

The nominating committee and the board of directors has recommended the following Slate of Nominees to join RisingOaks' Board of Directors for a 2-year term, 2024 to 2026. In doing so, the following core leadership values were considered:

1. *Mission driven:* values align with RisingOaks' Mission, values, beliefs and guiding principles.
2. *Governance:* understands the difference between the work of management and the Board; is able to think strategically and assist in setting direction for the organization.
3. *Knowledge and judgment:* understands child care in their role as a parent or advocate for quality child care; has the ability to appropriately question data and information presented to the Board for its deliberations.
4. *Engagement & participation:* will be diligently prepared for meetings and actively engaged in board discussions.
5. *Communication & Teamwork:* respects confidentiality; will contribute meaningfully and knowledgeably to Board discussions, providing valuable input and advice to management.

In addition, the Board of Directors considered the following:

Competencies	Expertise	Perspectives
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocacy/Government Relations • Financial Management • Recruitment • Risk Management • Strategic Thinking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accounting designation • HR designation • Legal experience • Governance experience • GR experience 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black • Indigenous • People of Colour • Gender • Lived or work experience in DEI and anti-racism work

Through a rigorous application, competency assessment and interview process, the nominating committee determined that the following individuals were eligible to stand for election, or re-election, to RisingOaks' Board of Directors. This Slate of Nominees was approved by the Board of Directors on March 5, 2024 and is now proposed to the membership for an official election to fill six (6) director positions.

BOARD RECOMMENDED SLATE OF NOMINEES

Alex Zhou, B. Math

Centre:		Alex holds a Honours Bachelor of Math in Financial Analysis and Risk Management from the University of Waterloo. Alex gained experience working in finance and technology startups before moving into data and analytics. In his current role, Alex focuses on planning and delivery of an analytics road map for the organization. Alex has one child at RisingOaks Early Learning and looks forward to giving back to the community as a board member.
Occupation	Senior Manager, Data & Analytics Strategy & Business Architecture, BMO	
Prior Board Experience	none	

Alisha Michiels, CHRP

Centre:	Lincoln	Alisha has an Honours Bachelor of Science in Health Studies, a Diploma in Human Resources Management from the University of Waterloo and is a Certified Human Resource Professional (CHRP). Alisha shares her experience in human resources with local non-profits, including RisingOaks Early learning. Alisha is standing for re-election to her third 2-year term and will move into the position of Past Chair in April. Alisha has one daughter at RisingOaks Early Learning Lincoln.
Occupation	HR Manager, eHealth Centre of Excellence	
Prior Board Experience	RisingOaks Early Learning Board of Directors – Director (4 years), – Secretary, Vice Chair, Chair (1 yr ea) – Mentoring Triad Lead – Governance committee (1 year), – Nominating committee (3 years)	

2024-25 Board-Recommended Slate of Nominees

Bernard Crawford, B. Comm, PMP		
Centre:	St. Nicholas	Bernie graduated from Ryerson University with a Bachelor of Commerce in Information Technology Management and holds a Masters Certificate in Project Management from Schulich. A technology lover at heart Bernie has moved from a hands-on keyboard role to a team leader primarily in software implementations. In this role Bernie hopes to bring his diverse employment background and skills to help find efficiencies, while assisting the nominations committee in identifying our next leaders. Bernie has one child who attends RisingOaks Early Learning St. Nicholas.
Occupation	Project Management Professional with a background in technology	
Prior Board Experience	Served 2 years on the PMI Toronto Chapter board as Director of Technology	
Cindy Ofunne, MBA, PMP, CSM		
Centre:	n/a	Cindy Ofunne is a dynamic professional with over 13 years cognate experience across the following verticals - telecommunications, information technology, aviation and education. Currently Cindy is the Director of PEC PM Experts Inc. - a leading project management education consultancy firm and functions as a Project Manager at a leading health care organization. She founded Cindy Oaks School (crèche- primary), a private school in Nigeria, as well as being the founder of STEMPorte - an educational technology organisation focused on promoting STEAM initiatives locally and internationally. When Cindy is not driving strategic growth, improving processes and leading innovative initiatives in companies, you will find her promoting innovative learning in education or volunteering. She has mentored on several platforms including the Women's Technology Empowerment Centre (WTEC).
Occupation	Founding Director, PEC PM Experts Inc., Project Manager, Arnprior Regional Health	
Prior Board Experience	Cindy currently serves on the Board of Nigerians in the Region of Waterloo. Cindy has previously served on the board of Schools Empowerment Support Network.	
Christel Wu, BA, MA		
Centre:	Saint John Paul II	Christel has a Bachelor's and Master's degree, as well as being a Doctoral Candidate of Music from the University of Toronto. After 14 years in the music industry along with running her own teaching studio, Christel decided to switch careers. She currently works at RBC in AML and for the last 4 years has managed the risk profile of the RBC's Capital Markets clients. Christel enjoys hikes with her husband and miniature poodle, and has a son that attends RisingOaks Early Learning Saint John Paul II.
Occupation	Director of High Risk Capital Markets Clients, Royal Bank of Canada	
Prior Board Experience	none	
Julia Bloom, B. Sci., PMP		
Centre:	n/a	Julia has an Honours Bachelor of Science and Business degree from the University of Waterloo, holds a PMP designation and is a Certified Agile Coach. In her role as a Management Consultant she is focused on business strategy, leadership, and influencing cultural change. She is also a Professor in the School of Business at Conestoga College. Julia is standing for re-election for a third 2-year term. Julia has a son who previously attended RisingOaks' youth development before & after school program.
Occupation	Principal Consultant, Bloom Innovation Consulting; Professor/Faculty Member, School of Business, Conestoga College	
Prior Board Experience	RisingOaks Early Learning Board of Directors <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Director (4 years),– Treasurer, Vice-Chair (1 yr ea.)– Finance & Audit committee (2 years)– Governance committee (1 year)– Nominating committee (1 year)	

Notice to Members

The Slate includes six (6) nominees to fill six (6) vacancies. As a result, members will be asked to approve the Slate, thus electing all six directors, with one motion.

The newly elected directors will join the following directors, who are now completing their second year of their current term, to form RisingOaks Early Learning Ontario's 2024-2025 Board of Directors:

Director	Occupation	Centre, if applicable
Stephen Brown, CPA, CMA	Director, Commercial Finance, Coty Inc.	St. Matthew
Robert MacDonald, MBA	VP, Cyber Solutions Canada	n/a
Jessica Ronzio, M.S.W./R.S.W.	Psychotherapist, Counselling and Play Therapy Services	Oak Creek
Jennifer Tieu, CPA, CMA	Finance Operations Manager, Lazaridis School of Business and Economics, Wilfrid Laurier University	n/a
Katherine Walsh, MBA	Director, Program Delivery, Ontario Teachers Insurance Plan	n/a