Dear members of the Council of Canadians,

We are pleased to present this report to members from the Nominating Committee.

There are 7 of 12 Director-at-large positions to be elected for two-year terms in 2022/23. Nominations were opened on April 20, 2022, and by May 8, 2022 we had received a nomination form from 11 candidates.

Based on an assessment, we confirm there are 9 candidates who meet the eligibility requirements for a Director-at-large position on the Board of Directors.

**Eligible Candidates**

John Cartwright  
Lily Chang  
Janice Gairey  
Joey Hartman  
Lorraine Hewlett  
Diwa Marcelino  
Bianca Mugyenyi  
George Wheeler  
Tara Seucharan
Consistent with the Council’s commitment to diversity and inclusion, the nominating committee endeavors to ensure that the final list of candidates assessed to stand for election to the board shall be diverse and reflect the vision, mission and values of the Council.

Based on information provided by candidates and their self-identification, we can confirm that this final list of candidates is diverse and reflects the vision, mission and values of the Council.

We assess diversity based on five criteria; region, gender, age, indigenous, and equity-seeking group.

**Regions:**

Region - ON-QC-NU = 6
Region - Prairies-NT = 1
Region – Atlantic = 0
Region - Pacific-YT = 2

**Gender:**
Female = 6
Male = 3
Non-binary = 0
Prefer not to answer = 0

**Age:**
18 – 29 = 0
30 – 49 = 3
50 – 69 = 4
70 + = 2
Prefer not to answer = 0
Indigenous person = 0

Member of an equity-seeking group = 5
In accordance with By-law 5.03 Qualifications (b), two nominations were ineligible because they did not submit the endorsement of at least five (5) other members endorsing their candidacy.

In accordance with By-law 6.08 Disclosure of Interest, Diwa Marcelino informed the Nominating Committee that he is currently under contract for services with the Council of Canadians for the Community Solidarity Project, and to avoid any conflict-of-interest, he will end his employment with the Council the day before the Annual Members Meeting (AMM) on June 10, 2022.

**Board Of Directors**

The Board of Directors comprises 16 positions, 12 being directors-at-large selected by the members at the AMM or other means, and 4 regional representative directors chosen by chapter members.

Consistent with the elimination of slates of candidates as recommended by the Good Governance Task Force, the Nominating Committee is mandated to ensure each candidate for director-at-large positions on the Board of Directors has an equal opportunity to be known to potential voters.

**Qualifications**

To qualify to serve on the Board of Directors as a Director-at-large, candidates need to be a member of the Council of Canadians in good standing, and have the endorsement of five other members.

Membership is available only to Canadians and those who reside in Canada who support the vision, purpose, mission and principles of the Council. In addition, the Board requires a $1 annual financial and/or in-kind contribution by each member.
Nominating Committee Mandate

The mandate of the Nominating Committee is described in the By-laws of June 2020. The committee undertakes three important activities: it promotes, receives, and assesses nominations for and from members to stand for election to director-at-large positions on the Board.

It then provides members a report with a list of eligible candidates to be circulated at least 21 days in advance of the election. The report includes the Nominating Committee’s confirmation of eligibility and assessment of each candidate.

Nominating Committee Members 2021/22

Nita Grass
Marilyn Keddy
Steven Staples
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION


The Council of Canadians. (n.d.) *About us* [Web page]. https://canadians.org/about
Cartwright, John

Toronto, Ontario

It is a great honour to serve as the Chairperson of the Council of Canadians and to be nominated for another term on the Board of Directors. In the last two years our world has faced unprecedented challenges. The COVID pandemic took millions of lives and disrupted everything around us. Frontline workers have been driven to the point of exhaustion and prices are skyrocketing while CEO’s celebrate record profits. The so-called freedom convoy occupied our nation’s capital for weeks, enabled by police and spurred on by conservative politicians. And now the tragic war in Ukraine with its terrible human cost sparking a new arms race.

Throughout this time the Council has been a steady voice reflecting the best values of Canadians from across our country. It’s not been easy mobilizing during a time of lockdown and social distancing, but our staff and our Chapters have adapted to new ways of engaging. The Council is constantly improving communications capacity and fundraising outreach to stabilize our finances.

As we shape the Strategic Plan for the next three years, the focus must be on political impact, for people, planet and democracy, and a plan for transition and renewal. How do we recruit the next generation of activists to our ranks, at a time when traditional forms of organizing are in flux? How do we ensure the Council’s message is being heard in communities across the country, including places where we have many supporters but no chapter? And how can our membership truly reflect the population of Canada in 2022 and beyond?
There is no doubt that a vibrant, healthy Council of Canadians is essential to the struggle for a more equitable and sustainable world. We see the need to challenge corporate power that distorts the economy and political decision-making. We know this is a time of anxiety and uncertainty. I listened very carefully to what people were saying about the convoy movement, and am deeply concerned that many people’s frustration is being harnessed in a dangerous way that might mirror the events south of the border, where the Tea Party success in driving politics to the right has been breath-taking.

There needs to be an answer to this anger that points to far better solutions. The Council is seen as a trusted convenor. We have been bringing together organizations and people from all walks of life to reject the politics of division, and offer a vision of building a better world together.

I am dedicated to helping rebuild the strength of our Council in every region, and grow the Council’s presence in communities large and small. I know from my own experience that we can also engage Canada’s many diverse communities in our work and our growth. As we undertake this journey for a more just world, we will make the path by walking together.

In Solidarity,

John Cartwright
I am pleased to submit my application to serve on the Board of the Council of Canadians. The Mission and Vision of the Council directly aligns with the interests of the labour movement and goes hand in hand with my over 30 years of work with my union, the Canadian Union of Public Employees as well as my current position as Secretary-Treasurer for the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC).

I am proud to be the first worker of East Asian descent elected to office at Canada's largest labour organization. The CLC brings together dozens of national and international unions, provincial and territorial federations of labour and community-based labour councils to represent more than 3 million workers across the country. My responsibilities include overseeing the CLC’s finances, guiding the work of the CLC’s Human Rights Department (including Indigenous and Disability Rights working groups), and representing the CLC at the International Labour Organization (ILO).

In addition to my role at the CLC, I also sit on the Board of Directors of United Way Centraide Canada and have been appointed to the Governing Body of the ILO.

CLC staff and labour movement activists are Council of Canadians members, supporters and activists. For years, in networks and coalitions, the CLC has pursued shared objectives and overlapping values alongside the Council of Canadians. In its own work, the CLC routinely draws on and reinforces Council of Canadians research, policy ideas, political messaging and energies. By joining the Board, I want to deepen these ties and formalize this organizational partnership.
I understand that grassroots organizing is a way to empower people, using collective action to effect social and political change. In the labour movement, we know we are stronger together.

As an Executive Officer for CUPE Local 79, I advocated for and amplified the voices of our members, highlighting the valuable public services they provide. As an Executive Board member of the Toronto and York Region Labour Council, I collaborated with public and private sector unions, community organizations and the student movement to protect these public services as well as champion public education and public healthcare. As a Trustee for the United Way of Greater Toronto, I worked with corporate, labour, government and community partners to tackle local poverty and improve the economic and social conditions for those being left behind.

Looking forward, I will continue to work with other activists to fight for a just recovery and just transition to secure a better future for us all. I will use my voice and position to help dismantle systems of oppression such as racism and colonization. I am proud of my Chinese heritage and look forward to contributing to the diversity representation at the Council.

I will bring to the Council of Canadians Board the financial and organizational management skills of my current position as CLC Secretary-Treasurer, and the experience of a social justice activist who has spent her career in the not-for-profit sector.
Gairey, Janice B

North York

The Council of Canadians advocacy has a history of dealing with the issues that affect all Canadians particularly around the economic and social justice topics that need to be addressed on a consistent basis and shared with the local, National and International world. Canada’s perspective and opinions should be part and parcel of all world discussions. I sit on the Global African World Initiative and our focus is the health and welfare of African and African descendants worldwide. I share our issues with my international colleagues around health and welfare currently focusing on COVID and how it has affected the black communities worldwide and how we move forward to address the inequities. The prevalent topic of environmental racism is also a current priority. I mention the Council of Canadian’s resources on a regular basis and how important it is to share our Canadian perspective wherever we can. I feel that my life and work experience fits with the mandate and principles of your organization and would also give me an opportunity to broaden and learn collectively with the Board and members in a transformative and healthy way.
Hartman, Joey

Mayne Island, BC

The Council of Canadians does great work, and it's a privilege to serve on its national board. Since first being elected in 2018 I have been the Recording Secretary. In this role I produce summary reports for Chapters of every board meeting, and participate on the Executive Committee. I was a member of the Good Governance Task Force that led to improved practices, stability and a more inclusive and forward-looking organization. In addition, I have represented the board in labour relations matters and helped to establish a respectful relationship with the unionized staff representatives.
Hewlett, Lorraine

Victoria BC

I have a B.A. and M.A in Political Science and a B.Ed in Social Studies & French. I have been a member of the progressive community for over thirty years and have served as a member of Ecology North, Alternatives North, Amnesty International, Fracking Action North, the Union of Northern Workers, and the Public Service Alliance of Canada. I also served as the President of the Northern Territories Federation of Labour (NWT/Nunavut).

I was a founding member of the NWT Chapter of the Council of Canadians, served many years on the Chapter’s Executive, represented the Chapter at regional meetings, and served for four years as the NWT-Prairies rep on the Board of Directors.

The Council of Canadians has chosen excellent political campaigns in which to invest time and money. These are initiatives which I can throw my support behind, without reservation. I have a deep respect and appreciation for the work done by the Council of Canadians at the local, provincial/territorial, national, and international level. I admire the effectiveness of the network of chapters that exists across the country and the calibre of people that the Council of Canadians attracts as volunteers, members, and supporters.

My previous experience as a Board member for Council of Canadians gave me excellent governance experience over a national organization. I have a reputation for having high integrity, keen insight, and the ability to contribute helpful suggestions to improve the health and well-being of an organization.

During my time on the Board, we had to oversee, evaluate, and implement strategic plans, organizational change, human resource management, and the
financial management of the organization. I found that Board members were respectful and professional towards one another as they worked through the process of resolving difficult human resource issues and financial issues which were brought to the Board’s attention at the time.

I also respected and admired how the Board members, and Executive members, dealt with members who wilfully refused to adhere to the Conflict-of-Interest Policy, Privacy Policy, and the Collective Agreement. The consequences were firmly, but respectfully, implemented. These were difficult situations to deal with, because many Board members felt affection for, admiration for, loyalty towards, and had worked side-by-side (for many years) with the people who had wilfully ignored policies and the Collective Agreement. This ensured the integrity of the organization and protected the organizational culture, which had been so carefully nurtured over many decades.

It is important to adhere to your values and principals and operate with integrity, when faced with difficult situations and to always resolve the situation in favour of the greater good and not in the self-interest of certain individuals. I appreciate the organizational culture that has been fostered by the leaders of the organization, especially Maude Barlow. It was an exceptionally positive milieu in which to work together on such important social justice issues. I would very much look forward to working again on the Board of Directors of the Council of Canadians. It is such a terrific organization.
Marcelino, Diwa

Winnipeg

I am honoured to be nominated to the Board of Directors by members of the Council of Canadians in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Treaty 1 territory.

I am a licensed power engineer by education and a professional courier driver by trade but I have always identified primarily as a social justice activist. For the past 20 years I have been part of movements that have been educating, organizing and mobilizing communities for social, economic and political progress.

As a community organizer with Migrante Manitoba, I have worked with my organization advocating for the rights and welfare of Filipino migrants while supporting the struggles of the Filipino people to address political, social and economic conditions that lead to forced migration.

I have worked at the grassroots level to promote migrant and indigenous rights, and support ecological and social justice initiatives as national committee member for United for Mining Justice, steering committee member for KAIROS, board member for the Council of Canadians, Health Care for All Manitoba, Community Solidarity Project and several other organizations.

For the past two years, the pandemic has brought to light the glaring need to change the status quo as it has revealed the gross inequities that vulnerable populations like frontline workers in agriculture, health care and service sectors have faced. With the rise of movements based on fear and division we find ourselves at a critical juncture in history where we have the opportunity to collectively organize our communities to build power and enact social change. I believe the Council of Canadians is uniquely positioned to help lead this change because of its vast network and commitment of its chapter members and staff creating a powerful voice for social justice.
I would be humbled to be a part of the Council of Canadians and commit to working for progress in solidarity with Indigenous, labour, climate justice, student and human rights activists.

I believe the collective action we take in the coming weeks, months and years will shape the next few decades. I believe another world is possible. Let us continue to dream and work towards it!

In solidarity,

Diwa Marcelino

https://www.linkedin.com/in/diwa-marcelino-18b371190/details/volunteering-experiences/
Mugyenyi, Bianca

Montreal, Quebec

I have long admired the Council’s work and chapters and am honoured to have been on the board for the past several months. I hold CoC in high regard for strengthening social movements across the country and want to help advance the mission of this important organization.

Having served as both a board member and employee at several non-profits, I'm attuned to various faces of non-profit administration.

I am a long-time community organiser, author and journalist based in Montreal. I currently direct the Canadian Foreign Policy Institute, which informs people about Canada’s diplomatic, aid, intelligence and military policies abroad.

I’m the former co-Executive Director and co-founder of The Leap and played a central role launching the Leap Manifesto in 2015, which brought the vision of a just transition away from fossil fuels to millions in Canada.

My work as an administrator has included visioning, strategic planning, management of staff, outreach and programming. I’ve held numerous board positions and taken on various roles including sitting on finance, HR and policy committees.

As an organizational steward I’d help with vision, staff support and would aim to broaden public interest in the Council. I have an intersectional approach to activism and would make links between the social justice issues championed by the Council. I bring a spirit of internationalism, which is needed more than ever to work together across borders to meet the overlapping global challenges of inequity, climate change, pandemic and militarism.

I communicate effectively, have served as spokesperson for various organizations, written for numerous outlets on subjects that overlap with the priorities of the Council.
In my position as Programming and Campaigns coordinator at Concordia's Centre for Gender Advocacy I organized hundreds of events and oversaw campaigns on topics of sexual assault awareness, reproductive justice, and the intersections between race and gender. I co-founded Missing Justice (Justice for Missing and Murdered Indigenous women in Quebec) in 2009 which worked alongside Indigenous women, calling for their rights and safety to be respected, drawing unprecedented media attention at a time when the issue was little discussed. In 2013, Concordia University opened a sexual assault centre. This victory was the first at a Quebec University and resulted from a two-year, multi-pronged pressure campaign I initiated and worked on with a large team of volunteers. To facilitate social action, I’ve prioritized educational talks and skill-based workshops.

My family fled Uganda’s civil war during my infancy. Since then, I’ve lived in Canada, Swaziland, Kenya, England, South Africa and Uganda. These experiences, together with my identity as a Black woman would add valuable perspective to the board.

I value nurturing, supportive organizations where members are consulted and their issues addressed. My experience as a non-profit administrator, organizer and journalist as well as connections to activists in various milieus would be assets to the board. I revel in the successes of social movements and would work to advance the progressive goals of the Council of Canadians.
Seucharan, Tara

Toronto, ON

I'm keen to join the Council of Canadians Board of Directors as I identify very strongly as being a Council of Canadians chapter activist for the last 13 years. My experience with the Good Governance Task Force has given me several insights into the Council's organizational identity, structure, functioning, assets, and vulnerabilities. And after serving on the Chapter Task Force, I'm proud that our recommendations resulted in a new framework that is transparent, fair, and equitable to chapters.

While the Chapter Task Force's mandate is over, the ongoing work on the Chapter Handbook and new communications platform demonstrates the commitment of myself and my fellow Task Force members to ensure that this necessary work is carried out. Therefore, I have a strong sense of duty to apply my experience of both being a chapter activist and member of both Task Forces in ensuring that the Council robustly incorporates these new changes not only in policy but equally as important, also into its' culture.

As a proven community-builder I've organized, mobilized, and advocated for very diverse climate and social justice networks and coalitions (e.g. from Occupy Toronto, 2011, to Toronto Climate Action Network, current).

My governance experience allows me to easily work within diverse models of structural governance (e.g. horizontal, hierarchical, and hybrid models). I've also facilitated workshops on the consensus model of decision-making - I'm a big fan!

My facilitation skills allow me to successfully moderate conflict arising from very diverse sectors of the public, especially during emotionally charged times (e.g. CareMongering TO, a 25 000+ member community support group providing help and resources during the Covid-19 crisis).
And I'm now working as Greenpeace Canada's Fossil Banks campaigner, calling for Canada's largest banks to stop investing in fossil fuel projects. This work involves collaborating with multiple community and national groups, mobilizing the public, and demonstrating meaningful allyship with Indigenous groups. We're calling on these powerful financial institutions to stop bankrolling fossil fuel projects and respect Indigenous rights.

As a self-identified woman of colour, I bring a collaborative, group-oriented view with full acknowledgment of the need to centre the Council's ongoing recatalysation, revitalization, and revisioning in our actions; while at the same time, adopting a pragmatic view of our operations.

It's my hope that the Council of Canadians will view my skills, experience, dedication, and enthusiasm as assets, and kindly consider my application to join the Board of Directors. Thanks!
I have been a member of the Council since 1988 and have supported the many and varied Council campaigns. As background, my deepening concern with the environmental impacts of corporate consumerist capitalism and the extractive economy and accompanying social inequality began in my early twenties when I was engaged by the Company of Young Canadians to organize residents of east Toronto to oppose the Scarborough Expressway, which resulted in its cancellation. Part of my work also involved a campaign to secure a daycare centre and to convert a former police station to a community centre. Following this I worked for Pollution Probe where I drafted a handbook on transportation issues, after which I assisted in organizing low income tenants in east Toronto to participate in forming one of the City's first non-profit cooperatives, DACHI. I continued to work in the cooperative housing sector for several years managing Neill-Wycik Co-operative College. Shortly after completing my Masters of Environmental Studies, I worked for ten years for the province and the City of Toronto developing non-profit housing until the program was terminated in 1995 by the federal and provincial governments. I have also worked at the City on community-based economic and employment development projects and as Project Director for Union Station Revitalization. Now my main focus is the climate crisis, and as such I am a member of the newly formed Seniors Climate Action Now! or SCAN!, where I chair the group’s provincial election organizing committee where our main campaign is to defeat Ford. To date we have organized SCAN! support for several climate action demonstrations, including the recent May Day event, the Fridays for Future event and the 12 March 350.org event, all in Toronto. In the near future we will participate in the 14 May climate demonstration at Queen's Park and an 11 May demonstration in Port Hope at the Minister of the Environment's office. I also chair SCAN!’s Education and Research Committee. Prior to COVID I had met with Council organizers to encourage the Council in making the Climate Crisis a central focus of ongoing campaigns, with the goal of forming a national "organization of climate
organizations" concerned with the Climate Crisis. At this critical juncture I sincerely believe that the Climate Crisis presents one of the two main existential threats for humanity and that throughout Canada at every level urgent measures are required to ensure a just and sound transformation that ensures the wellbeing of all Canadians. Regarding my background, my presence on the Board would not increase its ethnic diversity since I am a "settler" of several generations who has enjoyed the resulting remarkable privileges. That said, a great deal of my work has been in areas of environmental and social equity. By way of educational background, I have a Masters of Environmental Studies from York and a Masters of Public Administration from Queens, but no undergraduate degree.