



THE COUNCIL OF CANADIANS

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT TO MEMBERS & ACCLAMATION NOTICE

May 16, 2023

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT TO MEMBERS

Dear members of the Council of Canadians,

The Nominating Committee is pleased to present this report to members.

There are five Director-at-large positions to be filled for two-year terms in 2023. Nominations were opened on April 3, 2023, and closed by April 28, 2023.

Five candidates were nominated. After reviewing the nomination forms, the Nominating Committee found that all five met the criteria/qualifications set out in the bylaws.

ACCLAMATION NOTICE

Given that there are **five** positions and **five** qualified nominations, all candidates have therefore been acclaimed.

Eligible Candidates

[Marie Dolcetti-Koros](#)

[Nita Grass](#)

[Leanne MacMillan](#)

[Joe Mihevc](#)

[Steven Staples](#)

DIVERSITY

Consistent with the Council's commitment to diversity and inclusion, the nominating committee endeavours 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.

Note that the diversity attributes listed below are in addition to those already provided by incumbent board members.

Regions:

Region - ON-QC-NU =	4
Region - Prairies-NT =	0
Region - Atlantic =	0
Region - Pacific-YT =	1

Gender:

Female =	3
Male =	2
Non-binary =	0
Prefer not to answer =	0

Age:

18 - 29 =	1
30 - 49 =	0
50 - 69 =	3
70 + =	0
Prefer not to answer =	1

Indigenous person = 1

Member of an equity-seeking group = 1

Board Of Directors

The Board of Directors comprises 16 positions. Of those, 12 are directors-at-large selected by the members at the AMM or other means. These 5 acclamations are for director-at-large vacancies. The other 4 positions are for regional representative directors, which are chosen by chapter members.

Candidates' Forum

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.

Even with this acclamation, the Council will proceed with a Candidates' Forum on Thursday, May 25, to introduce these individuals to the membership. For information about the Candidate Forum please see canadians.org/amm.

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 2022/23

Marilyn Keddy

Joey Hartman

Diwa Marcelino

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Canada Council for the Arts. (n.d). *Equity-seeking groups* [Web page]. <https://canadacouncil.ca/glossary/equity-seeking-groups>

The Council of Canadians. (2020) *By-Law No. 1*. <https://canadians.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/bylaws-councilofcanadians.pdf>

The Council of Canadians. (2020, February). *The good governance task force: Report and Recommendations*. <https://canadians.org/wp-content/uploads/GoodGovernanceTaskForce-Feb182020-v2.1.pdf>

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

PERSONAL STATEMENTS

Dolcetti-Koros, Marie

Ottawa, ON (unceded Algonquin territory)

Hello! My name is Marie Dolcetti-Koros (she/her) and I am very eager for the opportunity to put my name forward for consideration to a seat on the Board of the Council of Canadians. In completing my term as National Chairperson of the Canadian Federation of Students, and so ending 6 years of student advocacy for the pursuit for free and accessible education for all, I am seeking out new opportunities to engage in the work of advancing the protection of the commons. Be it access to education, Pharamacare for all, or the right to clean air and drinking water, our commons have been under threat for decades, at a time when they most require our protection. I am eager for the chance to engage and work in strong collaboration with members from across the country to continue the important work of the Council of Canadians.

Grass, Nita

Kamloops, BC

I am Tsilhqot'in, Tl'etinqox-t'in, Nenquay Deni. (Nation name, people of the river, community name, a creek that flows through the community, tribal name, people of the earth)

I have been a member of the Council of Canadians since the mid 1990s. I have served as a board member for the Kelowna Chapter as a treasurer and member at large. We fought many battles, often failing to succeed, but we have had some success over the years. I first became involved with the council during the fight against the Multilateral Agreement on Investment. We also intervened in the fight against the potential use of the Bovine Growth Hormone in Canada. Although we lost some battles, there is hope within the small wins, such as the labeling on food products.

The reason why I choose to stay involved is the quality of the education which is given by the COC using various outlets to its members and the public. We need to have an opposing voice against those who are intent on the further destruction of the earth and all beings who depend on the bounty which it offers.

I have also served the last four years as part of the COC national board. This was important for me because a lot of the struggles are intertwined with the land, water and sovereignty issues within the Indigenous land bases, both in Canada and worldwide.

I am often reminded of the postwar statement by Martin Niemöller "First they came...", which ends with, "Then they came for me - and there was no one left to speak for me." If we don't stand up in opposition, who will take our place? (This quote is an adaptation of the original one.)

Although we have lost members over the years, I am proud to say that in two years it will be 30 years that I have been supporting the COC in action and monetary funds.

Although the COC is strongly in support of diversity, I encourage involvement for anyone who chooses to join in our fight against the heartless corporations and right wing groups with no soul or empathy. They continue to grow and so should we. Standing in Solidarity.

MacMillan, Leanne

Alexandria, ON

The Council of Canadians - its members and campaigners across the country - have dealt with issues which have been part of my activist life since 1985. I have strong governance experience on non-profit and voluntary boards, and a credit union board as a member, employee and sometimes as a legal advisor.

I have lived in Northern Ontario, small town Ontario and Atlantic Canada. I am a retired union activist, who remains at heart a campaigner and organizer. I have relentless optimism and constant vigilance in the struggle for a better world.

I attended the founding meeting of the Council of Canadians in Ottawa while I worked for the Canadian Federation of Students and lived in Sudbury. My region was Thunder Bay to Ottawa and at that time I spoke English and French.

In 1986 I started at Osgoode Hall Law School and worked at the legal aid clinic in the Tenant Division. I articulated at a labour and employment law firm in Toronto.

I moved to Halifax in 1990 and practiced law at a labour side law firm which represented most of the Unions in the 4 Atlantic Provinces. In my spare time I was involved in the fight for universal, public, accessible, quality early learning and childcare and anti-poverty initiatives.

I left private practice to work "in house" for the members of the Nova Scotia Nurses Union (2000-2008). I have a deep appreciation of the importance of our public health care system and the importance of finishing the job of public health by the expansion of pharmacare and dental care.

In 2008, I began to work for the members of the Canadian Union of Public Employees in Newfoundland & Labrador, Cape Breton and Mainland Nova Scotia. I saw the significant positive effect quality public services had for the people on the east coast: from municipalities, to schools and acute and long term and community health care, and child care, among others.

Anti-privatization campaigns as well as campaigns for clean water were a huge part of the work. I tremendously enjoyed the campaign to expand the Canada Pension Plan where I met with activists and Ministers of Finance across the country. It was satisfying to build something and not just fight back against cuts.

I moved to Ontario in 2012 and primarily represented CUPE members at universities and electrical utilities. I retired in December 2020 from the Director of Research position. This portfolio included research, health and safety, job evaluation, pensions and the environment.

While working, I exclusively represented working people and their unions. I had a particular expertise in pension and trust law, the duty to accommodate and collective bargaining.

In retirement, I am the Treasurer for an association of retired union employees, and a CUPE appointed representative to the Board of Trustees of a jointly sponsored defined benefit pension plan. I continue to try to learn Spanish, exercise daily and be a good parent and "nana" for the "little ones" in my life.

Mihevc, Joe

Toronto, ON

I have been on the Board of Directors for the last term. I have served on the Nominations Committee and Budget Committee.

Of course I support the overall goals and directions of the Council of Canadians. Where I feel I make a particular contribution is in the area of good governance and financial administration. This comes from my background having served as a City Councillor for 28 years in Toronto. The long term success of the Council of Canadians and its social justice work must be sustained for the long term, for which a solid financial footing is essential.

In terms of the vision and values of the organization, now is also a critical time for the organization. I have been an advocate on many of the issues for my entire adult life. They are important today as ever. Perhaps another contribution I hope to make is around strategic thinking for the Board, i.e. to help pick winning campaigns, focused advocacy that secures political victories.

I also feel that the Council of Canadians will be served by my encouragement to network and work in coalition with other like-minded organizations in pursuit of common goals. We cannot win the big battles on our own. Building a movement, learning how to work in a multi-player universe is something that elected persons at the local level do all the time. I hope to bring that knowledge to the Council.

Staples, Steven

Toronto, ON

I am honoured to stand for re-election to the Council of Canadians' Board of Directors. The Council has been integral to my life's work for social justice, and I am privileged to have stood side-by-side with so many dedicated Council members and supporters for many years.

Having joined the Council of Canadians while at University in the early 1990s, I was very proud to be hired as the organization's first regional organizer, opening an office in Vancouver in 1997 (the first outside of Ottawa). After a period of tremendous chapter growth, and the advent of the anti-corporate globalization movement in the streets of Seattle at the WTO meeting in 1999, I was asked to relocate to Ottawa as Issue Campaigns Coordinator. In the years that followed we launched the water campaign, challenged Monsanto and continued to open offices across the country, building on our success in BC.

Later, I started a post-9/11 project on militarism and globalization with Tony Clarke at the Polaris Institute. Our online network, Ceasefire.ca, became a vital network to win the campaign to keep Canada out of Bush's missile defence scheme in 2005 (a story I retold in my book the following year).

In 2006 I used the training I had received to set-up the Rideau Institute on International Affairs, a research, advocacy and consulting organization in Ottawa. The Institute achieved many victories with allies in the ensuing years, including derailing the F-35 stealth fighter and stopping the first foreign take-over of a Canadian company under the *Investment Canada Act*.

More recently I have worked with many organizations through Public Response, including unions, first nations communities, environmental groups, and many others. I spent several years at the Ontario Federation of Labour, including during the campaign that defeated Tim Hudak and his US-style anti-union "right-to-work" agenda in the 2014 election.

Today, I am working with labour and community allies at the Canadian Health Coalition, where I serve as the National Director of Policy and Advocacy. We campaign to promote and defend our public health care system.

I volunteer on several boards, including the Geneva-based International Peace Bureau, and the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives' Members Council.

I look forward to the opportunity to "give-back" to the Council of Canadians by serving its members and activists as a Board member.