

Board of Directors Candidate Profile

Adrienne Macdonald

I would be honoured to bring my years of business, financial, and fundraising experience to Toronto Humane Society to help the society continue to achieve its vision and mission, to be a leader in animal welfare, and to improve the lives of animals.

As Vice President, Equity Capital Markets at National Bank Financial and as a former professional fundraiser for a major Canadian political party, I hope to be able to merge these skills and experience with my lifelong passion for animal welfare to help Toronto Humane Society continue to be a successful animal welfare champion. I have been a big supporter of Toronto Humane Society ever since my partner and I adopted a senior cat (Relish) from the society several years ago. It is a critical organization, and I would be pleased to be a part of its commendable mission.

Alex Rochtchine

In addition to my passion for animal welfare, I look forward to bringing my financial planning expertise and my in-depth understanding of sustainable charitable funding models to support Toronto Humane Society. With over 10 years of financial planning experience at several major banks in Toronto, I serve high net-worth clients to address the intricacies and impacts of tax codes, corporate structures, and multi-generational estate distributions. As part of this, I assist with structuring philanthropic donations and have extensive knowledge of different tools, such as life insurance models and donor advised funds, that enable tax efficient and predictable contributions. I recognize that sustainable, predictable funding is a critical success factor for Toronto Humane Society and look forward to contributing to the long-term impact the organization will have on the animals of Toronto.

Charissa Lai

Growing up in South Africa, I was happiest in the company of our multiple family dogs and in exploration of the wildlife for which South Africa is so well known; these personal experiences have imbibed in me the compassion for animals I have today. With this underlying compassion as a driving purpose, I aim to help Toronto Humane Society fulfill its mission of promoting the care of animals and becoming a best-in-class animal shelter.

My financial experience will allow me to optimize Toronto Humane Society's financial resources to help as many animals as possible. In the last three years as a Board Director of Toronto Humane Society (serving as Treasurer and Chair of the Finance and Audit Committee), I have come to know the organization intimately; this knowledge will help guide the organization through both challenges and opportunities. I look forward to rejoining Toronto Humane Society's Board.

Gary Milakovic

I am passionate about animal welfare and have a diverse background that would serve Toronto Humane Society well. I've worked in both the public and private sectors, have experience dealing with organizations of all sizes, and am an active volunteer, contributing to various causes throughout the last two decades. I would bring a unique perspective to Toronto Humane Society that would help it flourish and grow, and ultimately support its vision of being a leader in animal welfare, creating a society where all animals are respected and valued. It's my belief that Toronto Humane Society can make a real difference, not only in the lives of animals but in the lives of the people who love them, too.



Board of Directors Candidate Profile

Josh Shanahan

When I was 10 years old, my family adopted our first cat "Sneaker" from a shelter in Windsor. In the more than 25 years since, we've adopted four dogs and two cats, with our most recent addition being our cat "Bentley" who brings laughter and joy to me and my partner daily. As a communications and public relations professional, I have more than 15 years of experience creating robust communications plans to help organizations deliver on their strategies through good times and bad. My approach to communications is to leverage the power of storytelling to connect with people on a personal level and help them understand the important pieces in an organization's narrative.

During my last three years on the board, I have taken on the roles of the Chair of the Development Committee and President of Toronto Humane Society. It has been an honour to serve this great organization and I hope to continue doing so for the next three years. I believe in the mission of Toronto Humane Society and hope to have the opportunity to use my diverse skill set to navigate potential challenging headwinds ahead and be a sustainable organization that continues fighting for animal welfare for years to come.

Julie Barac

I am deeply committed to contributing my skills and expertise to support the mission of the Toronto Humane Society as a board member. With a strong focus on strategic decision-making, I intend to actively engage in board discussions, bringing valuable insights to drive the organization's continued success. Drawing upon my past experiences, I will offer a unique perspective to help shape policies and practices that align with the organization's objectives.

Furthermore, I am eager to play an active role in fundraising initiatives, utilizing my network and passionately advocating for Toronto Humane Society's cause. Collaborating with fellow board members, my aim is to expand community outreach programs, enhance public awareness, and foster responsible pet ownership. With unwavering dedication and a genuine passion for animal welfare, I am confident in my ability to be a committed member to Toronto Humane Society's esteemed board.

Yussef Hafez

In 2019, I completed a pro bono consulting project for Toronto Humane Society. I found it fulfilling to recommend changes that positively impacted the employee experience and welfare of the animals. It also gave me a chance to interact with the passionate team here at Toronto Humane Society, and provided firsthand exposure into the impressive initiatives and impact Toronto Humane Society has had on the community. I believe in its strategic vision, but understand the challenges it faces that continue to threaten its viability. I believe, Toronto Humane Society must continue to operate as a business- to capitalize on new revenue sources, reduce costs, and improve efficiency-with minimal impacts to its mission, and the care and well-being of its animals, employees, and community. I have thoroughly enjoyed the last three years serving on Toronto Humane Society's Board of Directors (and most recently, the Executive Board), and I believe my passion for animals, my experience helping organizations thrive, my strong work ethic and leadership skills make me an ideal candidate to continue to serve on the Board of Directors and support the sustainable achievement of its strategic plan.

