

John Trus – 3 yr term

For more than 30 years John Trus held leadership roles with global technology companies - with primary responsibility for sales and marketing, while contributing to strategy and growth as part of the management teams.

Over the past 20 years, John also brought his knowledge of strategic planning, managed growth and governance to several Boards. He has served as Vice-Chair on the Board of Food For Life, one of the largest food rescue charities in Southern Ontario; on the Executive Committee of the Wilfrid Laurier University (WLU) Board of Governors; and on the Board of the WLU Alumni Association.

John's initial exposure was through his father and father-in-law who each suffered hearing loss. He saw firsthand the social, practical and logistical challenges they both went through, and felt ill equipped to adequately assist them or to understand what they were experiencing.

As he is now experiencing hearing challenges himself, John is particularly attuned to the significant impact it can have on someone's life. He understands the importance of having access to quality information, and guidance to navigate the process and find the best solutions.

John looks forward to contributing to the Canadian Hard of Hearing Association in pursuing its objectives of education, advocacy and access.

Alita Fabiano – 3 yr term

After experiencing single-sided deafness due to a tumour at age 19, Alita Fabiano struggled readjusting to her severe hearing impairment whether it be during university, the workplace, or in everyday life. Growing up in South Porcupine, Ontario before moving to Ottawa, she saw first hand how the lack of resources in Northern Ontario create even less equitable opportunities for individuals with hearing loss or a disability. These experiences are why she joined the Canadian Hard of Hearing Association, as well as have used her voice to advocate for inclusive growth to ensure people with disabilities are able to contribute meaningfully to society and have equal opportunity. As such, she has been a guest on the Kind Community Show podcast to discuss inclusive change-making, has been interviewed by the Ottawa Business Journal, as well as recently begun doing speaking engagements about the importance of accessibility.

Professionally, she has taken the same passion to help the business community become more inclusive in both their hiring practices, as well as in the workplace itself. Alita currently works at LRO Staffing leading their marketing department. As such, she has advised their clients and created resources on how to make their hiring process more accessible. Prior to this position, she worked for many years at the Canadian Chamber of Commerce helping to advance their inclusive growth policy efforts. In that capacity, she worked closely with the Rick Hansen Foundation to promote workplaces adopting their accessibility certification program, as well as ensuring their own offices were certified. Alita also had several articles published during her time at the Chamber on the importance of inclusivity and accessibility in the workplace, such as in Canadian SME Magazine.

Alita looks forward to joining CHHA's Board of Directors. The issue of individuals with disabilities, their right to fully participate in society, and accessibility are ones that are close to her heart and she feels honoured to work with CHHA to help create positive change towards that.

Natasha Cox – Young Adult Representative

Natasha Cox is 31 years old. She was born with a bilateral conductive hearing loss and have worn wearing aids since age three. Tasha attended college to obtain a diploma in Therapeutic Recreation and loves her career working with seniors with dementia.

She has been involved with the CHHA since the age of five. She has been on the board of CHHA-Vancouver and is currently a board member of the CHHA-Young Adults Network. Over the years, she has attended ten CHHA National Conferences and three International Federation of Hard of Hearing Young People (IFHOHYP) Summercamps. Natasha Cox understands the value of an organization like CHHA. She has met lots of amazing friends, had great memories and learned lots from the workshops at these conferences. It is important to reach out to young people who have hearing loss to provide support and advocacy as well as friendship and fun.

Natasha looks forward to meeting you and being the CHHA YAN Representative.