director of Caledon Community Services, a health, employment, settlement and social services organization serving Caledon and surrounding communities. He has held senior positions in both the public and private sectors, having served as an Assistant Deputy Minister in the Ministry of the Attorney General, the Executive Director of Victim Services of Peel and the Director of Operations for Canadian Work and Family Services.



He's an unabashed fan of all things "children and youth," having two of his own and forever looking for ways to support their energies and interests.



**John Lohuis, BA, MBA, CMM III**

John Lohuis has over 34 years of experience in municipal/provincial governments and within the private sector. John has a Masters of Business Administration (MBA) from the University of Windsor with an Honours Bachelor of Arts from the University of Waterloo - Recreation and Business option at Wilfrid Laurier University.

John is a past President of the Ontario Parks Association, previously on the Board of Directors of Parks and Recreation Ontario, Co-Chair of the PRO Public Affairs Committee for 10 years, and is current chair of Canadian Parks Recreation Association parks advisory committee.

**Mimi Lowi-Young, CEO, LHIN Central West Local Health Integration Network**

**Sheila McWatters, Superintendent, Special Education & Support Services, Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board**

Sheila McWatters is a Senior Administrator with the Dufferin Peel Catholic District School Board. She is the Superintendent of Program where she works closely with the board teams in developing and supporting programs and services that support student achievement and well-being within a faith filled community.

Learning through collaborative inquiry, supportive relationships and community engagement staff, students, families and community come together to support success for all.

**Janet Menard, Commissioner, Human Services,  
Regional Municipality of Peel**

With more than 30 years of experience in the field of human services, Janet Menard's career has included progressive roles with the Province of Ontario, City of Toronto, Halton Region and the Region of Peel.

She joined Peel Region in 2001 as Director of Ontario Works, and was named Commissioner of Human Services in July 2009. Prior to that she served as the Director of Housing Policy and Programs.



An advocate for continuous learning, Janet's academic credentials include both human services and broader management studies at the University of Waterloo, York University, the Schulich School of Business (Toronto), Queen's University, Ryerson and Centennial College.

**Humphrey Mitchell, Executive Director, Peel Children's Centre**

Humphrey Mitchell is Executive Director of Peel Children's Centre, the second-largest children's mental health agency in Ontario. He has also held the position of Executive Director of Nexus Youth Services since Nexus formed a strategic alliance with Peel Children's Centre in 1998. Nexus is an agency which serves marginalized youth in the Region of Peel.



Humphrey has worked in professional and volunteer capacities in children's services since 1975 including: Board and task force involvement with the Child Welfare League of Canada, Child Welfare League of America (Managed Care Institute), Children's Mental Health Ontario United Nations (Canadian delegate to the 2002 Children's Summit) and International Child Welfare Federation.

Humphrey Mitchell's educational background includes bachelor-level studies in business and psychology, a Master of Social Work degree, and post-graduate studies in executive management programs. He is a Registered Social Worker.

In 2008, Humphrey was awarded the Elizabeth Manson Award by the Department of Psychiatry at the Hospital for Sick Children for his efforts over his career to provide innovative and consistently superior quality care to children and families affected by mental health problems

**Suzanne S. Mitchell, Director of Corporate Responsibility, AstraZeneca Canada Inc.**

Suzanne Senior-Mitchell is the Director of Corporate Responsibility at AstraZeneca Canada. She leads the pharmaceutical company's corporate citizenship strategy and oversees its community support initiatives, including programs focused on improving the health and well-being of children and youth.

Suzanne is the President of the Board of Directors of the Peel Children's Aid Society and has served on the boards of several community organizations. She has more than 18 years of experience in the corporate and not-for-profit sectors and has held senior management roles with major charitable organizations. She has also worked as a business lawyer with a leading Toronto law firm and as legal counsel for two Mississauga based multinational companies.

Suzanne holds an MBA and law degree from York University and a Bachelor of Arts in International Relations and Economics from the University of Toronto.

**Lauren Rennie, Director, Peel Newcomer Strategy Group**

**Dr. David Mowat, Medical Officer of Health, Peel Public Health**

Previous to his current position, he was one of three Deputy Chief Public Health Officers, fulfilling particular responsibilities for strengthening public health practice, and for the Agency's activities in regional offices across Canada.

Dr. Mowat has been the Director General, Office of Public Health Practice with responsibilities for surveillance systems, knowledge translation, the development of the public health workforce, and public health information policy, privacy and law.

Dr. Mowat joined Health Canada in 1998, moving to the Public Health Agency of Canada in 2004. Previous appointments include Consultant in Maternal and Child Health in the Public Health Branch of the Government of Newfoundland, Medical Officer of Health for Kingston and area (where he also taught in the Department of Community Health and Epidemiology and the School of Policy Studies at Queen's), and Chief Medical Officer of Health for Ontario.

Dr. Mowat received his medical training in the UK, at the University of Edinburgh, and a master's degree in public health from the University of California at Berkeley. He is also a fellow in community medicine of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada. He is an adjunct faculty member at Queen's and the University of Ottawa.



**Donna Lynn Rosa, Director of Recreation, City of Brampton, Community Services**

**Richard Sookraj, PCYI Youth Advisory Council**

Richard Sookraj is an enthusiastic and outspoken young leader with a strong desire to make youth the center of youth policy. He previously served on the board of directors for the Mayor's Youth Advisory Committee of Mississauga and also as an active member of the Mississauga Youth Plan, Mississauga Library System's Teen Advisory Group, Peel Environmental Youth Alliance and the Peel Students' Presidents Council. He coordinated the 2011 Mississauga Youth Achievement Awards and contributed to numerous community events and projects including the Mississauga Marathon, Mississauga Rotary Ribfest, Mississauga Canada Day Celebration, Healthy City Stewardship Centre and Mississauga Living Green Master Plan.

Richard graduated in 2011 as an Ontario Scholar with a diploma from the International Business and Technology Program. He is pursuing an undergraduate degree at the University of Western Ontario focusing on media and political science. Keeping his commitment to volunteerism, Richard recently helped with the Western's Shrinestarama campaign.



**Keith Tansley, Executive Director, Community Living Mississauga**

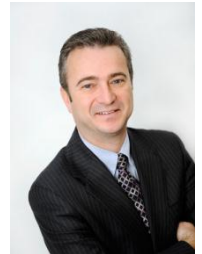
**Shelley White, President and CEO, United Way Peel Region**

Shelley White holds a Bachelor of Physical and Health Education degree from Brock University. Shelley has been the CEO of United Way of Peel Region since September 2003. She has over 20 years of experience in the non-profit sector. Prior to joining the United Way, Shelley held senior management positions with the YMCA and Kidney Foundation of Canada.

Ms. White is the chair of The Healthy City Stewardship Centre, co chair of the Peel Newcomer Strategy and Peel Poverty Reduction Committee, a member of TRIEC Board of Directors, Fair Share Peel, the Success By 6 Council of Champions, and the Peel Youth Violence Prevention Steering Committee.

**Dr. Jeff Zabudsky, Ph.D. , President and CEO,  
Sheridan Institute of Technology and Advanced Learning**

Dr. Jeff Zabudsky is Sheridan's sixth President, a position he assumed on February 1, 2010. Prior to joining Sheridan, Dr. Zabudsky worked at post-secondary institutions in Nova Scotia, Ontario and Alberta, including six years as President and CEO of Red River College in Winnipeg, Manitoba.



Dr. Zabudsky holds a Ph.D. in Educational Policy Studies from the University of Alberta, a Masters of Distance Education from Athabasca University, and a Bachelor of Applied Arts Degree in Broadcast Journalism from Ryerson University.

Since his arrival at Sheridan, Dr. Zabudsky has become actively engaged in the communities served by the college. He is Chair of the 2011 United Way of Oakville campaign cabinet, has been appointed to the campaign cabinet of the United Way of Peel, and is serving as a member of Mississauga's Healthy City Stewardship Centre. In addition, Dr. Zabudsky serves on the Brampton Board of Trade's Governing Council and is a member of the Board of Directors for the Mississauga Board of Trade and the Peel Children and Youth Initiative. He is also a member of the Halton Industry Education Council and the City of Mississauga's Post-Secondary Task Force.