



Nominees for Birds Canada's Board of Directors

At the time of Birds Canada's Annual Members Meeting on Saturday, September 26, 2020, five vacancies will exist on the Board of Directors. Two current Board members (Kathleen Blanchard and Anne McConnell) will be completing their first term and have agreed to let their names stand for a second term. Three new individuals (Brian Finnigan, Cher Mereweather, Trevor Swerdfager) have been nominated by the Board to fill the other three positions.

Any additional nominations must be in writing, and signed by the nominee and at least three Members entitled to vote. Nominations must be received at the head office of Birds Canada, together with a short biography of the nominee, not later than 40 days (August 17, 2020) before the date of the annual meeting on September 26, 2020. If the number of nominees does not exceed the number of vacancies on the Board, such nominees shall be announced as elected at the annual meeting. If the number of nominees exceeds the number of vacancies, there shall be forwarded to the Members with a 20-day notice of the annual meeting, a list of all nominees and a biography of each, if available, and a form of proxy. The 2020 annual meeting will be conducted virtually. Members shall vote electronically at the annual meeting for a number of nominees not exceeding the number of vacancies. If there remain vacancies at the conclusion of the annual meeting, the same may be filled by the Board subsequently.



Kathleen Blanchard is founder and head of Intervale, a nonprofit organization which conducts programs in biodiversity conservation, principally in Newfoundland and Labrador. For 25 years she worked for Québec-Labrador Foundation, serving as President of QLF Canada for six of those years, and now consults for QLF. She has completed work for many government departments and conservation NGOs, including Canadian Wildlife Service, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Parks Canada, Wildlife Habitat Canada, World Wildlife Fund, and Ducks Unlimited. Her passion for seabirds began in her late teens working for National Audubon Society, when she helped restore a breeding colony of Atlantic puffins. She later organized an award-winning multi-stakeholder initiative, lasting for two decades, along the North Shore of the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Since then, most of her work has focused on recovery of species at risk and demonstrating the efficacy of stewardship. Kathleen has served on the Board of Birds Canada, Stewardship Association of Municipalities (NL), North American Association for Environmental Education, and the Commission on Education and Communication for the World Conservation Union.



Brian Finnigan is a partner with Waterous, Holden, Amey Hitchon, LLP. Brian has extensive experience with non-profit and charitable organizations, both as a solicitor and as a board member. He has a Bachelor of Arts and a Bachelor of Laws degree from Western University, and a Master of Laws from York University. As a lawyer, Brian has advised environmental organizations on a variety of matters. He has held board positions on Participation House, Brantford; Brant Community Place Homes; Brant County Community Legal Clinic; the Alzheimer Society of Brantford; and Nova Vita Women's Services. Brian skis, cycles, sails, hikes, and tries to get out as often as possible to appreciate nature, and birds in particular, with his wife, Theresa (an environmental lawyer) and their four children.



Anne McConnell is a professional engineer and president of McConnell Hirning Consulting Ltd., where she works on a variety of environmental, regulatory, and sustainability topics. Previously, Anne was a leader in R&D, regulatory affairs, and environmental sustainability at Procter & Gamble. Her experience includes working with Canadian and U.S. industry, non-governmental organizations, and all levels of government. For many years, Anne has been a champion for progressive chemicals management and waste diversion programs. Since 1997, she has been a dedicated participant in Birdathons for Bird Studies Canada, and has helped to raise over \$20,000 working together with family, friends, and neighbours.

Anne's educational training includes degrees from UBC in chemistry and biology, and in agricultural engineering. She hails from British Columbia and now resides in Toronto, Ontario. Anne's recreational pursuits include birdwatching and native plant gardening, and she is also an avid walker, cyclist, and community volunteer.



Cher Mereweather is President & CEO of Provision Coalition Inc., a for-profit social enterprise born out of its success as a non-profit. Cher helps food and beverage companies increase revenue, reduce costs and elevate their brand - purposefully. Cher is an advocate for change and a passionate spokesperson that is dedicated to advancing sustainability within the Canadian food system. Cher is currently a Board Director for the National Zero Waste Council and was the Chair of the Board for two years at the Campus Child Care Cooperative of Guelph. Cher's career has included time with NSF International where she established and directed the Sustainability Consulting Business Unit, and executive positions in environmental economics and

policy with the Canadian agri-food think tank, the George Morris Centre. Cher holds a Bachelor and Master's degree in Environmental Economics and Policy and is certified in both project and change management. Cher enjoys spending time in nature, and finds herself in bird identification debates with family around the dining room table. If elected to the Board of Birds Canada, Cher would be pleased to apply her experience in sustainability, business, and the food system's impact on the environment and conservation needs of birds.



Trevor Swerdfager is a recently appointed Professor of Environmental and Oceans Studies at the University of Waterloo. Prior to that, his career centred on senior management service in Parks Canada (Senior Vice-President), the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (Senior Assistant Deputy Minister), and Environment Canada (Director-General of the Canadian Wildlife Service). Trevor resides in Ottawa and Waterloo. He would be delighted to have the opportunity to be a Birds Canada member of the Board of Directors. If elected, he would bring widespread knowledge and experience concerning environmental science, policy, and conservation across Canada, with particular experience in the federal government's responsibility for

migratory birds and habitat.
