



**2020/2021 Board of Director Nominations
Election to take place at the 2020 NSEF Annual General Meeting**

Melissa MacDonald	Director of Clubs	1-year term
Katarin MacLeod	Director of Equine Industry	2-year term
Kate Howarth	Director of Education	2-year term
Jennifer MacNeil	Director-at-Large	3-Year term
Adrienne Smith	Director-at-large	3-Year term
Andy Woolaver	Director-at-large	1-Year Term (Vacancy)

Melissa MacDonald has been a long-time and very active member of the Cape Breton Western Riders Association, currently acting as President. Melissa is integral in all aspects of the CBWRA operations, including competitions, administration, and awards recognition, amongst other duties.

As per the NSEF By-Laws, Melissa was elected by her peer group at a recent meeting of NSEF member-club directors. Final ratification of her position on the NSEF Board will take place at the AGM.



Dr. Katarin MacLeod is a former science and mathematics teacher and holds a Ph.D. in Science She is an Associate Professor at St. Francis Xavier University.

Katarin's first horse experience was in 1977 when she finally convinced her parents to enroll her in riding lessons. Her love of horses was passed on to her children. Katarin found herself back in a horse barn in 2008 when her oldest daughter asked for riding lessons and that was the beginning of an entirely new chapter.

Katarin has served as the NSEF Director of Industry for the past two years where she and the board have established partnerships both within and outside the province to better support the industry as a whole; details of which can be found within the director's report. These partnerships were an important step forward during the COVID closures, indicating that we are stronger when we work together. Katarin has also served as Secretary of the board for the past two years.

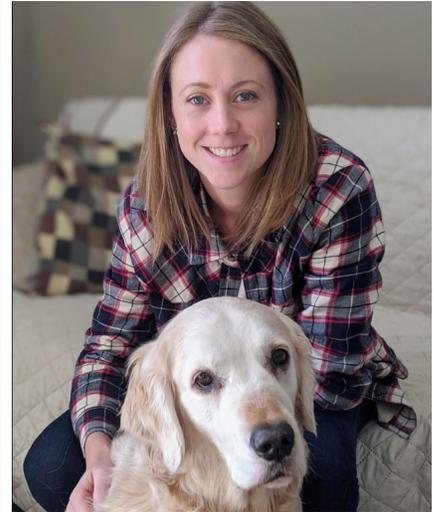


Kate Howarth, who holds a BSc with a double major in Biology and Psychology from Dalhousie University, is a Communicative Disorders Technician with the NS Hearing and Speech Centre.

Kate has been involved in horses for most of her life. She has held numerous positions in the equine field including A-Circuit Groom at Looking Back Farm in ON; Certified Instructor of Beginners at the Halifax Bengal Lancers; Instructor and Stable Manager at Queenswood Stables in ON; and as a Sales Associate at Greenhawk Harness and Equestrian Supplies.

As Director of Education Kate would love to support technical leadership opportunities. Kate is comfortable with community outreach and acting in a liaison position. Throughout her career in both professional and equine aspects she has worked on teams filled with people from various backgrounds of education and experience, collaborating with external stakeholders to help strengthen presence in the community and spread awareness of the organization.

Kate looks forward to using her skillset to help implement opportunities and to spread awareness of NSEF technical leadership programs.



Jennifer MacNeil is a Property Paralegal who lives and works in Cape Breton. In her current NSEF Board role, she has been an active participant on several committees and aided in the creation of the 2020 to 2023 Strategic Plan. In addition to this Jennifer also serves on the Board of Directors of the Cape Breton Western Riders Association (10+ years), most recently in the dual role of Vice President/Secretary. Jennifer brings to the table the perspective of a horse owner, a competitor, and a show organizer. She is skilled at working collaboratively within multi-discipline groups and has the communication skills and ability to build consensus.

Last year Jennifer co-ordinated an Emergency Preparedness and Mock Disaster at her local stable, which included providing training to 4 large Cape Breton fire stations on how to safely evacuate horses during several different scenarios.



Adrienne Smith has a long history of serving the equine community. At the provincial level she has served on the Board of the NSEF for many years, including sitting on or being the Chair of numerous NSEF committees as well as holding the Executive positions of Vice President and President. At the national level she has been an Equestrian Canada Senior official and committee member and a Category B voting member of Equestrian Canada.

Adrienne has been an active participant in the Nova Scotia 4-H community, serving for 30 years as a leader in various roles; past Director and Executive member of the Cape Breton Western Riders, Highland Riding Club, Antigonish Saddle Club, Richmond Riders and Maritime Paint Horse Association.

Adrienne is a certified Western Competition Coach, and competes in General Performance, Western and Breed Shows throughout the Maritimes.



Andy Woolaver currently works for the NS Farm Loan Board having recently retired after working for Scotiabank for over 42 years, the past 25 years in the Commercial and Agricultural sectors. Andy has a rich history of volunteering. He has served on the Board of over 19 organizations, including serving as Avon Pony Club District Commissioner (i.e. President); President, Annapolis Valley Chamber of Commerce; President, Family & Children's Services of Hants County; and as Chair and Board member of Big Brothers and Big Sisters of the Annapolis Valley to name but a fraction. Though not a rider, driver or competitor in any equine discipline, Andy has been involved in the horse world for over 40 years, dating back to the day his daughters got their first pony. This grew into owning several equines, building a family barn, hauling his children to lessons with Mary Henry (so you know he has been trained well!) and to shows progressing all the way to the Royal Winter Fair. Andy lead the charge for the "horse show dads' to become ring crew at shows, and has worked as Ring Boss at the Hants County Exhibition, Annapolis Valley Exhibition, Maritime Fall Fair and at Coveside Stables. In 2019 he was selected as the Nova Scotia Hunter Jumper Association's 'Volunteer of the Year'.

