

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board comprises nine dealers from different segments of the industry, including large and small dealerships in both the new and used market sectors, elected by dealers across the province. These industry representatives are joined by three public representatives appointed by the Minister of Government and Consumer Services. Dealer Board members are elected by dealers from across the province.

Current directors are:

Virginia West

President and Chair

First appointed June 2021

Virginia West is a former Deputy Minister for the Province of Ontario, serving in five successive portfolios – Solicitor General, Public Safety and Security, Environment, Labour and Natural Resources. She has also held leadership positions at the municipal level as Commissioner of City Property for the City of Toronto, Chief Administrative Officer of the Borough of East York and the first Commissioner of Urban Planning and Development Services of the amalgamated City of Toronto.

Ms. West is a lawyer by profession and holds a Master of Business Administration degree from the University of Toronto. In addition to Chair of OMVIC, she is currently Chair of the Home Construction Regulatory Authority and Board Director of the Canadian Red Cross Society. Ms. West has served on several other community Boards and Crown agencies, including Board Director and Vice-Chair of Unity Health Toronto, Providence Healthcare (Chair), Niagara Parks Commission, Toronto Harbour Commission, Riverdale Hospital (Chair) and Catholic Family Services of Toronto (Chair).

Robert McMillan

Vice Chair

Appointed October 16, 2019

Term expires 2022 AGM

Robert McMillan is an award-winning automotive industry expert with over 35 years of experience owning and operating dealerships and leading and serving on multiple boards of directors, including as President of the Canadian International AutoShow.

He is President and Owner of Volvo of Mississauga, a dealership he has owned since 1985. A graduate of Northwood Institute (Automotive University), he has served on several boards and committees. He is a Past President of Trillium Automobile Dealers Association (2007) and the Canadian International Auto Show (2008).

Sohail Ahmed

Secretary-Treasurer

Appointed August 2019

Elected November 2020

Term expires 2023 AGM

Nearly 12 years ago as a young entrepreneur Sohail Ahmed registered with OMVIC to start a car dealership. He had launched Momo Cars in St Catharines with just 3 cars.

He fully emerged himself into the industry championing innovation within it for over a decade and was appointed to the OMVIC Board of Directors in 2019. He expanded in the auto industry nationwide, Momo Express Courier and logistics, Momo Collision Center, Momo Tires and now operates in 3 provinces and 7 cities. He has been named one of Automotive Remarketing's 40 under 40 for his unique progressive vision of the automotive industry.

Along with his OMVIC Board appointment Sohail has also served on the Brock University Board of Trustee and BUSU Board of Directors as chair. Sohail wasn't always into the automobile industry, he was an executive of BUSU which brought out his passion for serving the community through public policy.

Kevin Bavelaar

Dealer Representative

First elected May 2007

Term expires 2022 AGM

Kevin started in the used car business in 1989 as a salesperson in a medium-sized independent dealership. He was promoted to general manager in 1990. In 1993, Kevin started Auto Showplace and has since been involved in all aspects of automotive remarketing. As owner of Auto Showplace, he is familiar with the challenges of running a medium-sized independent car dealership, including marketing, strategic planning, risk management and financial responsibility.

During his first term on OMVIC's Board of Directors (1999–2004), Kevin chaired several committees, including Ethics and Discipline, and Industry Professionalism. His current term began in May 2007 and he has served as Secretary-Treasurer, Vice President and President, as well as Chair of the Board. Kevin was President and Chair of OMVIC's Board of Directors in 2015. He also served a term as a member of the Motor Vehicle Dealers Compensation Fund's Board of Trustees.

Tony Del Gobbo

Elected November 2020

Term expires 2022 AGM

Tony Del Gobbo has a combined 38 years of automotive experience. He is President and owner of:

- Newmarket Hyundai
- Orillia Hyundai
- Cambridge Mitsubishi
- Mountain Mitsubishi
- Collingwood Hyundai

He is also Vice-President and owner of:

- HWY 11 Dodge, Chrysler, Ram
- Orillia Motorsports

He has also served on TADA board previously (2010 to 2014) and on the Hyundai National Dealer Council (2001-2010).

Glen Fenwick

Elected November 2020

Term expires 2023 AGM

Glen Fenwick is the Dealer Principal of Glen Fenwick Subaru and Glen Fenwick Hyundai. He is a 2nd generation member of the automotive sales industry. The car business is his lifelong passion.

He previously sat on the Board of Directors for the OADA/TADA. He is a Past Vice Chair of OMVIC's Discipline and Appeals Committee. His goal has always been to use his experiences to support our industry and our consumers in the best possible way.

His many accomplishments over the years include:

- NADA Dealer Academy
- Current and long-time TADA and UCDA Member in good standing
- Current Vice Chair, OMVIC Discipline and Appeals Committee
- Past OMVIC Dealer Discipline Panel Committee Member
- Past OADA Board of Directors
- Past Pres. Bluewater Franchise Dealers Association

He operates on the values of honesty, openness, transparency and communication and looks forward to opportunity to support our communities, consumers, registered dealers and salespeople as a member of the OMVIC Board of Directors

Chris Gauthier

Dealer Representative
First elected June 2021
Term expires 2024 AGM

After graduating from Ryerson University in 1993 with a BBA degree in marketing and communications, Chris Gauthier entered the automotive sales business as a lot person and held progressively senior positions becoming general manager at the age of 31.

As a graduate of NADA HIGHLINE 002, NADA he is currently a dealer principal of:

- Roadsport Honda, Toronto (since January 2010)
- Roadsport Chrysler, Toronto (since September 2013)
- Riverview Ford Lincoln, Fredericton, New Brunswick (since October 2019).

He has been a member of Ontario Honda Dealers Association since June 2013 and became its President and Treasurer in April 2019, a position that he continues to hold to date. He is also a member of Honda Dealer Advisory Team (since September 2018) and is its current Vice Chair (since March 2021).

Rodney Jackson (*Ministerial Appointee*)

Vice President
Appointed February 16, 2019
Term expires February 15, 2022

Rod was a Member of Provincial Parliament from 2011 to 2014 and was appointed to the provincial shadow cabinet as Official Opposition Critic for Community and Social Services, the third largest ministry in the province. He served as the watchdog for the 2015 Pan-Am Games and is the recipient of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal in honour of significant contributions and achievements as a Canadian.

Prior to his time in the legislature, Rod ran Redline Strategies, a national automotive focused Human Resources consultancy.

Currently Rod is a Senior Partner at FullForce Legal Services LLP, practising Employment Law, Landlord Tenant and Litigation. He also serves on the provincial board of directors for The Ontario Trillium Foundation.

Rob Leggat

Elected November 2020

Term expires 2023 AGM

Rob Leggat is the Managing Partner/General Manager of Team Honda Powerhouse of Milton. Since he took over the dealership in 2010, they have won the Honda President's Challenge 6 times

His career in the automotive sales industry began in September 2003 when he joined Leggat/Mountain Saturn Saab. He transitioned to sales management in 2005 and worked there until 2008. In May 2008, he joined and assisted in the opening of Team Honda as an open point.

Rob completed his studies at Georgian College and the University of Western Ontario.

He is currently a member of the Ontario Honda Dealers Association where he provides input and feedback on Honda advertising strategies. He also works actively with Honda Canada, fellow Honda dealers and advertising channels to best promote the Honda brand.

Patricia Perkins

Ministerial Appointee

First appointed June 2021

Term expires 2023 AGM

Patricia is a proven leader who brings over 30 years of political and governance experience to the Board. She was the first woman to be elected as Mayor of the Town of Whitby. Patricia served as a Durham Regional Councillor for 18 years, including the eight years she served as Mayor of Whitby. She was actively involved in Public Health and Social Services as a member, Vice-Chair and then Chair of the Health and Social Services Committee, dealing with some very challenging issues such as SARS, downloading of Social Housing and downloading of Paramedic services.

Patricia was a member of the Strategic Planning Committee for the Region of Durham and is very proud to have produced and implemented the Region's first Community Strategic Plan. Following her municipal career, Patricia was then elected to the House of Commons as Member of Parliament for the riding of Whitby/Oshawa. Prior to being an elected official, Patricia had extensive municipal experience in the Finance Department of the (then) City of Scarborough.

Patricia has been a member of the board of directors of the Whitby Hydro Corporation, Durham Region Non-Profit Housing Corporation, Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority (Chair), Durham Children's Aid Society and the Charles H. Best Diabetes Centre for Children and Youth (Chair). Residing in Whitby, Patricia is a Rotarian with the Rotary Club of Whitby and is a Paul Harris Fellow. She is a proud recipient of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee medal.

Cliff Pilon

First elected May 2006

Term expires 2024 AGM

Cliff entered the automotive industry in 1981. He has been the Dealer Principal of Gold Fleet Subaru in North Bay for more than 33 years.

Cliff's hands-on approach, coupled with daily interaction with his businesses, and learning and adapting to technology, social and environmental changes, helps keep him in tune with the ever-changing landscape. Combined with his strong automotive, mechanical and financial knowledge, Cliff's experience makes him a valuable asset to OMVIC's Board of Directors.

Matt Rispin

First elected May 2006

Term expires 2024 AGM

The automotive remarketing business has helped satisfy Matt's entrepreneurial passion for the past 20 years. In 2003, Matt and his partners opened North Toronto Auction (NTA) and have succeeded in developing it into the largest independent auction in Canada. NTA is recognized as a pioneer of the hybrid auction model, specializing in both wholesale and public auctions. Matt and his partners have enjoyed the journey as NTA has grown from a small business with seven employees to an operation supported by over 100 valued personnel. The growth of NTA was substantiated when Canadian Business Magazine recognized it as one of Canada's Fastest Growing Companies for three consecutive years.

In 2017, Matt and his partners launched TireKicker Inspections, an innovative vehicle inspection company and application as they continually look to complement their existing business portfolios.

Matt is a proud Varsity Blue alumnus and gives back to the automotive industry by serving dealer members on the OMVIC Board of Directors. Matt was President and Chair of the OMVIC Board from 2010 to 2012.