

Members Nominated for Election to the Board

2023

These nominees have been confirmed to be members of the society in good standing and have accepted nomination to the board. The board recommends all for election.

Maria Stewart (she/her)

Maria retired 5 years ago from over 25 years working in the public service in the fields of communications, finance and policy. A life-long lesbian, Maria wrote for the Gays of Ottawa newsletter and was an original columnist for Capital Xtra before briefly publishing her own lesbian newspaper, Labrys.

Maria is looking to reconnect with the Victoria community by serving on the Pride Society board. Maria is currently Treasurer for the Society for Enhancement of Quality of Life and recently became proud godmother to her trans godson, Leo.

Spencer Elliot (he/him)

Spencer is a passionate advocate for LGBTQ+ rights and equality. His professional career includes 14 years in finance, including eight years as a professional financial planner working with affluent clients. He has extensive volunteer experience including being a board member and on the executive of the board of one of Winnipeg's largest Inner-city NGOs (DMSMCA) from 2011 – 2015.

During his tenure, he was a part of five committees each fiscal year as well being treasurer in 2014 and Vice-chair in 2015. Spencer saved the organization \$10000 by finding efficiencies and implementing change.

Spencer has also volunteered for other organizations such as Winnipeg Pride and the United Way. He is a driven and continuous learner who thrives with new

challenges. He is highly adaptable and able to lean into changes and pivot as required to excel in the organization.

Heather Linka (she/her)

Heather has been volunteering with VPS since 2022, shortly after she arrived to live in Victoria in 2021.

Heather is a passionate advocate across many areas of her life and has spent most of her career supporting organizations to be more neuroinclusive and equitable to neurodivergences such as autism or ADHD within recruitment, onboarding, retention, general communications and awareness. As a queer neurodivergent herself, Heather is completing her Human Resources Management and Leadership diploma to further leverage her consulting and support skills to continue working with organizations to be more equitable, diverse, inclusive and accessible for all historically excluded groups.

Outside of volunteering and work, Heather enjoys spending time with friends and family, cooking, movement in many varieties and exploring beautiful BC.

Tina Gould (she/her)

Tina returns to the Victoria Pride Society board after previously serving for many years as a Director at Large and Merchandise Coordinator and retiring from the board in 2020. Tina brings a wealth of experience and institutional history to the organization.

Tina was born and raised in Victoria and feels privileged to serve our communities on the traditional lands of the Lekwungen and WSÁNEĆ peoples. Tina first began working in Victoria's 2SLGBTQIA+ community in the late 90s when she put on some of the first all gender events in Victoria, revived Mr. Gay Vancouver Island, brought in Queer entertainers from across Canada, and occasionally tended bar.

Shane Jeffery (they/them)

Shane is a social activist, archivist, writer, thespian, disco dancer, May Gemini, and elder, who brings lived experience in homelessness, the sex economy, substance use and recovery, community building, process challenging, and resiliency among much more!

Shane is of Greek Australian origins and an immigrant to Canada from the traditional lands of the Namadje peoples in the area known today as Canberra, Australia, and a Permanent Resident for the past 13 years on the traditional territory of the Lekwungen speaking peoples of the Songees Esquimalt Nations (commonly referred to as Victoria BC). They are currently in a leadership position with AVI as Education Program Coordinator and a Casual Crisis Responder for the Community Led Crisis Response team.

Shane is committed to addressing stigma, the effects of colonisation, highlighting the disparities in our BIPOC, GenderFluid and marginalized communities while prescribing to a Harm Reduction philosophy and understanding.

Shane is currently single and spends any rare spare time trying to rectify that as well as enjoying the outdoors, writing content, shopping, collecting, travelling, and sleeping.

Luke Jenkins (he/him)

Luke was born in Texas. He has lived in the traditional territories of the Lekwungen peoples since he was 12 years old. Luke studied Political Science in university and focused his studies on Queer politics. He has worked in administrative law with the provincial government for the past 3 years.

He is interested in joining the board to help contribute to the community. Luke wants to support those who are just arriving to Canada to feel included in the 2SLGBTQIA+ community. Luke is concerned about the growing ignorance around trans rights in school.

Skyler Chartrand (he/him)

Born and raised on the traditional territory of the Tseshaht and Hupacasath First Nations, Skyler moved to the Lekwungen Territory in 2016. His career has been spent caring for Seniors and vulnerable adults. Currently, he am working for the BC Ministry providing outreach to those who may be low-income, homeless or at risk of experiencing homelessness.

Skyler enjoy spending time with his husband and two children, pursuing passions like yoga, cycling, and anything else outdoors. His goal is to help maintain a strong sense of community and provide an uplifting, inclusive and compassionate space for any who wish to join.

Jonathan Lockyer (he/him)

Jonathan grew up in Campbell River, BC where he experienced firsthand the challenge of being queer in a small town. At work as a branch manager for RBC, Jonathan has served on their Pride parade committee for many years, most recently choreographing their Pride parade dances. Motivated by a past in an unsupportive environment, he's committed to fostering a more inclusive community, and is excited to lend his leadership and change management skills to the cause.

In his spare moments, Jonathan channels his creativity into writing, filmmaking, and interior design, aiming to infuse life with cinematic beauty.

Alongside his dedication to Pride, he gives back through the Island Medical Program, as a standardized patient for medical students.