



Larissa Bezo

Professional

Larissa presently serves as President and Chief Executive Officer of the Canadian Bureau for International Education. She has served in senior leadership positions in both the public and not-for-profit sectors, including as the youngest Deputy Clerk in the history of Saskatchewan, Senior Advisor to a Federal Royal Commission and most recently, as Interim President and Chief Executive Officer for the Canadian Bureau for International Development. After a distinguished public service career, Larissa pursued her longstanding commitment to international development and solidarity through senior-level assignments with the World Bank and the International Centre for Policy Studies in Ukraine.

Larissa has worked successfully with Boards of Directors and Executive Committees to define strategic priorities and oversee their implementation. She possesses 25 years of professional experience, including 15 years in the international development and education sector.

As a senior executive, Larissa has demonstrated her ability to provide effective leadership to build organizational capacity and resilience, foster durable partnerships, navigate sensitive political, intercultural and international issues and mobilize resources to achieve organizational priorities.

Education

Larissa graduated from the University of Regina with a Master of Arts in Political Science.

Church Involvement

Larissa grew up in and was a member of Descent of the Holy Spirit Sobor in Regina, SK for many years. She was an active member in the choir and parish, Ukrainian youth organizations and the community in Regina. Larissa and her husband spent 8 years in Ukraine, where Larissa managed international projects. Upon returning to Canada, Larissa and her family, including two young children - Lukian and Solomiya - have settled in Ottawa. Larissa and her family attend Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral. Her children were both baptized into the church by the dearly departed Fr. Ihor Okhrimtchouk. Most recently, Larissa served in the Ukrainian community as head of the parents council of the Lesia Ukrainka Ukrainian School of Ottawa.