

Short Bios for current slate of Directors 2020-21

Kristy Hook B.A. Hons, BHSc

Board Chair

Kristy's association with Five Counties Children's Centre began in 2005 when her eldest daughter was born with a cleft palate. FCCC provided assistance in the early days with infant feeding and later with extensive speech therapy.

The early part of Kristy's career was as a financial planner with TD Canada Trust. Later as a practising midwife, Kristy was a founding partner of Community Care Midwives. With the start of her family, Kristy chose to leave her midwifery practice due to the extensive on-call hours related to the profession and joined Lett Architects in the capacity of Administrative Principal.

Kristy has participated in a wide range of community volunteer opportunities earning a Port Hope Civic Award in 2013. Professionally, Kristy sat for several years on the Executive Committee of the Association of Ontario Midwives both as Treasurer and Vice President. She spent two years as a Community Member and one year as a Director of the Board for Northumberland Hills Hospital in Cobourg finishing in June 2017.

Adam White

Vice-Chair and Chair of the Program and Services Advisory Committee.

Adam White is a Learning Consultant responsible for French as a Second Language, English Language Learners and the New Teacher Induction Program with the Peterborough, Victoria, Northumberland and Clarington Catholic School Board. Providing support to teachers in classrooms from Kindergarten to Grade 12, he enjoys the opportunity to learn with and from teachers and students and appreciates the opportunity to help teachers deliver the best experience possible to their students. In his previous position as a Grade 4 French immersion teacher at St. Catherine Catholic Elementary School, Adam has the privilege of spending each day helping children to learn and discover the world around them.

Adam's connection to Five Counties started in December 1978 when, at the age of 9 months, he was diagnosed with cerebral palsy. Adam benefitted from many of the Centre's services including physiotherapy, occupational therapy and recreation programs. Since his days as a client, he has continued his relationship with Five Counties as a volunteer, a committee member.

Andrew Smith

Treasurer and Chair of the Finance and Personnel Committee.

Andrew Smith is the Director of Finance and Administration for the Alan Stewart Homes Ltd., a company that provides residential care for medically fragile children and young adults with complex care needs. Previously he was the Chief Financial Officer of the Boyden Global Executive Search Ottawa Inc. Andrew is a CPA, CA and holds an MBA from the Richard Ivey School of Business.

Prior to joining the Five Counties Children's Centre Board of Directors, Andrew had served on the Five Counties Children's Centre Foundation Board of Trustees as Treasurer for over a year.

Tony Doyle

Secretary

Tony Doyle was introduced to Five Counties Children's Centre five years ago, shortly after his son was born with a range of challenges. He is forever thankful for the professional and compassionate care that the Five Counties team provided to his son, who is now thriving, and family.

Tony is a highly successful communications professional with senior team-level public sector experience. His extensive background in post-secondary education, community outreach and government relations includes helping to secure millions in funding for priority projects. Currently, he is Dean of the Durham College Centre for Food, where he has responsibility for all of the Centre's post-secondary programs, its restaurant and other business operations.

Finally, Tony feels fortunate to have served on a number of different boards and committees for his community over the years.

Julie Davis

Chair of the Communications and Government Relations Committee

Julie Davis joined the Five Counties Children's Centre Board in 2016 and chairs the Communications and Government Relations Committee.

Julie's career has spanned the for-profit, public and charitable sectors. Currently, as Vice President External Relations and Advancement at Trent University, she is responsible for philanthropy, advancement services, community relations, indigenous relations, alumni affairs, and the campus master plan. Prior to Trent she was President and CEO of the Peterborough Regional Health Centre Foundation where she led two major fundraising campaigns. Her work in the charitable sector was preceded by a career in marketing and senior leadership in the packaged goods sector at Quaker Oats and Unilever Canada.

Galen Eagle

Galen Eagle joined the Five Counties Children's Centre Board in 2020 and is a member of the Communications and Government Relations Committee.

In his day job, Galen is Communications Manager at the PVNC Catholic District School Board, a position he has held since 2015. Before his move to school public relations, Galen was the Communications Manager for the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters, and prior to that he was a multi-media journalist for nearly 10 years. Galen has a journalism degree from Carleton University.

In addition to serving Five Counties, Galen is an active volunteer. He is currently vice-president of the Canadian Association of Communicators in Education (CACE) and has served communication roles on local election campaigns at both the federal and municipal level.

Cyndi Gilmer RN DHlthSc

As a nurse for over 35 years, Cyndi has worked in various clinical settings and has taken on leadership and senior roles in hospital administration, with a long-time focus on women and children's health. Currently, she is an Associate Professor in the Trent/Fleming School of Nursing as well as the Acting Director of Social Work.

Cyndi strives to better her community, volunteering her time in both Peterborough and Northumberland County, and is an active community-based researcher, interested in social justice, homelessness, and harm reduction. She is on the Board of Five Counties Children Centre as well as the Northumberland Hills Hospital, and works with the Green Wood Coalition in Port Hope supporting antipoverty and community-building work.

Cyndi has three grown children and lives in Port Hope with her husband of 36 years.

Hugh Parker

Hugh is a graduate of the University of Toronto (Trinity College), Yale University and Western University and he settled in Port Hope to practice law. He practiced general law until joining the staff of the Northumberland Children's Aid Society as in-house Legal Counsel. Hugh retired in 2007 and has significant experience as a volunteer on the Board of Directors for numerous organizations including Architectural Conservancy of Ontario, Northumberland Big Brothers and Big Sisters, Port Hope and District Hospital, Community Living West Northumberland.

Alyssa Rowe

Alyssa had speech therapy herself as a child from 2-5 years of age and thanks to her treatment team in Barrie, Ontario, she graduated with success! She now holds a Bachelor of Arts, with honours, in Psychology and a General Arts and Science degree from Algonquin College. Alyssa has been involved with working as a behavioural therapist in the past with children with autism.

Alyssa joined the Comfort Keepers Calgary team in 2013 as their Client Care Coordinator and then moved into the role of Community Development Manager. After 6 years with the Calgary office, she moved back to Ontario and settled in Peterborough, where she now owns the Peterborough Comfort Keepers alongside with her husband. Alyssa's passions involve helping others in any way she can and she is extremely dedicated to helping others through many community organizations. She sits on the Board of Inspire Women's Portrait Project and volunteers her time for Age Friendly Peterborough as well as volunteering as a Board Director at Five Counties Children's Centre.

Ziyad Sidawi

Ziyad is a Bachelor of Commerce graduate of Concordia University's John Molson School. He is a Senior Financial Analyst with Part Time CFO Services. He brings a passion for results and a work ethic second to none.

Dr. Paul Wilson

Dr. Paul Wilson is a Professor in Conservation Genomics and Forensic Science focusing on the molecular genetics of species-at-risk and served two terms as a Canada Research Chair in DNA Profiling, Forensics and Functional Genomics. Dr. Wilson did his MSc and PhD at McMaster University studying species of wolves, African cichlids and moose, and currently manages a long-term national-scale caribou genomics project.

Dr. Wilson has served on the Board of Directors for more than 15 years and in several roles including Chair.

And last but certainly not least, Paul is the proud father of four awesome children.