

**The Regional Association of West Quebecers Announces 2021-2022 Board of Directors**

**OCTOBER 15, 2021, Gatineau, Québec: the Regional Association of West Quebecers**

I am pleased to announce the 2021-2022 Board of Directors:

**Arthur Ayers**, myself – once again elected as president. It is my 8th year as a member of the Board and the 6th as president. I am once again humbled to accept this responsibility and lead the Association and its Board for a final term. By day, I am an immigration lawyer in private practice. I consider myself a child of Trudeau multiculturalism, having lived across Canada and abroad, and speaking English, French and Japanese.

**Robert Valcov-Kwiatkowski**, Vice-President, we welcome Mr. Valcov back for a second, two-year term. Mr. Valcov hails from a career in the public service and has extensive community service experience. As a member of the Board, he has led a number of successful fundraising initiatives.

**David Gillespie**, Treasurer, serving the second year of his second, two-year term. By day, and night, Mr. Gillespie is a farmer operating on Allumette Island, in the Upper Pontiac region of Western Quebec. We owe Mr. Gillespie a great debt of gratitude for his efforts and diligence in managing the Association's finances during his tenure.

**Cassandra Plourde**, Secretary, whom we welcome back for a second, two-year term, as Secretary. Ms. Plourde readily applies her administration and communication skills in her functions as officer. We are proud to have her represent young English-speaking professionals settling in the region.

**Chris Judd**, Director, whom we welcome back for a third, two-year term. Chris is a dairy farmer hailing from Shawville, Quebec, home to a substantial English-speaking population. Chris' extensive community involvement has garnered him an important and respected presence, both in the Upper Pontiac and as a member of the Association.

**Judith O'Rourke**, Director, who is serving the second year of her third, two-year term. Ms. O'Rourke hails from the education sector and is a long-term English-speaking resident of Aylmer. The Association looks to Judith for her perspective, her wisdom and dogged attention to detail in making its decisions.

**Brian Rock**, Director and former Executive Director, is serving the second year of his first, two-year term. Mr. Rock also hails from the education sector but is also passionate about politics. The Association depends on Mr. Rock to keep abreast of the latest policy developments that affect the English-speaking community of Western Quebec.

**Mariam Wasty**, Director, serving the second year of her first, two-year term. Ms. Wasty was the Association bookkeeper in the past. As a specialist in human resources, the Board benefits from her wisdom in managing this aspect of the Association's operations.

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“Supporting the English-speaking community in West Quebec”

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We are pleased to welcome the following four people as new directors:

**Mr. Paul Brown**, resident of La Pêche, Québec and Executive Director of the 100 Mile Arts Network, with whom the Association has recently completed a project. We are pleased to add a member of the arts community to our Board.

**Mr. Jared Broughton**, expert in administration and research. Mr. Broughton brings his direct experience and perspective as an English-speaking resident learning French as a second language. He is determined to give back to the English-speaking community and the Association is pleased to offer him that opportunity.

**Ms. Becky Drummond**, consultant in risk and financial management and chartered professional accountant. Ms. Drummond will bring these invaluable skills to the Association, and we are pleased to welcome another young, English-speaking professional to the Board.

**Ms. Lemali Pathirana**, brings expertise in business and sustainable farming, and perspective as both a learner of French as a third language and as a newcomer to Canada. We are very excited at the opportunity to lean on her experiences in developing our Newcomers Program.

Detailed biographies may be found on the Association Website at [www.westquebecers.ca](http://www.westquebecers.ca)

Welcome All and we look forward to continuing to serve you, our members and constituents!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Arthur Ayers', written in a cursive style.

Arthur Ayers,

President

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