

KAREN RAS BIO

Karen and her family moved to Mississauga from Etobicoke in 2007 and quickly fell in love with the city and the community that they had chosen. She became involved in this community, put down roots and pledged to work to make the community a better place for their children and neighbours.

Prior to the 2014 Municipal Election, Karen was the Director of Corporate Relations for Enersource Corporation and in that role developed a high profile in the local community. At Enersource, Karen led the transformation of communications and focus of the company so that it is now much more community focused and was one of the first utilities in Ontario to utilize tools such as social media to engage and inform the community. She is also a past Chair of the Mississauga Board of Trade, a volunteer role she took on in 2013 after a number of years on the Board of Directors. MBOT gave Karen a deeper appreciation of the issues and challenges facing local business and has worked hard to make the Board of Trade a positive advocate on behalf of those who do business in Mississauga. She is also the Vice Chair of the Credit Valley Conservation Foundation, raising funds to enhance local conservation initiatives in Mississauga, Brampton, Caledon and surrounding areas.

Previously, Karen worked in the Ontario Government in a variety of roles including media spokesperson and advisor to a number of Ministers in the Ministries of Municipal Affairs & Housing, Environment, Management Board, Ontario Realty Corporation, Women's Issues, Seniors Issues and Citizenship & Immigration. In these roles, she developed a level of knowledge and skills in how to get the Ontario Government and other agencies to work together toward common goals – and these are skills and knowledge that she brings to Mississauga City Council.

As Councillor, Karen pledges to bring a positive attitude to everything she does: to work hard on behalf of her community and to represent the best interests of the families across the communities of Sheridan Homelands, Park Royal, Lorne Park and Clarkson that make our community such a great place to work, play and raise a family.

Karen holds a degree in Applied Geography with a minor in Economics from Ryerson University. She lives in Lorne Park with her husband Michael and two young daughters Delaney and Danica.