

# Candidates for board positions

Caisse Desjardins des Versants du mont Royal



**Amended version | April 09, 2024**

Every January, Caisse Desjardins du mont Royal 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 caisse serves.

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

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

- Accounting expertise  
(CPA designation would be a asset)
- Fields of sustainable development
- Education

### Other representation needs

As always, we want to make sure our board is representative of our community, and so we encourage people of different cultural backgrounds, gender identities, sexual orientations and physical abilities to apply.

### Member representation

We're committed to maintaining gender parity and representation from all age groups. The board is seeking men and/or gender-diverse people.

#### In particular, we are looking for :

- Ages 35-49 : 2 people
- Ages 50-64 : 1 person
- Age 65 and up : 1 person

**At this year's annual general meeting (AGM), which will be held on April 23, 2024, there are 4 seats to be filled.**

**The nomination period is now closed. The Caisse received 9 eligible nominations.**

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 a target profile for the board of directors.

Note that these profiles only highlight the skills the board is looking for in 2024.

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## Candidate for a position on the board of directors<sup>1</sup>

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### Maureen CHIN

**Occupation:** Administrative Assistant – Emergency department  
Hôpital Du Granit à Lac-Mégantic

**Gender:** Women

**Age group:** 50-64

### Reasons for running

Allow me to introduce myself. My name is Maureen Chin.

I aim to get to know the needs of the people, to listen, learn and be respectful to all members of our community.

I will bring the interests of our community for discussion at the organisational level.

Considered by colleagues and peers as a person of integrity and honesty, I have participated over the years on various work related committees in the health sector and supported interests such as housing and community gardening.

I consider myself trustworthy and capable of showing discretion.

I hold two diplomas from McGill University in Real Estate management and General Administration and have been active in the communities where I live, in the sectors of housing accessibility, health and safety at work; and, real estate. I also hold a Broker's real estate licence with 14 accumulated years of sales experience.

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<sup>1</sup>The contents of this document were provided by the candidate. It has not been verified by the caisse.

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## Candidate for a board position<sup>1</sup>

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### Chantal FIFATIN

**Occupation:** Senior EDI Advisor, Telefilm Canada

**Gender:** Women

**Age group:** 35-49

**Skills that match the board's criteria for 2024:** Education

### Reasons for running

It is with a strong commitment to sustainable development, education and corporate social responsibility that I submit my application for the position on the Board of Directors of the Caisse Desjardins des Versants du Mont-Royal, which I have been a part of since immigrating to Quebec over 20 years ago. My experience as a Senior HR Advisor, focused on corporate EDI projects, reflects my belief that Equity, Diversity and Inclusion are linked closely to the principles of sustainable development. Through my positions at Telefilm Canada and STM, I have led initiatives to create a more inclusive corporate culture, while developing EDI awareness strategies. These efforts contribute directly to organizational sustainability by fostering a work environment where every individual is respected and valued.

In applying for this position, I commit to bring a rich and diverse perspective, based on my professional and volunteer experience. My intention is to actively contribute to Caisse Desjardins' strategic vision for sustainable development and education, by proposing innovative initiatives and pragmatic solutions to meet current challenges. My motivation comes from my deep conviction that every organization has the capacity to impact positively on society. I'm convinced that the Caisse Desjardins can be a catalyst for social change, by promoting practices that are economically viable, socially equitable and respectful of the environment.

My ambition is to contribute to positioning Caisse Desjardins as a leader in sustainable development and education, by mobilizing the resources and partnerships needed to create a positive and long-term impact in the community.

My involvement in corporate social responsibility is reflected in my willingness to explore concrete actions to help tackle societal issues.

Joining the Caisse's Board of Directors would be an opportunity for me to combine these varied experiences in a holistic perspective of sustainable development, where EDI becomes an essential vector for building resilient communities.

It would be a great privilege to be able to see the concrete impact of our actions and initiatives on the community. I am convinced that my background in operational experience and my involvement in the principles of sustainable development, education and corporate social responsibility will be an asset in contributing to the Caisse's mission.

I would be happy to discuss my candidacy in greater detail during an interview.

Thank you for considering my candidacy.

Best regards,

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## Candidate for a position on the board of directors<sup>1</sup>

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### Louka KATTAN-MÉTHOT

**Occupation:** Management consultant – IT Project manager - Employer  
9311-2290 Québec inc.

**Gender:** Men

**Age group:** 35-49

**Skills that match the board's criteria for 2024:** Accounting and sustainable development

### Reasons for running

Je me présente comme candidat au Conseil d'Administration de la Caisse des versants du mont Royal parce que je crois fortement au modèle coopératif de Desjardins.

Les derniers mandats, que j'ai eu la chance de réaliser au sein du C.A. de la caisse, m'ont permis de voir l'implication concrète qu'exerce la caisse dans son milieu. Alors que les inégalités s'accroissent et que les changements climatiques deviennent de plus en plus concrets, il est important de conserver et de renforcer les coopératives comme Desjardins qui favorise la démocratie et qui est détenue par ses membres.

Je suis convaincu que Desjardins, en tant qu'entreprise systémique, a le pouvoir d'influencer notre société et cette influence doit être portée par les membres de chacune des caisses.

Si je suis élu, je m'engage à défendre les intérêts des membres et à faire en sorte que notre caisse soit le mieux gérée possible pour être en mesure de continuer à agir pour nos membres, tout en supportant les organismes de notre milieu. Je considère que la caisse se doit également d'aider les membres qui vivent des périodes plus difficiles en s'assurant de bien les accompagner. L'écoute des membres reste primordiale et pour moi, soutenir et porter les initiatives des membres est très important. Je crois que toute implication des membres doit être encouragée, l'influence des membres dans la politique de Desjardins est plus importante qu'on peut parfois le croire. Le rôle du C.A. est de représenter les membres de la caisse et il faut toujours le garder en tête dans nos décisions et dans les orientations que nous souhaitons que la caisse entreprenne.

Je crois être en mesure de bien représenter les membres qui sont sur le territoire de notre caisse, parce que c'est un territoire que je connais bien, je suis né dans Côte-des-Neiges et j'ai grandi dans le Mile-End, j'ai fréquenté l'école secondaire Pierre-Laporte à Ville Mont-Royal en musique. J'ai pu obtenir mon baccalauréat de la Polytechnique ainsi que ma maîtrise de HEC tout en étant en appartement dans Côte-des-Neiges. Les différentes communautés de notre territoire ont leurs spécificités, mais elles partagent toutes un souhait d'entraide et de collaboration.

Je crois pouvoir porter ces valeurs au sein du C.A. de Desjardins.

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## Candidate for a position on the board of directors<sup>1</sup>

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### Hugues MARCEAU

**Occupation:** President and CEO, Autonom, Inc.

**Gender:** Men

**Age group:** 35-49

**Skills that match the board's criteria for 2024:** Accounting and sustainable development

### Reasons for running

I am an ideal candidate for the position of board director due to my experience and passion for the cooperative movement.

#### Passion

I have been a long-time advocate of the cooperative movement, having served as a board member, treasurer, vice-president, and interim president from 2005 to 2012 of cooperative bookstores (Coopsco) at my educational institutions. My strong involvement was recognized within the Coopsco movement in 2007 when I was awarded the René-Houle Scholarship.

I have been a member of the Caisse des Versants du mont Royal since 1996. In 2016, I founded a startup, Autonom Inc., which is also a member of the same Caisse.

Aware of the importance of the Desjardins movement in socio-economic development, I am eager to use my past experiences to expand its impact and to enhance my skills in corporate governance.

#### Experience

As a client of several Desjardins services (savings, insurance, checking account, credit, international) and recipient of sponsorship from the Caisse, I am well aware of the strengths and weaknesses of its service offering. I would like to become a catalyst for change to improve it. I have accounting and legal skills from my entrepreneurial experience, as well as information technology skills from my bachelor's degree in electrical engineering and my passion for innovation and technology.

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## Candidate for a position on the board of directors<sup>1</sup>

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### Stefan MARTIN

**Occupation:** Property management advisor at CORPIQ

**Gender:** Men

**Age group:** 35-49

### Reasons for running

It is with pleasure that I submit my candidacy as a member of the board of directors of Caisse Desjardins. I am a notary and a real estate management advisor. I hold a Bachelor's degree in History-Political Science, a Bachelor's degree in Law, and a Postgraduate Diploma in Notarial Law. I am also a member of the Chambre des notaires du Québec and the OACIQ (Organisme d'autoréglementation du courtage immobilier du Québec).

My notarial expertise provides me with a deep understanding of legal and contractual aspects, thereby constituting an asset for the board of directors. Furthermore, I have developed expertise in the real estate sector, which will be particularly relevant in the financial context of Caisse Desjardins. My knowledge of local real estate markets and my ability to assess economic trends will contribute to informed decision-making regarding investments and real estate loans.

Having grown up in Outremont and currently residing in Ville Mont-Royal, where my three daughters are growing up, I have consistently been committed to the well-being of my community. Whether through my previous volunteer work within community organizations in Montreal or as a member of the board of directors at École Saint-Clément-Ouest, I firmly believe in the importance of actively contributing to the development and flourishing of the community. My family ties and commitment have helped shape my understanding of local issues and strengthen my determination to actively contribute to its flourishing.

My adherence to cooperative principles, coupled with my academic, real estate, and notarial background, as well as my involvement in local organizations, make me a candidate to contribute to the governance of Caisse Desjardins. As a determined individual, I am ready to fully leverage this range of skills to stimulate the sustainable growth of the Caisse and improve the financial well-being of its members, aiming for a significant impact as an administrator.

Thank you

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## Candidate for a position on the board of directors<sup>1</sup>

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### Jérôme NOMBALAI

**Occupation:** Vice president Projets Majeurs

**Gender:** Men

**Age group:** 50-64

### Reasons for running

Dear Desjardins members,

Having immigrated to Quebec in August 2016 and been a member of Desjardins since I arrived, I would like to become a board member of Desjardins to give back to the community everything it has given me over the past 8 years.

On a personal side, I am already a board member of the residence in which I live, so I am familiar with the duties of the job and used to the monthly board meetings. This position allowed me to share my skills for the benefit of all the inhabitants of this residence and in the interest of everyone.

As Vice-President of Operations for a major Canadian construction firm, my responsibilities led me to set up financing transactions for the construction of large-scale buildings. My managerial qualities allow me to quickly identify the challenges of a mandate and my leadership allows me to help teams outdo their qualities in the service of the group. My experiences in collaborative projects have allowed me to apply Cooperative principles to achieve common objectives and shared results.

As a member of the Board, I would like to contribute my experience as a member to enable the caisse to meet the needs of members with my profile. As the values of Desjardins are aligned with mine, I am convinced that I can help Desjardins contribute to a better environment and I believe that I can help it integrate ESG factors into its operations and of course into the functioning of its Boards. My rigour will allow me to help the caisse demonstrate wholesome and prudent management that respects legal and regulatory frameworks.

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## Candidate for a position on the board of directors<sup>1</sup>

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### Olivier Pansanel

**Occupation:** Expert Project Manager Engineer -SQI

**Gender:** Men

**Age group:** 35-49

**Skills that match the board's criteria for 2024:** sustainable development

### Reasons for running

Dear members,

I am convinced of the Quebec cooperative model and when I moved to Quebec with my family 4 years ago, I immediately turned to Caisse Desjardins.

Since then, we have carried out several projects together and all the advice shared with me have demonstrated the expertise of Caisse Desjardins on several occasions and confirmed that we share the same values.

I have always been very interested in issues of governance and financial management, which I have put into practice in various professional and volunteer experiences.

All generations are currently living in a difficult socio-economic context, and I would like to be able to give my time and my expertise within Caisse Desjardins to support everyone in the development of their own life project.

Each person is important, and I am very committed to the fact that everyone deserves better and improves their standard of living. I am impatient to put my knowledge and skills at the service of the common good, young people, families, single parents, businesses, the education sector...

Accustomed to working alongside Boards of Directors in my professional activities, I am an empathetic leader, and my daily life consists of supporting each person to help them progress.

My promise: to represent each of your specificities and serve the legitimate interests of the greatest number of members within the board of directors.

Thank you sincerely for your support which will turn into a benefit for YOU.

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## Candidate for a position on the board of directors<sup>1</sup>

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### René Saint-Pierre

**Occupation:** Technology Entrepreneur – Co-Founder of Envision.ai

**Gender:** Men

**Age group:** 65 and more

**Skills that match the board's criteria for 2024:** Accounting

### Reasons for running

Avec les taux d'intérêts élevés qui persistent, la Caisse des Versants du mont Royal traverse une période critique en 2024.

D'abord, cette situation économique difficile requiert des administrateurs d'expérience. Parallèlement, la composition du Conseil d'administration rajeunit, ce qui est très bien. Toutefois, nous devons assurer la transmission ordonnée des connaissances à cette relève.

Ceci requiert des candidats qui ont l'expérience du Mouvement Desjardins et de notre Caisse, et c'est à ce titre que je sollicite votre confiance.

Ma contribution au profil collectif enrichi du CA

Mon expérience en gestion et en finance inclut :

- Comme membre du CA depuis 17 ans et président depuis 2022, j'ai vu à la gestion financière rigoureuse de la Caisse.
- Comme entrepreneur depuis 2005, je gère tous les aspects financiers de mes entreprises.
- Comme Vice-Président d'un fonds d'investissement CLD-Les 3 Monts, de 2009 à 2015, j'ai octroyé du financement et des subventions à plus de 100 PME et OSBL.

Mon engagement dans le milieu

À la Caisse, une de mes initiatives a permis à 30 jeunes entrepreneurs locaux d'obtenir un financement de démarrage via le programme CRÉAVENIR de Desjardins.

Au CLD-Les 3 Monts, j'ai analysé les plans financiers de plus de 100 PME et organismes d'économie sociale de notre milieu, en vue de leur octroyer du financement et des subventions, pour leur permettre de rayonner dans notre communauté.

Ma vision

À l'écoute de son milieu, de son équipe de direction et de ses employés, le CA de notre Caisse peut et doit prendre part aux dialogues sur les préoccupations actuelles des membres et être proactif sur les enjeux de demain. Elle peut ainsi mieux agir pour le bénéfice de ses membres.

Je crois sincèrement qu'une Caisse bien gérée peut ristourner davantage à ses membres et investir plus stratégiquement dans sa communauté, notamment auprès de groupes trop souvent délaissés par les banques, comme les jeunes, la diversité, les nouveaux-arrivants et les organismes communautaires.

Ma motivation

Comme administrateur, je me préoccupe particulièrement de la saine gouvernance, de la qualité et de l'efficacité du service aux membres, de l'inclusion et de l'engagement de la Caisse dans notre communauté.

Je vous remercie à l'avance de votre confiance.

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## Candidate for a position on the board of directors<sup>1</sup>

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### Aleksandra Zajko

**Occupation:** Deputy director general Elizabeth Fry Society of Quebec

**Gender:** Women

**Age group:** 35-49

**Skills that match the board's criteria for 2024:** Accounting and Education

### Reasons for running

In addition to my socio-professional background, which corresponds perfectly to the requirements of the desired profile (in particular, sustainable development, popular education and age category), I have a good knowledge of our Caisse territory and the realities of its members. Since the age of 9, I've lived on Goyer, Coolbrook, Édouard-Montpetit, Queen-Mary and Marcil streets. I'm a first-generation immigrant and the product of local public schools. I am a graduate of Udm (2004) and HEC Montréal (2013). I currently work as the director of a community organization for women in difficult situations, located in NDG. I'm the only member of current Board of Directors to be employed by a community organization, and I've always made it my mandate to represent the voice of NPOs on our territory at Board meetings.

#### In short, why vote for me?

- For continuity: I have 7 years' experience on the Caisse's Board of Directors, where I have been involved as Secretary of the Executive Committee and Chair of the Governance and Ethics Committee, as well as contributing to the Nomination Committee, and the Audit and Ethics Committee.
- For sustainable development: the social dimension of sustainability is generally less well known than environmental struggles, but the social and community development of future generations is just as important and has always been at the heart of my professional goals and choices.
- For the inclusion of people from diverse backgrounds: I'm Eastern European and the mother of a little girl of mixed French-Guinean heritage. I'm very sensitive to the issues affecting racialized people in the Quebec of today.
- For cooperative values: my aspirations for social justice and my community involvement are unwavering, and I deeply believe that Desjardins' existence is an important contribution to our society.
- For my skills: I hold an MBA (Master of Business Administration) and have been working in organizational management for over 10 years.
- For innovation: I'm someone who can think "outside the box" and challenge the status quo. My listening and analytical skills enable me to fully understand our members' changing needs and behaviours.
- And finally, for my knowledge of, attachment to and love of the Caisse territory, where I've lived for over 30 years.

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## Summary table of candidates for the board of directors

Board of directors group profile Target criteria		CHIN, Maureen	FIFATIN, Chantal	KATTAN-MÉTHOT Louka	MARCEAU, Hugues	MARTIN, Stefan	NOMBALAIS, Jérôme	PANSANEL, Olivier	SAINT-PIERRE, René	ZAJKO Aleksandra
Required skills	Skills that match the board's criteria for 2024									
	Accounting expertise (CPA designation would be a asset)			X	X				X	X
	sustainable development			X	X			X		
	Education		X							X
Member representation criteria	Gender									
	Men			X	X	X	X	X	X	
	Women	X	X							X
	Other gender identity or prefers not to answer									
	Age group	Target number								
	18-34	0								
	35-49	2		X	X	X		X		X
	50-64	1	X				X			
	65 and +	1							X	
	Ethnic and cultural diversity									
		X	X	X			X	X		X
Governance continuity										
Current board members				X					X	X