

# Francesca Allodi-Ross

**Ward:** 11 (University-Rosedale)

**Cyclist:** Runnings errands, exploring the Leslie Street Spit, Lakeshore Active-TO enthusiast

**Skills/experience:** Workplace law, board experience, group facilitation

## **Bio:**

Francesca is an employment and human rights lawyer at community legal clinics in west Toronto and Etobicoke, giving free legal advice and representation to low-wage workers. She holds a law degree from Osgoode Hall Law School and a BA in Political Science from McGill University. She loves dancing, building community, and being outside.



## **Skills and Experience I will bring to the position:**

It has been a privilege to serve on this Board for the past three years, as Vice-Chair, Chair, and now as President. I have shared my knowledge of employment and human rights law with the Human Resources committee, including chairing the Executive Director Transition sub-committee. On the Governance Committee, I initiated and oversaw the development of our current strategic plan.

## **Why I want to join the Cycle Toronto Board of Directors:**

I look forward to continuing to fight for the right to mobility in Toronto. I want everyone to have the option of cycling--to have a quick, reliable, affordable, safe, and joyful way to get around. In particular, I want to support the organization in adopting anti-oppressive practice in our work, uniting our staff, board, members and supporters not only around our love of the bicycle but around our underlying values of justice, equity, and sustainability.

# Adrian Currie

**Ward:** 9

**Cyclist:** Daily Commuter

**Skills/experience:**

I possess the following skills/experiences in order from most experience to least:

Board experience, Communications and marketing, Fundraising, Community affiliation/access, Organizational management, Leadership, Strategic planning and Finance/Accounting.



**Bio:**

Adrian is an actor and a filmmaker, with a BA in Economics and a BA in History, both from McGill University. He is passionate about cycling in Toronto, which he would like to see flourish and become part of our everyday culture and infrastructure. Adrian sits on Cycle Toronto's Advocacy Committee, Governance Committee, Anti-Oppression Committee, Fundraising Committee, IT Committee and is a co-chair of Cycle Toronto's Bicycle Parking Working Group. Adrian is also the current Vice President of the board of directors. Adrian is very proud of the value that Cycle Toronto provides to the community. As a Community Bicycle Network member since 2002 and a board member and chair for many years, he has seen plenty of change in our city, and is happy to be a part of it.

**Skills and Experience I will bring to the position:**

I will bring more than three years of CT board experience to this position.

In addition to the institutional knowledge that I have gained through three years of CT board experience, I will bring my knowledge and experience of more than 18 years of being a cycling advocate in Toronto.

I possess the following skills/experiences in order from most experience to least;

Board experience, Communications and marketing, Fundraising, Community affiliation/access, Organizational management, Leadership, Strategic planning and Finance/Accounting.

**Why I want to join the Cycle Toronto Board of Directors:**

I want to continue on as a Cycle Toronto Board Member because I believe in the work that we are doing and I would like to continue doing it. I consider myself an Actorvist; an Actor and an Activist. Working with Cycle Toronto as a board member is one of the most satisfying jobs that I have. It's been great to see the change that Cycle Toronto has been able to accomplish in its short 11 years of existence and I feel that we have many more great successes ahead of us. The recent addition of 40km of bike lanes and protected infrastructure as part of Toronto's ActiveTO response to the Covid-19 pandemic is just one such example.

# Sarah Grant

**Ward:** 14

**Cyclist:** Daily commuter

**Skills/experience:** (ranked in order)

- Fundraising
- Board experience
- Leadership
- Strategic planning
- Organizational management
- Finance /Accounting
- Communications and marketing
- Human resources
- Community affiliation/access
- Risk management
- IT management
- Law



## **Bio:**

I'm a nonprofit leader, experienced board member and community activist who is drawn to solving complex problems (transportation, food security, climate change, international development). I've worked for over 15 years as a senior leader in non-profits and as the Executive Director of a fast growing charity, I am deep into the world of fundraising.

## **Skills and Experience I will bring to the position:**

**Fundraising:** I am the Executive Director of a charity that in six months raised \$700,000 through diverse sources.

**Strategic Leadership:** I previously was a senior executive with Engineers Without Borders and oversaw two major pivots in the organisation's mandate.

**Board experience:** I've sat on both sides of the table — board member and reported to boards.

## **Why I want to join the Cycle Toronto Board of Directors:**

I believe our city has the potential to become a leader in cycling **for all**. These days, the fundraising landscape is challenging and would love to help crack that nut. Having just stepped back from my previous board commitment (Organic Council of Ontario), now is a great time for me to take on something new.

# DANA O'BORN

**Ward:** 9 (Davenport)

**Cyclist:** Avid, year-round, all season, + indoor cycling instructor.

## **BIOGRAPHY:**

Growing up in small town-Nova Scotia, I have found a solid footing back in my native city, Toronto where I work as the Director of Strategic Initiatives for the *Council of Canadian Innovators (CCI)*, a national business council that represents over 100 of Canada's fastest-growing technology-intensive companies. My work is to help high-growth Canadian-based technology firms scale-up globally by advancing public policy strategies for domestic innovation firms. At CCI, I spearhead the Council's pan-Canadian advocacy efforts for developing data driven strategies to support Canada's economic transition to a more digital world.



Before joining CCI in 2016, I held various public policy and government affairs roles, first for a national government relations firm in Toronto, and then at Queen's Park where I supported several Cabinet Ministers on issues related to economic development, transportation and energy. Prior to entering the realm of government and public policy, I studied law and business abroad before moving back to Canada to kick-start my career. I hold a BA from Wilfrid Laurier University, an LL.B from the University of Edinburgh, a Master's of Business and Law from Bucerius University in Hamburg, Germany. On any given day I can be found teaching spin at SPINCO or planning my next getaway to somewhere warm with (vegetarian) tacos!

## **SKILLS & EXPERIENCE:**

I am a team builder and process guru who places human resources and teamwork at the top of any value chain for success. An unhappy team is an unproductive one! I pride myself on being on top of things and prioritizing for productivity. From political organization to helping to scale a national organization. I am a strategic thinker and planner on projects and concepts with the understanding that bringing people and networks together to achieve a common goal through empowerment and shared outcomes is the brightest path forward.

I am a lawyer by training and have had the privilege to help craft policy and direction at the provincial level, most notably in 2015 on *Bill 31 – Making Ontario's Roads Safer Act*. While the legislation was welcomed and highly celebrated, I believe it is now time to update road use planning and improve cycling safety across Toronto. Outside my work life, I spend a lot of time in the studio at SPINCO – where I instruct spin (3-6 times per week) and also help train new instructors to prepare for the podium.

I have been an organizer for the last 7 years either for charitable or political causes and have worked on and managed various campaigns. I have experience in organizing fundraisers and effectively communicating about fundraising for a cause. I currently sit on the Board of Directors for The University of Edinburgh Alumni Association of Toronto. The association manages over 100 members and is the most active Alumni organization for the University outside of Scotland. I also sit on the recently created

Innovation Asset Collective – an arm’s length federal government organization dedicated to supporting the development of IP for Canadian companies.

**Why I want to join the Cycle Toronto Board of Directors:**

As a year-round, avid cyclist – I have grown increasingly frustrated with the lack of acknowledgement of the cycling community in Toronto. And while there have been many upgrades to infrastructure with a surge of riders in the city over the past summer (yay!) – I continue to see road users blatantly ignore the rules of the road. For a long time, I complained: online, to friends and family and realized I could have a bigger impact by just doing something about it. So – here I am, with a strong desire to elevate the safety of riders in this city, but also help empower the cycling community and advocate for a shared, inclusive space that we can all be proud of and feel safe riding on.

I believe my experience and understanding of the legislative and regulatory process helps support my bid for the role; the timing of engagement with government to modify rules and regulation is critical to having an impact. I am a strong facilitator and am highly motivated when it comes to bringing together various groups of stakeholders to speak and work together, even when their interests don’t always align, but their goals are shared. I am energetic and enthusiastic about cycling indoors and out and I hope to have a positive impact on the operations and mission of CycleTO. Thank you for your endorsement and I look forward to the opportunity to work with all of you!

# Priyanka Vittal

**Ward:** Davenport (Ward 9)

**Cyclist:** Yes! All year round

**Skills/experience:** Cycle Toronto since 2017 on the Advocacy and HR Committee (including the ED Hiring Committee). Legal and non-profit experience, policy and by-law drafting, hiring and recruitment.

**Bio:** I am an environmental non-profit lawyer by trade and passion and believe that any public interest legal work should be movement and community centred. I am also a member of the South Asian Bar Association and the Law Union's Movement Defence Committee. In my spare time I do pottery, gardening and am a member of a longstanding reading group that reads widely on economic policy, social change, political movements.



I'm a year-round cyclist who bikes for commuting and leisure. When I lived in other cities I used to be the odd one out who used to cycle everywhere and when I finally moved to Toronto I felt like everything clicked and cycling became part of my identity. I'm one of those people you see coming out of the grocery store with a bag on every handle and basket maintaining a delicate balance or the sole wedding guest attendee who has arrived to the venue on my bicycle in heels and a gown. My favourite bike ride is up to my parent's place in Rexdale when I get to stop in the Junction for coffee and admire the humber river along the way. I think cycling is integral to Toronto's sustainable growth, health, urban planning, community building and our fight against climate change.

**Skills and Experience I will bring to the position:** I'm coming around to five years of non-profit Board experience, three of which has been with Cycle Toronto where I've assisted with policy and by-law drafting and strategic planning among the various other duties that are required of a Board Member. I have been part of the Advocacy Committee as co-chair where I focus on operational issues related to the committee including by-law revisions, recruitment and updating our committee member search criteria. As the chair of the HR committee, the most notable undertaking was being part of the ED Hiring Committee where I supported the hiring of an interim and permanent ED. I helped to develop and implement the ED succession plan and hiring of the candidates. I have a good understanding of how a policy Board operates and because of my professional experience and position on the Board I have insights into campaigning, community organizing, fundraising, advocacy, and the staff-board relationship that informs the Board role.

**Why I want to join the Cycle Toronto Board of Directors:** I've enjoyed my experience for the past three years seeing the enormous growth within the organization and the impact it has had on the City of Toronto. In the past three years the organization has supported an enormous expansion in bike lanes, managed changes in leadership, refined its visions and values, all which has been possible with a dedicated set of staff, volunteers and Board members who are trying to embody the changes we want to see. I want to continue to be part of this upward momentum the organization is having and I have the knowledge and experience to support me. I support Cycle Toronto's ambitious vision for a sustainable and inclusive transportation network across the city. Cycle Toronto has a strong voice in advocating for this vision and I'd like to help continue to make it a reality.