



OCA Board Member Profile



Chris Caners, Director
General Manager, SolarShare

- 1. Tell us a bit about yourself (i.e., your background (where you grew up, education, children, which co-operative you work for, your position, etc.)**

I grew up in Brockville, Ontario, and have engineering degrees from the University of Toronto and Queen's University. I am the General Manager of SolarShare, a not-for-profit renewable energy co-operative that owns and operates almost 50 solar energy projects across the province, financed by our Solar Bonds.

- 2. How long have you been involved in the co-operative movement, and what do you love most about it?**

I have been involved in co-operatives since joining the Ontario Food Co-op twenty years ago. I love that the co-operative model is based in community, yet benefits people throughout the planet.

3. If there is one thing you would want people to know about co-ops, what would it be?

Co-operatives serve the many, rather than the few.

4. Why is your co-operative a member of OCA?

The work of the OCA is critical to our need to remain well-informed and connected. We also support the development and growth of the co-operative sector.

5. What do you think are some of the benefits of being a member of OCA?

Co-operative business resources and support, Government Relations and networking with other co-operatives are the greatest benefits of being a member.

6. Why did you decide to join the OCA board as a Director?

I am passionate about the co-operative movement and wanted to do my part to support the growth and development of the co-operative sector.

7. How has your past experience helped you in this role?

I think that my experience working with SolarShare, my roles in various formal and informal community organizations have prepared me for this role. I have also been fortunate to have served on the Board of the Clean Air Partnership, the Grants and Special Projects Committee of The Atmospheric Fund.

8. Share a fun/silly thing that not many people know about you!

I love 80's pop music.