2007-2008 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Maureen Whitesell- President

Maureen joined the board in 2004 and has sat as Chair for the 2007/2008 year. Maureen's history has been that of supporting children with disabilities. Due to her own personal experience in this area, Maureen is a strong advocate. She is also the liaison between Community Options and Edmonton Regional Coalition for Inclusive Education. As a past program participant of Community Options Early Education Program, Maureen believes very strongly in the Mission and Vision of this organization and is dedicated to completing her second term.

Patricia Semeniuk-Past President

Pat has had a long and varied career as an advocate on behalf of the education of children. She has been principal of Inglewood, Aldergrove, Alex Taylor and Julia Kiniski schools. Pat served as an Early Childhood consultant with Edmonton Public Schools for three years, Principal at Large, and Assistant Superintendent of Consulting Services. She also worked for the Department of Education (Alberta Learning) as a consultant based in Edmonton serving schools throughout northern Alberta. Pat joined the Community Options board in 2001.

Tom Lee-Vice-President

Tom served as a chair of the Hearts of Blue Charity Committee (Alberta Blue Cross' employee charity committee). He originally got involved with Community Options as a supporter of their Hot Lunch Program at Inglewood School. He is quite passionate about volunteerism. Currently, Tom is employed with Capital Health as a Systems Analyst. Tom joined the board in 2005.

Sandra Black – Treasurer

Sandra is passionate about children and has made a career working with children with disabilities through various roles. She has collaborated with Community Options over the years and came to the Community Options Board while on maternity leave from Services to Children with Disabilities (now FSCD). Sandra strongly believes in the core values, mission and vision of Community Options and is thankful for the opportunity to be a part of the team. Sandra joined the board in 2004.

Heidi Oshry-Secretary

Heidi was introduced early to the unique challenges that face persons with disabilities. She was inspired by both her parent's teachings and values and by a younger cousin with special needs. Heidi began by volunteering at Elves as a teen and continued as an adult obtaining her Education degree with a minor in Special Education. She worked at the Mayfield and Elmwood Early Education sites. Her last position was as the Curriculum Coordinator at Elmwood, before leaving to start a family. Heidi joined the board in 2006.

Deborah Huber – Member at Large

Deb is a past employee and Board Member of Community Options. Her current employment is with SKILLS Society, where she has been for 15 years, presently as Manager of Volunteer Services. Now a parent and Family Day Home user, Deb has a renewed interest in contributing to Community Services that support children. She joined the board in 2003.

Jeanine Alexander-Member at Large

Having raised three children (now adults) in Edmonton, Jeanie now considers Edmonton home, and hopes to give back to the Community by serving on the Community Options Board of Directors. She is an educator and is currently teaching in a cooperative program. Her interests are varied and most often include one or more members of her family.

Heather Kennedy-Plant –Member at Large

Heather is a passionate community and family advocate. She believes that building strong communities is essential and important work along the path towards transforming the social and structural barriers which interfere with the well being of our children, youth, and families. Heather has worked at the University of Alberta as an advisor and administrator since 1999 and currently holds the position of Cooperative Education Coordinator at the U of A School of Business. She formerly held positions with the University's Faculty of Education and with the U of A International Education Abroad Program. In addition to a Bachelor of Arts Sociology degree from the University of Alberta, Heather has a diploma in Child Psychology, Supervisory Development Certification from the School of Business, and is now working towards a Masters Degree in Educational Policy Studies at the U of A. Joined Board in 2008