



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ROI announces new members to the Board of Directors

GUELPH, ON, June 16th, 2023 - The Board of Directors of the Rural Ontario Institute (ROI) is pleased to announce the appointment of Matthew Bunch and Michelle Hunter as ROI Directors.

“The ROI Board of Directors represents Ontario’s rural and agricultural knowledge, skills and experience, to better plan and oversee the rural economic development work of the organization.” says Dan Borowec, Chair of the ROI board. *“We are excited to welcome Matthew and Michelle to ROI’s Board. Both candidates have shown exceptional leadership in their respective communities and bring with them strong experience in community development and governance.”*

Country Director for the Hunger Project Canada, Matthew Bunch comes to ROI with broad experience in the non-profit sector and international development focusing on building communities, food security, and advancing the rights of women and children. Matthew has a strong background in leadership and program management. As a past employee ROI is pleased to welcome Matt’s return in a governance capacity.

“I am closely familiar with the challenges and opportunities facing not for profit organizations in Canada, particularly where agricultural development, governance and food security are concerned,” shares Matthew. *“I’m excited to be joining the Rural Ontario Institute board of directors, and I welcome this opportunity to contribute effectively to the help grow ROI team.”*

Additionally, ROI extends a warm welcome to Michelle Hunter. Michelle grew up on a dairy farm in rural Ontario where early experiential learning with 4-H was a family and community priority. As the Managing Director of the Rural Ontario Medical Program, Michelle brings with her strong program management and health care industry experience and is a welcome asset to the team.

“The ROI board has always brought the best of rural Ontario to the table. Our new board members bring wisdom, strength, and diversity to the organization as we promote our vision of thriving communities in rural and northern Ontario,” says ROI Executive Director, Ellen Sinclair. *“The board recruiting procedure enables ROI to make sure that our mission is understood clearly and gives all voices the chance to speak for people in rural Ontario.”*

ABOUT

The Rural Ontario Institute (ROI) is a non-profit organization committed to developing leaders, informing decision makers and connecting communities. ROI delivers the renowned Advanced Agricultural Leadership Program (AALP) entering its 40th year of operation, and the Rural Change Maker program, a youth leadership initiative for young rural, emerging leaders to

address local priorities. We provide data research and analysis on rural trends and demographics. Information is disseminated in our Rural Ontario Facts products - factsheets and accompanying dashboards. Currently, ROI is engaged in a rural housing initiative that will help communities to address the housing and homelessness crisis being faced by thousands of Canadians.

ASSOCIATED LINKS

- [RURAL ONTARIO INSTITUTE](#)

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