



2025 Election to the Board of Directors

June 14th, 2025

Candidates

Current SGC Board Members:

President:	Andrea MacLeod (Regina)
Vice-President:	Verena Gramiak (Saskatoon)
Treasurer:	Daniela Martens (Saskatoon)
Secretary:	Ilona Beck (Rouleau)
Directors:	Gerald Freyer (Indian Head) Theresa Kliem (Saskatoon) Kendra Koerting (Saskatoon) Bruno Koßmann (Regina) Stephanie Schaefer (Riceton)

List of Candidates:

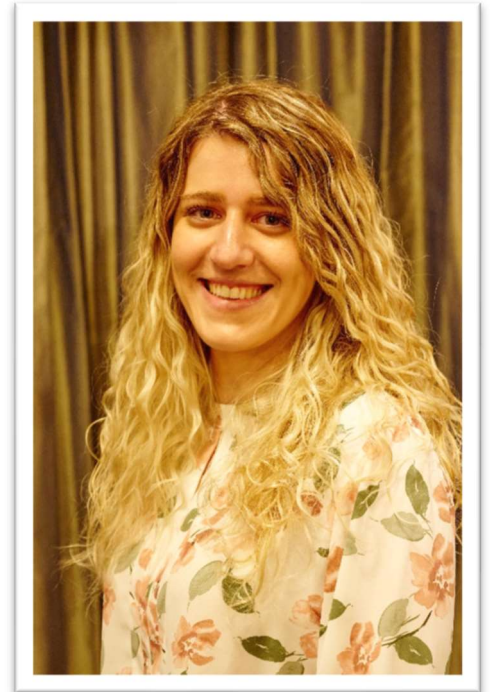
Vice President:	Verena Gramiak (Saskatoon)
Secretary:	Ilona Beck (Rouleau)
Directors:	Kendra Koerting (Saskatoon) Stephanie Schaefer (Regina)

Biographies

Vice President (2-year position)

Verena Gramiak

My name is Verena Gramiak and I moved to Saskatchewan in 2016. I grew up in Germany in a small potash mining town in Hesse close to the former inner German border - also known as The Land of the White Mountains due to the white potash tailings piles that dominate the landscape. I went to school in Thuringia and completed an apprenticeship as an Industrial Clerk with Kali und Salz (K+S), becoming the fourth generation of my family employed by the company. Over the years, I worked in different roles within the Human Resources department, became a trainer for Business Administration, and completed my evening studies at the Economic and Administrative Schools in Fulda as Betriebswirtin (VWA). A few years after my convocation, I was given the chance to support the company in Canada where the newest potash plant in Bethune was about to start production.



Shortly after arriving in the prairies, I connected quickly with the people, culture, and nature – which led to my decision to stay permanently. To fulfil my dream, I moved on to local companies which led me to my current role as Manager, Administration & HR for March Consulting – an engineering consulting firm with Saskatchewan roots.

In my spare time I am a passionate photographer and enjoy music. To stay connected with German music, our culture, mother language, and home, I became a member of the community radio CFCR. I joined the radio station in 2020 as a volunteer host for Deutsche Klangfabrik, the German-language program sponsored by the SGC. I am currently on hiatus due to family commitments. As I prepare for my upcoming maternity leave later this year, I'm savoring the summer days with my firstborn, my husband, and our two dogs.

I have served as a Board Director of the SGC since 2022 and was appointed Vice President in 2024 to fulfill the remainder of Andreas's term. I would like to renew this term as I have been enjoying the role very much. As Board member, I have been supporting the team through my knowledge of German traditions, my creative approach, and my professional background of close to 20 years in Business Administration, incl. Human Resources, Marketing, and Finance.

Secretary (2-year position)

Ilona Beck

Ilona Beck was born and raised close to Augsburg, Germany. She finished her school years and Abitur in Dillingen/Donau and left the University of Munich with a MSc Degree in Nutrition and Dietetics. After working at the University hospital in Ulm/Donau she met her husband Gregor and decided to move to Saskatchewan. In Rouleau, SK they started a grain farm operation and raised three children on the farm. Once the children grew older Ilona went back to her profession. Since 2008 Ilona works as nutritionist and marketing manager at CanMar Foods Ltd. in Regina.

Ilona stayed connected to Germany, her family and friends in Germany all her life. Her children were raised in the German language and the family language remains German. German as a language and German culture was close to heart from the beginning.

Over the past thirty years Ilona was heavily invested and involved in German cultural and language groups on a regional, provincial and national level and she will bring a wide range of experience to the board.

In 1987-96 she worked as a teacher at the Regina German Language School, mainly teaching credit classes German 10/20/30 and was active as the coordinator of the German language school for over 15 years. At the same time Ilona got involved with the SATG Saskatchewan Association of Teachers of German where she served as the president for four years and then stayed on as treasurer for additional six years. During this time Ilona was asked to serve on the executive board of the CATG Canadian association of Teachers of German where she held the position of secretary for two terms. In addition, she became a board member with the KVDS Kanadischer Verband Deutscher Sprachschulen, serving as the secretary for several terms.

In 2006 Ilona joined the SGC in a director position and served as the president of SGC from 2008- 2014.

After two years in the past president role Ilona took a pause and left the active board life for several years. As one of the founding members of the Regina German Film Club, the Regina German Christkindl Market and the "Lesekreis" Ilona stayed involved and connected to the local German cultural groups up to this day. More recently Ilona joined the "Volksliederchor Harmonie" in Regina showcasing German traditions through music and songs both traditional and contemporary.

In 2021 Ilona was asked to join the SGC board again. For two years she served as director and the past two years as the secretary on the executive board.

All these years Ilona's focus was on keeping strong connections to the Germany of today and bringing contemporary elements to cultural groups in Saskatchewan. Maintaining traditions is important for many member groups in Saskatchewan, however we can only grow and develop as a cultural organization if we adopt contemporary elements and live in the present. Culture is not a static medium but is living and growing and a reflection of current times and events.



Director (2-year position)

Kendra Körting

Hallöchen, my name is Kendra Körting. I was born and raised in Saskatoon with family roots in both German and Ukrainian heritage. My connection to the German language began in 2005 as a student at Bedford Road Collegiate where I befriended a German exchange student, Kevin Körting. In 2011, my German-journey continued when Kevin visited Canada on a vacation. He asked to stay at my house for a few days—those days turned into weeks, and we've been together ever since, marrying in 2021. In 2015, my husband and I relocated to Cottbus, Brandenburg, where immersion in everyday life greatly improved my communication skills and understanding of German culture. Since returning to Canada in 2017, I have been consistently enrolled in German language classes and continue to participate in the *adult-advanced conversational* classes at the German Language School. I maintain strong ties to Germany through annual family visits and by celebrating "Deutsche Sonntag," our weekly Sunday tradition dedicated to speaking, reading, and interacting exclusively in German- including listening to our favorite CFR radio program, *Deutsche Klangfabrik*. Professionally, I bring over a decade of experience in operations, project coordination, and community-focused leadership. In the past five years I've worked at the University of Saskatchewan Vet College, co-founded the Indigenous cleaning products company Nikihk, and currently work as Operations Manager at Vereco, a Métis energy-efficiency design & consulting firm. These roles reflect my commitment to inclusive community development; values that align closely with the SGC. For the past two years, I've had the privilege of serving on the SGC Board. During this time, I've contributed to initiatives that support language learning, cultural programming, and community outreach. My background in operations and project development allows me to bring a practical, solutions-focused perspective supported by a personal commitment to life-long learning and community building. In my spare time, I enjoy drawing, biking, hiking, and spending time with our dog "Cotti," affectionately named after our time living in Cottbus. My husband and I are avid travellers – we've already completed a month-long trip to Peru in 2025 with camping adventures across SK, AB, and MB, base jumping in Utah, a wedding on Quadra Island, and a month-long tour in Australia planned yet this year. I am seeking re-election for one additional year on the SGC Board to continue contributing my time, energy, and skills in support of German language and culture in Saskatchewan. Thank you for your consideration and for the opportunity to continue supporting this wunderbar community.



Director (2-year position)

Stephanie Schaefer

I was born in Donaueschingen, Baden Württemberg, in southwestern Germany. There I attended the Wirtschaftsgymnasium (High school of Economics). I have a degree as Buchhändlerin / Einzelhandelskauffrau (Bookseller and Librarian//Economics). After the apprenticeship I wanted to see more of the world and traveled to several countries and continents which led me to Riceton, Saskatchewan. Here I met my husband Andreas who was a farmer at the time. Falling in love with him and the Saskatchewan people and open landscapes, I decided to stay, and we both have been running a grain farm for the past 30 years.

In 2016, Andreas and I became Canadian citizens and now we hold dual citizenship.

We have two children, Phillip and Nicole, who have already left the nest working and studying in Saskatoon. Both were students at the Regina German Language School "Das Schulhaus" where they graduated with the DSD1 exam (German Language Diploma 1).



Growing up in the Black Forest region traditions like St. Martin Lantern walks, Christkindl Markets and Fastnacht (carnival), to name a few, were always a big part of my family's life. I believe that holding onto these traditions in an authentic way will help them survive and thrive in our fast-paced lives. One major part in achieving this is to make sure that the German language continues to be taught through credit classes in high schools, language programs in language schools and universities. Language is the key to any culture!

Cultures & countries constantly evolve, as do teaching and learning methods. To keep up with these changes we need to continue the great advocacy work the SGC has been doing and maintain a healthy relationship with Germany.

In the past 30 years I have served on several boards, including Milestone School Community Board, Riceton Recreation Community Board, Gray 4-H Club, Multilingual Association of Regina and last, but not least Das Schulhaus - Regina German Language School Inc.

I would like to thank the Saskatchewan German Council for giving me the opportunity to serve as director of the board since 2019 and I would like to continue to support the SGC and its organizations as such for the next two years.