



Ontario Division
175 Bloor Street East
Suite 700, North Tower
Toronto, Ontario M4W 3R8
Telephone: (416) 922-6065
Fax: (416) 922-7538
Toll Free: 1-800-268-7582
www.mssociety.ca

The following individuals were elected to the Ontario Division Board of Directors from November 8, 2009 to the Annual General Meeting to be held in the Spring of 2011

The following individuals were elected in 2009 for a first term:

Robert Blais, CA - Robert has been involved with Ontario Division for several years. He is a member of the Division finance committee and was the treasurer of the Sudbury Chapter from 2003-2007. Robert holds an Honours Bachelor of Commerce degree from Laurentian University and is a member in good standing of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Ontario. Professionally, he is a partner with the accounting firm, Collins Barrow Chartered Accountants/Comptables agréés in Sudbury. Robert is the Vice-President of the Sudbury Community Foundation and is also the Treasurer for Les Jeux de la Francophonie Canadienne du Grand Sudbury, 2011.

Elizabeth Flavelle - is a member of the division client services committee. Professionally, Elizabeth had a 27 year career with the Ontario Government in a variety of ministries and positions including parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Correctional Services, an economist in the Ministry of Treasury and Economics and manager of Ontario Government employees volunteer programs (United Way and Federated Health campaigns and blood donor clinics)..

She is currently active in the community with a number of organizations including the Kingsway Park Ratepayers Association, the Kingsway Business Improvement Area and the Toronto Police Services, 22 Division Community Police Liaison Committee (CPLC). She has also been a volunteer with the Junior League of Toronto, Humewood House and chaired the Women's College Hospital Foundation. Elizabeth's father, Sir David Flavelle, established the Ontario Division Sir David Flavelle award to honour the outstanding contributions of a volunteer.

Marie Vaillant - Marie has been a dedicated volunteer with Ontario Division for a number of years. She first joined the Ottawa Chapter in 2000 as a member-at-large and has held a number of leadership positions including director of development, vice-chair and in 2003 became the chapter chair. In addition to her role as chapter chair, Marie facilitates some programs in the chapter client services department including MS 101 and as a peer facilitator for the Circle of Wellness program. At the Division level, Marie is the chair of the client services committee, is a member of the chapter relations committee and was a member of the Ontario Board nominations committee for three years.

In addition to volunteering with the MS Society, Marie has been involved in the community with the YM/WCA and as Treasurer and President of HOPE (helping other people everywhere). Marie has a Bachelor of Science Degree from the University of Toronto. In 2007, Marie won the Division Award of Merit Member for her commitment to the Ottawa Chapter. She is married to Gordon Keith a graphic designer and artist. Gordon is an active fundraiser and volunteer with the Ottawa Chapter.

The following individuals were elected in 2009 for a third term on the board:

William (Bill) Ebel - is a member of the Ontario Board nominations committee and the Division chapter relations committee. Bill has volunteered at the chapter level for 16 years and is the Chair of the Oxford County Chapter. He is married with two adult children and three grand children. Professionally, Bill was a school principal for 33 years and now operates a small business.

John Ellis - is the Honorary Legal Counsel on the Ontario board. John has volunteered with the Hamilton Chapter for over 16 years and has assumed many roles during that time including chapter chair. He practices law in Hamilton and is married with two adult children.

Sean Foran - is a member of the Ontario board governance committee and is Vice-Chair of the Toronto Chapter. Sean is a partner of the law firm of WeirFoulds LLP in Toronto. His practice is in the areas of commercial and civil litigation; public and administrative law; and employment law. He is an instructor with the Advocates' Society and is the Past President of the Ontario Expropriation Association. Sean holds an LLM from the University of Edinburgh and an LLB from the University of Ottawa.

Karen Torrie-Racine - has been a dedicated volunteer with Ontario Division for many years. She is the Secretary of the Ontario board and is chair of the division chapter relations committee. Karen has been very active with the Cornwall & District Chapter for over 25 years and has held a number of leadership positions including being chapter chair three times. She has assisted with the treasurer role and currently is the education director, public relations director and has been the volunteer office manager since 1992.

Karen is a graduate of Algonquin College and majored in Marketing with a specialty in Advertising and Promotion. Karen was diagnosed with MS in 1985 and experienced annual exacerbations with the worst being in 1990 resulting in an 11 week hospital stay and being unable to move anything below the neck for that time.

Although Karen's son is in his second year of university, she still participates in her local school board and is still an active member of the Catholic Education Coalition Committee since it was established in 2001. She has been married to her husband Thom for 27 years and is very proud of Jarrett, her 20-year old son.

Niranjan Vivekanandan - is a Vice-Chair on the Ontario board and the Chair of the governance committee of the Board. Niranjan is Vice-President, Commercial Banking at RBC Royal Bank. In his current role, Niranjan is responsible for senior debt and specialized mid market advisory services to the Health Care sector. Prior to this role, Niranjan headed up small business banking for two regions within the Greater Toronto Region for RBC. Niranjan is a 2010 Fellow of DiverseCity, a joint initiative of Maytree and the Toronto City Summit Alliance.