

2026 Slate of Candidates

Following a review of Board composition and required competencies, the SafeCare BC Board approved the Governance Committee's recommendation to present the following slate of candidates for election to the Board of Directors for approval by the members at the Annual General Meeting.

NEW DIRECTOR

Assisted & Independent Living Sector Representative (Non-voting)

Karen Fitzgerald, Optima Living



Karen Fitzgerald is the Senior Director of Operations with Optima Living. She has more than 35 years of experience spanning every level of seniors' care. Karen began her career as a Recreation Therapist, a foundation that continues to shape her people-first, resident-centred approach to leadership. Throughout her career, Karen has led multi-site teams and complex operations with a strong emphasis on health and safety, staff wellbeing, and creating environments where both residents and teams can thrive.

CONTINUING DIRECTORS (RE-ELECTION)

Private Employer Representative



Michele Thomson, Buron Healthcare

Michele has been the VP of Operations at Buron Healthcare since January 2020. Throughout her 25-year nursing career, Michele has gained experience and expertise in various practice settings, including ICU, acute care, community nursing, end-of-life care, clinical workforce planning, change management and leadership development.

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CONTINUING DIRECTORS (RE-ELECTION)

Professional (Medical/Legal) Representative

Sharon Cook, Park Place Seniors Living



Sharon brings a strong background in quality and safety leadership within healthcare and seniors' services, with experience supporting organizations through system improvement, accountability, and continuous improvement initiatives.

Sharon Cook is currently the Vice President, Quality Assurance at Park Place Seniors Living. In this role, she provides executive leadership for quality and safety across the organization, supporting consistent, high-quality care. She works closely with operational and clinical leaders to advance quality improvement, risk management, and regulatory alignment in seniors' care environments.

At Large Director (Employer - Long-term Care)

Dr. Khairun Jivani, AgeCare



Dr. Khairun Jivani is a seasoned professional with boundless vision and diverse experience in the Canadian healthcare system. Prior to joining AgeCare, Dr. Jivani performed senior leadership roles that spanned public, private and non-profit sectors, leading complex operations with strategic, transformative, and service delivery initiatives. In addition to being an internationally trained dental surgeon, she brings extensive expertise in many domains of healthcare, including prevention, primary care, community care, and palliative care.

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CONTINUING DIRECTORS (RE-ELECTION)

At Large Director (Frontline Worker - Long-term Care)

Tonya Neufeld, Menno Place



Tonya brings more than 32 years of experience as a Health Care Assistant at Menno Hospital, providing the Board with a strong understanding of frontline operations and workplace safety within the health care sector. She is deeply committed to strengthening organizational accountability for employee health, safety, and well-being, and has contributed through active service on Occupational Health and Safety and health and wellness committees. Through this experience, Tonya offers practical, informed perspectives that support effective governance, risk oversight, and the advancement of healthy workplace practices.