

# The Jean Collective

A Women in Politics Initiative

## Who We Are

The Jean Collective is committed to non-discrimination on the basis of ethnicity, language, race, age, ability, sex, sexual orientation, income, political or religious affiliation in all aspects and at all levels of the Collective. We define women to include LGBTQ2SIA+, and the LGBTQ community. We are committed to ensuring that our mission and operations embrace the diversity of all. We make every effort to see that our structure, policies, and systems promote equal access to all.

**Vision:** We inspire and educate female leaders to learn, champion change, and support other women in politics.

## Our Values & Principles

Representation  
Collaboration  
Equity  
Respect  
Inclusivity  
Empowerment  
Transparency

## Objectives

- To encourage, educate, and prepare women for politics.
- To create parity in politics with a focus on municipal government within Lambton County
- To create a better informed and educated electorate.

## Connect and Inspire: An Ongoing Conversation Series - [Watch past videos of our panels on Our YouTube Channel](#)

Join *The Jean Collective* as we host experienced women and men who are passionate about women serving in government. Learn from their experiences by listening to their stories and having your questions answered directly from those who had lived the political life. Let their experience inspire you!

Scheduled to date are:

**Deb Mathews** - Deb served as the 10th Deputy Premier of Ontario and was a Liberal member of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario from 2003 to 2018, representing the riding of London North Centre. Matthews served as a cabinet minister in the governments of Dalton McGuinty and Kathleen Wynne.

**Pat Davidson** – Pat served as a member of the House of Commons of Canada from 2006 until 2015 representing the Conservative Party of Canada in the riding of Sarnia—Lambton. Pat previously served as mayor of Wyoming 1991–2000 and Plympton-Wyoming, Ontario 2001–2006 and as Warden of Lambton County.

**Eleni Bakopanos** – The Honorable Eleni Bakopanos served as a Member of the House of Commons of Canada from 1993 to 2006. Her roles included Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada 1997–1999. She was also Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Social Development with emphasis on Social Economy and Chair of the Standing Committee on Citizenship and Immigration and Vice-Chair of the Standing Committee on Canadian Heritage. Eleni encourages all women to become involved in the political process. Currently she is the chair of **Equal Voice**, a national non-profit organization that promotes the election of more women to all levels of Canadian politics.

## Run-Win-Lead

A virtual workshop series developed by women, for women. The workshops will provide participants with the foundational skills to claim their place in politics and thus effect change. **Sessions 2 through 9 - \$10 each. Register on Eventbrite.**

### Session 1 January 20, 2021

#### Understanding Municipal Government & How It Works

Facilitated by Brian White, Sarnia City Councillor, and Lambton County Councillor & Jackie Rombouts, Mayor, Twp. of Warwick, and Lambton County Councillor.

Before anyone can decide on whether to run for office, it is important they understand what they are getting themselves into. In this session, participants will understand how to become active participants in municipal government, and what is involved once elected. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/session-1-understanding-municipal-government-how-it-works-tickets-130628807279>

### Session 2 February 17, 2021

#### So, You Are Thinking of Running for Office, What Now?

Facilitated by Helen Lomax, Owner, Pathways & Transitions

Elected officials often face scrutiny and must be able to work well under pressure. In this session, participants will learn more about their own strengths and weaknesses, and how to utilize those strengths and improve their weaknesses. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/session-2-so-you-are-thinking-of-running-for-office-what-now-tickets-134267474631?ref=estw>

### Session 3 March 24, 2021

#### What is Your Why? How to Identify Your Purpose, Cause, and Platform and Build Your Support System.

Facilitated by Marika Sylvain Groendyk, Owner, Bluepoint Public Relations

When campaigning, it is important to have a strong foundation that aligns with a candidate's goals should they be elected. This session will assist each participant in identifying their purpose and reason for becoming involved in politics, and how to relay this into a platform. Participants will also learn how to build a support system to help get them through the triumphs and challenges candidates experience during a run for office. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/session-3-what-is-your-why-how-to-identify-your-purpose-cause-platform-tickets-134267940023>

## **Session 4 April 21, 2021**

### **Know Your Story**

Facilitated by Brian Maxfield, President, Online & Digital Education Academy

Candidates need an “elevator speech” to help them develop the story that will inspire others to support them, work for them, and vote for them. In this session, participants will explore the reasons behind their decision to get involved in politics and develop and learn how to communicate their story with others.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/session-4-know-your-story-develop-your-elevator-speech-tickets-134268515745>

## **Session 5 May 19, 2021**

### **Why Not You? Overcoming Barriers in Municipal Government and Becoming a Self-Advocate**

Facilitated by Carol-Lynn Chambers, Professor, Western University

Women in politics face unique challenges and it is important that they are adequately prepared to advocate for themselves and constituents to reduce systemic barriers. It is also essential that women who serve in politics understand how to successfully navigate a male-dominated space where they may experience intimidation and harassment. In this session, participants will learn how to self-advocate and speak up for themselves and others by making sure that people know their needs and interests. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/session-5-why-not-you-overcoming-barriers-in-municipal-government-tickets-134268780537>

## **Session 6 September 15, 2021**

### **Developing and Enhancing Your Skill Set**

Facilitated by Lisa Isaac, Owner, Lisa Isaac HR Professional Services

Communication and interpersonal abilities, amongst other skills, are essential to those running for, and servicing in office. In this session, participants will learn the importance of effective communication, how to utilize tools that have the greatest impact, how to positively share ideas to maximize support, how to market themselves, and how to develop a personal brand.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/session-6-developing-and-enhancing-your-skill-set-tickets-134269133593>

## **Session 7 October 20, 2020**

### **Raising Your Profile Part 1 Voters**

Facilitated by Marika Sylvain Groendyk, Owner, Bluepoint Public Relations

Engaging with voters through various channels is essential to a successful campaign. Developing consistent messaging and how a candidate presents themselves to the public is an important part of connecting with the community. In this session, participants will learn how to develop a communications plan to increase their visibility with voters both online and in person.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/session-7-raising-your-profile-with-voters-tickets-134269322157>

## **Session 8 November 10, 2021**

### **Raising Your Profile Part 2 in the Media**

Facilitated by Marika Sylvain Groendyk, Owner, Bluepoint Public Relations

Many people are uncomfortable with public speaking, especially if they are being asked hard questions and being recorded by members of the press.

Continuing our learning from Session 7, participants will receive media training to prepare them to navigate media interviews. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/session-8-part-2-raising-your-profile-in-the-media-tickets-134269544823>

## **Session 9 December 8, 2021**

### **Personal Growth - Being an Elected Councillor can be Challenging. What Do We Need to Cope?**

Facilitated by Helen Lomax, Owner, Pathways & Transitions

Maintaining a positive work-life balance while serving in government, balancing both a public and private life, presents a unique challenge. In this session, participants will learn how to balance the demands of public life with their work and home life. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/session-9-personal-growth-being-an-elected-councillor-how-to-cope-tickets-134269673207>

## **Session 10 – Part 1 February 2022**

### **Understanding Municipal Government & How it Works**

Facilitated by Brian White, Sarnia City Councillor, and Lambton County Councillor & Jackie Rombouts, Mayor, Twp. of Warwick, and Lambton County Councillor

This is an advanced version of Session 1. In this session, participants will go in deep to understand how to become an active participant in municipal government, learn how to delegate, how to join a committee of council, and how to participate in public engagement opportunities.

## **Session 10- Part 2 March 2022**

### **Understanding & Working with the Municipal Act**

Dianne Brown, Former Sarnia City Clerk

This advanced training will prepare participants for the roles of Councillor and Mayor. In this session participants will develop an understanding of how municipal government works within provincial legislation such as the Municipal Act.

## **Session 11- Part 3 April 2022**

### **Conducting Meetings- Robert's Rules of Order**

Facilitated by James Jenkins, Director of Operations, Walpole Island

Successful meetings depend on a person's understanding of protocol and how to ensure their voice is being heard. In this session, participants will learn the process and procedures to conduct and participate in successful meetings, and how Robert's Rules help give meetings structure by providing a proven process to follow during meetings.