

## Meet your Canadian Mental Health Association Simcoe County Board of Directors



**Dr. Orlena Broomes**  
Director  
*Board member since 2020*

Dr. Orlena Broomes is a sociologist and statistician, who recently retired from the Ontario Ministry of Education where her statistical analyses and research directed education policy and informed evidence-based decision making. Her national and international research projects in student achievement, social identity, equity, and human rights have been published in academic journals and featured in conference presentations.

Orlena joined the Canadian Mental Health Association Simcoe County Board of Directors in 2020 and is keen to support and advance the strategic direction of the organization and to align research and policy with practice to better serve the mental health needs of the diverse community.

Orlena has served on various professional and community boards and committees. In her spare time, she is an artist and freelance writer. She received her Doctor of Education degree from the University of Toronto.



**Stephen Chester-Bertelsen**  
Vice President  
*Board member since 2014*

Stephen Chester-Bertelsen is a Special Education Consultant with the Simcoe County District School Board. Stephen completed his Masters of Education in Human Development and Applied Psychology as well as a Post Graduate Diploma of Holocaust and Genocide Education from the University of Toronto. Stephen brings a wealth of educational experience to our Board of Directors including Métis and Inuit Studies and English as a Foreign Language.

Stephen is the Vice President of the Board of Directors. Stephen also serves as the Chair for the Board Governance Committee.

Stephen also is the Co-Chair of the Simcoe County Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Advisory Committee, Past-Chair of the Barrie Community Health Centre, Past-Chair of the Equity Committee for the Simcoe County Elementary Teacher's Federation and has served on the Board of Directors for New Path Youth and Family Services.

Stephen is the recipient of the Margaret Gallow Community Spirit Award (Catulpa Community Support Services) and the Inclusion Excellence Award (Simcoe Community Services (rebranded to Empower Simcoe)).



**Arlinda Demiri**  
Treasurer  
*Board member since 2015*

Arlinda is the CEO and founder of Scholarly Inc. In particular, her work is rooted in dismantling oppressive educational practices by helping youth from vulnerable populations develop their voices through education-based empowerment.

Arlinda is also a public speaker who uses her platform to speak on issues of mental health (particularly youth mental health) as well as on issues relating to equity and empowerment. Her unique competencies include governance, strategic planning and finance.

Through volunteer partnerships with the Women and Children's Shelter, the Women's Advocacy Council, homeless shelters as well as youth programs led by community organizations Arlinda has empowered thousands of underprivileged youth through her work. Arlinda also serves as the Vice-Chair on the Barrie Community Health Centre Board of Directors.

Arlinda is the Treasurer of the Executive Committee, she also serves on the Board Governance Committee and is the Chair of the Finance Committee. Arlinda was drawn to the Canadian Mental Health Association Simcoe County Board of Directors due to her lived experience and her belief in amplifying the voices of disenfranchised populations through governance and policy work.

Arlinda's vision for the Canadian Mental Health Association Simcoe County clients, the agent and the community as a Board of Directors is that every single client and community member continues to be treated with the dignity and respect that they deserve. She hopes that mental health care will continue to move towards culturally relevant avenues of care for all individuals and specifically for young people in the mental health system.