

2021-2022 Board of Directors

My name is **Niklas Kviselius**, and I am the new **President** of the Board for 2021. I have lived abroad for almost 15 years now, and I always tried to keep connected to my Swedish roots. Without the Swedish Cultural Association with all its activities, this would be much more difficult!

I moved to Vancouver in 2017 after spending 10 years in Asia. I immediately enrolled my two daughters (7 and 12 years) in the Swedish School. The center in Burnaby has really felt like a second home for my kids and me.



My name is **Monica Severinsson**, and I am the **Secretary** of the board. I have also been involved in the Swedish School, the Christmas market, and the Lucia celebration. SKF has helped me maintain traditions, meet friendly Swedes, and be part of stimulating gatherings.

I was born and raised in Småland, trained as a teacher in Gothenburg, spent four years in Montreal, and have lived in Vancouver since 1979 – except for one year as an exchange teacher in Australia. I am married to Åke, have three sons and three grandchildren.



My name is **Christel Lindström**, and I am the new **Treasurer**, which feels like the next step for me, now that my son has finished Swedish School.

It feels vital to protect our culture and the community we get in the Swedish Cultural Society, and I am happy to be able to help.

I was born and raised in Gothenburg. I left Sweden in 1988 to travel and see the world, but I never imagined it would be forever.

I found a second home in Vancouver, and it feels really good to be Canadian too. I have my own business, and we love to travel and spend time with my wonderful family.



My name is **Monica Olofsson**, and I am responsible for **Memberships**. The Swedish Cultural Society and the Swedish School became central to our life in Vancouver when we came as a family to a new, foreign country in 1988.

We learned to know so many who became, and still are, our friends.

We were able to preserve our language and our traditions while "living in" Vancouver.

I am happily retired (wife, mother, and grandmother), and I have been involved in the Swedish Cultural Society for more than 30 years, currently responsible for membership.



My name is **Åsa Eidelöf**, and I am the **Vice Secretary**.

Together with my dear friends in the Swedish Cultural Society, I can maintain traditions, culture, language, dance, music, and song. It's become my family in Canada.

I am a worker bee, loyal, quiet, humble, and I like hiking in the mountains – and happy hour.



My name is **AnnaKarin Törnqvist**, and I am the **Vice President**.

As a Swedish immigrant, newly moved to Vancouver in 1997, it seemed natural to approach the Swedish Cultural Society and the Scandinavian Community Center to preserve and celebrate beloved Swedish traditions – such as Midsummer and Lucia. Swedish culture in good company!

I come from Hudiksvall, but I also have family from Örnsköldsvik and Skellefteå. Master of Business Administration from HHU Umeå. I've worked with Project management and Process & Quality management in the IT industry. I have four "children" aged 12-20, a dear husband, and several motorcycles.



My name is **Linda Olofsson** (Seminara), and I just resigned as Treasurer and am now a **Member at Large**.

I grew up with the Swedish Cultural Society - at first in the Swedish School and now as part of the Board. I enjoy being a part of this organization, helping Swedes maintain traditions, and informing them about what is currently happening in Sweden.

I moved to Vancouver in 1988 when I was 4 years old, and almost immediately, my family became involved within the Swedish Cultural Society. We quickly became good friends with other families through the Swedish School. We planned to live here for 2 years – now we have lived here for 33 years! Vancouver is my home, and much because of the Swedish Cultural Society.



My name is **Carina Spencer**, and I am **Ombudsman**.

When I had my first child, I was looking for something that could keep traditions and the Swedish language going. I did not know many Swedes here, and I was homesick. I made several friends in the Swedish school and it led me to the Swedish Cultural Society and the board, when the children got older.

We have a great board where everyone helps and is friends.

I was born and raised in Småland and came to Canada as a nanny in 1986. I met my future husband, and we moved to Sweden for a while but came back in 1994. We have two children.

We had our own company in the food industry for 25 years. My job was very varied. I have been involved in the Scandinavian Community Centre for long, and I consider it, and all the people, as a part of my family.

I am part of those who try to preserve the history of the Swedes here in BC through Swedish Heritage in BC. My soul continues to be blue-yellow!



My name is **Pia Hilton** and I am a **Member at Large**.

I have been a member of the Swedish Cultural Society for more than 25 years. During these years, I have been involved in the board in many different positions. I have also been a teacher at the Swedish School and a volunteer in many cultural events.

The Swedish Cultural Society has meant a lot to my children and me, and we have made many close and dear friends.



My name is **Maria Lakes** and I am a **Member at Large**.

The Swedish Cultural Society is a tremendous 70-year old society in Vancouver with inspiring people in the lead, keeping Swedish language, traditions, and culture alive with constant innovation for keeping Swedish culture alive in Vancouver.

I am a Swede living in BC who grew up very traditionally Swedish in the countryside and a small town in Sweden. Varied in interests and work but always with love for the history, roots, and culture that I got to have grown up, as well a strong drive for wanting to participate in sharing and spreading it here in BC.

My name is **Riitta Huttunen** and I am the **Vice Treasurer**.

I was contacted and asked if I'd be interested in being on the SCS board, and this was only a week after I had informed SWEA's nominating committee that I was stepping down as the treasurer after nine years, and it's time for somebody else to take over.

The Scandinavian Centre has been a focus for me ever since I moved to Canada in 2010. At the Centre, I'm the bookkeeper, volunteer coordinator for the Midsummer festival, organizing the Scandinavian Craft Fair, Scandinavian Folkdancing, using the library, attending the spring cleaning, and many events. My primary language is Swedish.



My name is **Jonas Edenvik**, and I am a **Member at Large and edit the Newsletter**.

I moved here a couple of years ago and sought out the Swedish Cultural Association to get to know more Swedes in Vancouver.

I have four grown children, of which my two daughters live here now. I was raised in Falköping, but I lived my adult life in Stockholm, where I started a communications agency in 1989, which my eldest son now runs.

I love skiing, playing golf, and exercising – where Vancouver has a lot to offer. And I have always been involved in music projects and like to play drums.

