



Hello! My name is Natalie MacDonald, and I am honoured to be nominated for the role of Vice President Administration with Sackville Minor Hockey Association.

I am the proud mom of a (soon to be) U9 Player, Max. It is Max's passion and excitement for the sport that motivates me to volunteer with SMHA.

I served as team manager for his 2 U7 teams and last year, I was appointed to the Board of Directors as your Director of Policy.

Besides watching my son play hockey, my passions are mental health and policy development. I have a master's degree in political science and have worked for the Nova Scotia Provincial Government for the past 9 years developing, implementing, and managing policies and programs. Most recently, I've worked as a Coordinator of the Office of Addictions and Mental Health to develop and implement programs under Universal Mental Health and Addictions Care.

Sport organizations, like ours, are an integral part of the continuum of mental health services. Our coaches, volunteers, and players all have an important role to play. As your next VP of Administration, I pledge to ensure that the programs we deliver through SMHA have your child's best interest at the forefront, including a commitment to protecting their mental health.

My years in government taught me the importance of transparency and accountability. I want to ensure that our policies reflect these principles. As your Director of Policy, I have been working closely with board members to develop an Accountability Framework. I hope to be able to implement this as your VP of Administration. Similar to a public servant, the board and executive are accountable to you, the association.

I also know that engagement and first-voice experience is critical to any organization's success. As your VP of Administration, I would implement an open-door policy for engagement, as all voices deserve to be heard – big or small! Policies and programs should be informed through open engagement.

I look forward to working with everyone during the coming season.

-Nat