

# Candidates for Board of Directors positions

Desjardins Ontario Credit Union



Every January, Desjardins Ontario Credit Union puts out a call for nominations for the vacant seats on its Board of Directors, based on the Board's group profile. The Board is specifically looking for candidates with the skills and perspectives needed to round out the existing team and to reflect the diversity of the community the Credit Union serves.

This year, the Board is looking for candidates who meet the following criteria:

**Skills in at least one of the following areas**

- Financial Management
- Law and Ethics
- Risk Management
- Education
- Sustainable Development
- Information Technology

**Other representation needs**

**Knowledge in the following economic sectors:**

- Automotive (manufacturing component)
- Health professionals
- Technology

**Member representation**

**Gender (to maintain gender parity on the board)**

- Female: 3
- Male: 3

**Age groups**

- 18 - 34 years: 2
- 35 - 49 years: 3
- 50 - 64 years: 1

**Governance**

A well-balanced distribution of seasoned board members and new candidates, thereby supporting the sound and continuous governance of the Credit Union.

**At this year's Annual General Meeting, which will be held on April 14, 2026, there are 6 seats\* to be filled with a 3-year term\*. The nomination period is now closed.**

	Ottawa Region	Eastern Region	Toronto Southwest Region	Sudbury North Region
<b>Number of seats available</b>	2	2	1	1
<b>Number of applicants</b>	4	2	1	1
	<b>Election</b>	<b>Elected by acclamation</b>	<b>Elected by acclamation</b>	<b>Elected by acclamation</b>

Please read each candidate's profile to get to know them better. A summary table of candidates is included at the end of the document. It shows how each candidate meets the target profile for the Board of Directors. These profiles only highlight the skills the Board is looking for in 2026.

## Candidate for a position on the Board of Directors<sup>1</sup>

### OTTAWA REGION



### Alexandre BOUFFARD

**Occupation :** Manager, Government of Canada

**Sex :** Male

**Age group :** 35 - 49 years

**Skill that matches the board's criteria for 2026 :**

Financial Management, Accounting, Governance

**Governance Continuity :** Current member of the Board of Directors

### Reasons for running

Hello everyone,

I am seeking a second term on the Board of Directors of Caisse Desjardins Ontario because I deeply believe in the cooperative model: a financial institution created by and for its members, one that meaningfully supports families, workers, entrepreneurs, and our community.

Since 2023, I have had the privilege of serving on the Board and contributing to the work of key committees. This experience has confirmed one thing for me: the more members get involved, the stronger the Caisse becomes. The role of the Board is not to manage day-to-day operations, but to ensure that the Caisse remains well governed, financially sound, prudent, and focused on the real needs of its members — today and in the future.

I am putting my name forward because I want to continue serving members with seriousness, integrity, and openness. I am grounded in the community: I am a Desjardins member, I live in the Ottawa region, and I understand the everyday concerns people face — the cost of living, access to services, financial security, and the need for a trusted, accessible, and people-focused institution.

Professionally, I am a Chartered Professional Accountant (CPA) and a Chartered Business Valuator (CBV). My career has taught me rigor, ethics, and sound judgment. Beyond titles, what I bring to the Board is an approach: asking the right questions, maintaining independence in analysis, protecting members' interests, and making balanced decisions in an evolving economic and technological environment.

If you renew your confidence in me, I will continue to represent members with commitment and respect, and contribute to a Caisse that is:

- a) close to its members;
- b) responsible and transparent;
- c) strong, prudent, and forward-looking; and
- d) proudly cooperative

<sup>1</sup> The information in this profile was provided by the candidate, who is responsible for its accuracy. It has not been verified by the Credit Union. Translation from the candidate's original French document. In case of discrepancies, the French version is the reference.

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## Candidate for a position on the Board of Directors<sup>1</sup>

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### OTTAWA REGION



#### Jean CINTRAT

**Occupation** : Retired, Director of Parliamentary Business Operations

**Sex** : Male

**Age group** : 50 – 64 years

**Skill that matches the board's criteria for 2026:**

Governance, Human Resources Management

**Governance Continuity** : New candidacy

### Reasons for running

With over thirty years of experience working in federal government institutions, specializing in parliamentary affairs, strategic management and governance, I would like to put my expertise to work for our caisse and its members. Becoming a member of the Board of Directors would allow me to actively contribute to the governance of a cooperative institution that places its members and their community at the heart of its priorities.

This is a unique opportunity to participate in decisions that guide the development of our caisse and promote the values of cooperation. Throughout my professional career, I have acquired a solid understanding of strategic decision-making processes and governance mechanisms, particularly in my senior management roles in the public service. These successive roles involved advising senior government decision-makers on complex parliamentary and legislative issues, overseeing international initiatives, and managing human and financial resources. Guided by the values of the federal public service—integrity, stewardship, impartiality, and service to the public—I have developed a professional approach that is fully aligned with the cooperative values and collective commitment of the Desjardins Group.

I believe that my expertise in the public and parliamentary sectors, in governance, strategic analysis, and operations management is consistent with the responsibilities of the position. My extensive experience with decision-making processes in diverse environments enables me to rigorously assess issues related to an organisation's strategic direction. I am confident that I could provide valuable insight into the challenges and opportunities facing the cooperative financial sector and contribute to the positive influence of our caisse.

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## Candidate for a position on the Board of Directors<sup>1</sup>

### OTTAWA REGION



### Francine CÔTÉ

**Occupation :** Retired, Corporate Director

**Sex :** Female

**Age group :** 65 years +

**Skill that matches the board's criteria for 2026:**

Financial Management, Accounting, Information Technology

**Governance Continuity :** Current member of the Board of Directors

### Reasons for running

The Board of Directors of Desjardins Ontario Credit Union (DOCU) offers me the unique opportunity to continue my involvement with this caring and ambitious cooperative, which always prioritizes the interests of its members and communities. I remain driven by the same passion and commitment to Desjardins' cooperative mission and values, supporting our members and clients in achieving financial empowerment, community development, and social responsibility, all of which being possible because of the prosperity of our Credit Union. Such a significant impact is a privilege that comes with its share of responsibilities, which the Board must assume with attentiveness, diligence, integrity, competence, and professionalism.

I wish to continue participating in the governance of the DOCU, leveraging my experience, skills, and approach—both consultative and collaborative, yet rigorous and diligent—especially in a context of ample opportunities, challenges, and economic uncertainty. I understand the scope and importance of this role, for which I remain ready and available.

Collective profile. My education: CPA (Chartered Professional Accountant), CISA (Certified Information Systems Auditor), C.Dir., ASC (Chartered Corporate Director), and Bachelor of Accounting. My professional experience: 33 years in strategic leadership within corporate management: accounting, finance, treasury, human resources, risk management, information technology and security, physical security, and real estate.

Retired since 2022, I was Deputy Chief Administrator, Corporate Management and Chief Financial Officer at the Courts Administration Service. Previously: Director General, Finance and Systems, Global Affairs Canada; Director, Finance, Canadian Air Transport Security Authority; Senior Director, MLL Management Consulting; and Controller in the pharmaceutical and telecommunications industries. My experience includes 20 years in the private sector, including 6 years as a self-employed professional, and 19 years in the public sector.

My governance experience spans 22 years, including 10 years on Desjardins Boards of Directors: DOCU since 2020, Desjardins Financial Group since 2023, Desjardins General Insurance Group (2020-2024), and Caisse Rideau-Vision (2016-2019). DOCU: Chair of the Board and a member of the following committees: Executive, Strategic Positioning, Human Resources, Governance & Ethics, Member Engagement & Community Proximity, and Liaison. Desjardins Financial Group: Member of the Board of Directors and of the following subsidiaries, commissions, and committees: Audit & Inspection, Pensions, Desjardins Trust, Desjardins Financial Corporation, and Risk Management.

I am deeply committed to the interests of our members, the vitality of our communities, sustainable social responsibility, the development of the DOCU, and the well-being of our employees. A cooperative exists because of the personal commitment of each member to work together to meet common needs. My motivation is to continue this commitment and make a difference through my role on the Board of Directors of Desjardins Ontario Credit Union. Thank you!

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## Candidate for a position on the Board of Directors<sup>1</sup>

### OTTAWA REGION



### Alex HAZAN

**Occupation :** Human Ressources Advisor, OAG Canada

**Sex :** Male

**Age group :** 18 - 34 years

**Skills that match the board's criteria for 2026:**

Customer Service, Governance, Human Ressources Management

**Governance Continuity :** New candidacy

### Reasons for running

As a Certified Professional in Human Resources (CPHR) and bilingual BBA Honours graduate from HEC Montreal, it is with great motivation and a deep sense of belonging that I submit my application to become a board member of the Desjardins Ontario Credit Union.

As a candidate in the 18–34 age group and a member of the LGBTQ+ community, I am committed to bringing an authentic voice that will include and reflect the diversity of our credit union's members. Selecting my candidacy means bringing to the board a young individual who is committed to building a cooperative governance that is more representative, accessible, and true to Desjardins' fundamental values.

Raised in Prescott-Russell, I have been a loyal Desjardins member since my very first piggy bank. As a scholarship recipient from its foundation in 2017, I successfully completed the board of directors succession program in 2023. As an aspiring director, I made my mark by influencing decisions made by the credit union's board members, CEO, and management team. For example, in areas such as personnel management and experience, market development, customer satisfaction, and operational performance. During my two years as an apprentice, the most valuable lesson that members and customers taught me is that by working together, we can shape the future. Now more than ever, I am ready to pick up my green pen and write the next pages of my contribution to our cooperative. Throughout this story, every Desjardins Ontario member will inspire my words, actions, and decisions. I will come alone, but for 130,000 I will stand.

My professional career has been marked by one constant: putting people at the heart of decisions. At the Office of the Auditor General of Canada since 2021, I work in an environment where rigor, accountability, stewardship, and risk management are daily requirements. My role in equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) allows me to give a voice to marginalized individuals. Specifically, I delivered awareness sessions to up to 750 people, worked directly with senior management, produced multi-channel communication plans and decision-making analyses (KPIs, dashboards). This transferable experience will be my dividend to the Board: understanding what is happening on the ground and why, asking the right questions to the right decision-makers, analyzing long-term risks and opportunities by seeing the people behind the numbers.

The future of our cooperative begins today. With ethics, professional conduct, and democracy as my mantra, I will influence the Desjardins Ontario Credit Union of tomorrow. When selecting your next board member, have the Alex reflex.

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## Candidate for a position on the Board of Directors<sup>1</sup>

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ELECTED BY ACCLAMATION AT THE AGM

EASTERN REGION



### Donald Frank KUETCHE SOH

**Occupation :** Industrial Hygiene, Safety and Security Engineer

**Sex:** Male

**Age group:** 18 - 34 years

**Skill that matches the board's criteria for 2026:**

Risk Management, Sustainable Development

**Governance Continuity :** New candidacy

### Reasons for running

As a member of the Caisse for over four months, I would like to put my skills to work for our cooperative. My motivation is based on a deep conviction: the financial sector is the most powerful lever for a successful ecological and social transition. By joining the Board of Directors, my goal is to ensure that our Caisse's profitability remains inseparable from its positive impact on the community.

Desjardins' model is unique. Unlike traditional banks, the Caisse is owned by its members. In my opinion, this democratic structure is the ideal breeding ground for implementing bold sustainable development strategies. I fully identify with the Movement's desire to propel its members' ambition toward a more carbon-neutral economy while remaining inclusive.

With my experience in socio-environmental management in the road infrastructure sector, I would bring to the Board practical expertise in managing complex impacts. My daily work involves reconciling technical, environmental, and human imperatives to ensure the viability of projects.

This ability to analyze environmental risks (biodiversity, water management, emissions) and engage in dialogue with stakeholders with diverse interests is directly transferable to the governance of the Caisse. I will be able to rigorously assess the soundness of financing proposals from the perspective of social acceptability and environmental standards, thereby ensuring that the Caisse's investments comply with the criteria of Desjardins' Sustainable Development Policy.

Thank you for considering my application and I am ready to discuss my vision in an interview.

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## Candidate for a position on the Board of Directors<sup>1</sup>

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ELECTED BY ACCLAMATION AT THE AGM

EASTERN REGION



### Sylvain LEVAC

**Occupation :** Retired, CPA

**Sex :** Male

**Age Group :** 50 - 64 years

**Skill that matches the board's criteria for 2026 :**

Financial Management, Business Management, Accounting

**Governance Continuity :** Current member of the Board of Directors

### Reasons for running

It is with great interest that I submit my application for a new term on the Board of Directors of Caisse Desjardins Ontario. I began my first term in 2025 as a replacement for a resigning member. During this time, I witnessed the organization's professionalism and would like to continue contributing to the strategic management and growth of the Caisse. I also wish to represent the Caisse members effectively and ensure that the Caisse always acts in their best interests.

As an entrepreneur and manager, I believe I possess the qualities and skills necessary to contribute to the management and governance of Caisse Desjardins Ontario on the Board of Directors. I have over 35 years of experience in financial management, accounting, and auditing, including 26 years as a partner at BDO Canada LLP. I hold the CPA designation and for over 25 years participated in the auditing of the Prescott and Russell caisses populaires. I therefore possess a very good understanding of the caisse populaire ecosystem.

For a three-year term, I served on the board of directors of the Hawkesbury Hospital. During this time, the hospital was undergoing a major expansion and transitioning to a new patient data management software.

I have been a Desjardins member for over 50 years. Professionally, I have worked with my clients and the caisses populaires to secure the necessary financing to support their operations. I have also witnessed the impactful socio-economic initiatives that the Caisse Desjardins Ontario provides to our communities. I would be honored to continue working with an organization that has such a significant impact on our communities.

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## Candidate for a position on the Board of Directors<sup>1</sup>

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ELECTED BY ACCLAMATION AT THE AGM

SUDBURY NORTH REGION



### Maxine VINCENT

**Occupation :** Interim Director, Financial Services at Laurentian University

**Sex :** Female

**Age group :** 18 - 34 years

**Skills that match the board's criteria for 2026:**

Financial Management, Accounting, Governance

**Governance Continuity :** Current member of the Board of Directors

### Reasons for running

I'm presenting myself for a second term because I believe in Desjardins's mission and its support of communities like mine. As a member of the board of directors for the Maison McCulloch Hospice and Treasurer for Café Héritage, supporting local projects is something that brings me both joy and fulfilment.

On a professional level, I've been working at Laurentian University since 2010 in different positions within Financial Services, primarily as a Student Assistant, Accounts Payable Clerk, Research Accountant, Manager of Research Accounting and Treasury and currently as Interim Director. I've had the privilege of obtaining my CPA designation while working here and am a proud graduate of both the Bachelor of Commerce and MBA program.

This education and experience have served me well during my first term on the Desjardins Board of Directors and I'm happy to be given the chance to continue working with this team.

Maxine

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## Candidate for a position on the Board of Directors<sup>1</sup>

ELECTED BY ACCLAMATION AT THE AGM

TORONTO SOUTHWEST REGION



### Alexandre TOUPIN

**Occupation :** Lawyer, Business Development

**Sex :** Male

**Age group :** 18 - 34 years

**Skill that matches the board's criteria for 2026:**

Financial Management, Business Management, Law

**Governance Continuity :** Current member of the Board of Directors

### Reasons for running

Caisse Desjardins Ontario plays a unique and important role in the financial sector by offering its members and clients personalized financial services focused on moving communities forward. As a prospective member of the Board of Directors, I am motivated to contribute to the success and growth of CDO and to have a positive impact on the lives of its members and clients.

First, I am passionate about financial literacy and the empowerment of individuals and communities. I believe CDO offers a concrete opportunity to support its members and clients with rigor and care, particularly in a context of acute economic uncertainty. This support, which is at the heart of Desjardins' mission, helps people make informed decisions and move toward achieving their financial goals.

Second, my professional background combines complementary expertise in law, finance, and business operations. In addition to my Master of Business Administration, I practiced as a lawyer at a major firm, worked in investment banking, and currently hold a business development role within a company in the building materials sector. These experiences have taught me to analyze complex issues, exercise sound judgment, and contribute to important strategic decisions. I am confident that my communication and collaboration skills would be a concrete asset to the Board of Directors and to Desjardins as a whole.

Third, I am also drawn to Desjardins' unique democratic structure, in which members have an equal voice in how the cooperative is governed. As a member of the Board of Directors, I would be committed to representing the interests of members and clients and to ensuring that the caisse remains financially sound and responsibly managed.

In conclusion, I believe that serving on CDO's Board of Directors is an opportunity to actively help advance its mission in service of our community. As part of the caisse's governance, I would apply my skills and experience to support its financial health and help ensure its continued growth.

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Collective Profile of the Board Criteria sought:			BOUFFARD, Alexandre	CINTRAT, Jean	CÔTÉ, Francine	HAZAN, Alex	LEVAC, Sylvain	KUETCHE SOH, Donald Frank	VINCENT, Maxine	TOUPIN, Alexandre
Competency Criteria 2026	Skills	Target	Ottawa Region			Eastern Region		Sudbury North Region	Toronto Southwest Region	
	Customer Service					✓				
	Cooperation									
	Financial Management	X	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	
	Financial Banking Management									
	Business Management						✓		✓	
	Accounting		✓		✓		✓	✓		
	Governance		✓	✓		✓		✓		
	Law & Ethics	X							✓	
	Human Resources Management			✓		✓				
	Risk Management	X						✓		
	Education	X								
	Sustainable Development	X						✓		
Information Technology	X			✓						
Other Criteria	Gender	Target								
	Male	3	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
	Female	3			✓			✓		
	Other gender identity or prefer not to answer									
	Age Group	Target								
	18-34 years	2				✓		✓	✓	
	35-49 years	3	✓							
	50-64 years	1		✓			✓			
	65 years +	0			✓					
	Ethnocultural Diversity	Target								
	Anglophone functional in French	2								
	Cultural Diversity - functional in French	0						✓		
	Other criteria - Economic Sectors	Target								
	Automobile (manufacturing)	1								
	Health Professionals	1								
Technology	1									
Continuity of Governance										
Currently members of the Board of Directors		✓		✓		✓		✓	✓	