



# LAY-UP

## Lay-Up Announces New Board of Directors

Lay-Up is excited to announce the appointment of a new Board of Directors, a diverse group of leaders from the corporate, community, education and basketball worlds. Lay-Up welcomes Charles Kissi, Chris Harris, Eric Moncik, Jason Kandankery, Jason Melbourne, Jermaine Anderson, Jon Dwyer, Michael Simonetta, and Trevor Bullen.

After receiving charitable status in September of 2017, Lay-Up set about assembling the new Board to help the organization scale up and expand its presence to all communities in need across the GTA. The Board members will be tasked with ramping up fundraising efforts, producing strategic planning initiatives, improving measurement and evaluation, increasing community involvement, developing new corporate partnerships, and building out a management team.

“We are proud to welcome such an accomplished group of Directors with such wide-ranging experience,” said Lay-Up founder Max Daviau. “This new leadership will provide us the perfect foundation from which to grow our reach and impact”.

### ABOUT THE BOARD

**Charles Kissi** is the men's basketball head coach and manager of basketball operations at Brock University, where he is also completing his Masters of Education (2018). He was born in Hamilton and raised in Toronto's Regent Park community. After graduating from McMaster University in 2003, Charles served as a police officer for ten years with the Toronto Police Services. In 2013, he served as the apprentice coach to Toronto Raptors head coach Dwane Casey, before being hired at Brock. In a few short seasons, he has built one of the strongest men's university basketball programs in Canada, making his first appearance in the National tournament in 2018.

**Chris Harris** is a principal and senior investment team member at Imperial Capital, a middle-market private equity fund based in Toronto. He joined the firm in 2007 and previously worked as a senior associate in the M&A division of KPMG. Christopher is also the founder and chief investment officer of Harbourfront Capital. He has an MBA with first class distinction from Oxford University, an Honours Bachelor of Commerce with first class distinction from Queen's University, and a CPA / CA designation where he achieved national honour roll standing. He is the chairman and a director of Matrix Sciences, a director of Ackerman Security, and a director of De La Salle College.

**Eric Moncik** is a Partner at Blake, Cassels, & Graydon LLP in Toronto. His practice focuses primarily on public and private financing transactions, as well as mergers and acquisitions. Eric has acted as counsel to issuers, underwriters, and selling shareholders in a number of public financings and private placements of equity and debt securities. He has also acted on a wide range of takeover bids, plans of arrangement, and asset and share purchase transactions. In addition, Eric provides ongoing advice on general securities and corporate law matters to a variety of issuer clients. Eric received his LLB. and MBA from the University of Toronto and holds a BA in economics from the University of Western Ontario.

**Jason Kandankery** is the Principal at Nelson Mandela Park PS, one of the highest-need schools in the Toronto District School Board. Throughout his time with the TDSB, Mr. Kandankery has focussed on supporting schools in Toronto's inner-city communities. As Principal of Nelson Mandela Park, he has helped steer the school through immense changes as the community of Regent Park continues to go through a massive revitalization. Mr. Kandankery has worked to help many different charitable initiatives, including fundraising for St Michael's Hospital, supporting the Youth Empowering Parents program and advocating with different levels of government to ensure ongoing adequate funding for youth programs.

**Jason Melbourne** is head of sales and trading at Canaccord Genuity. He is a founding partner of Genuity Capital Markets and previously served as the head of Institutional Equity sales. Prior to his time at Genuity, Jason worked in investment Banking for 4 years at Gordon Capital. Jason has an MBA from the University of Toronto a BSC in biology from Western, and he graduated as head boy from Crescent school. Jason has previously served on the Boards of OLG and Crescent School Foundation.



# LAY-UP

**Jermaine "Rock" Anderson** has been a professional basketball player in Europe since 2006 (Germany, Poland, Croatia, Russia, Greece, Montenegro, Spain, and France). He has also been a member and team captain of the Canadian senior men's basketball team since 2004, and represented Canada in the 2010 World Basketball Championship (Izmir, Turkey). During the offseason Jermaine has been working diligently to obtain certificates in finance. He has completed his CSC and LLQP while working towards a CFP designation. Jermaine received an athletic scholarship to Fordham University where he earned a BA in Marketing. "Rock," as he's known throughout the city, is extremely passionate about uplifting the community, and believes that all of our experiences, whether good or bad, are meant to help edify the next generation.

**Jon Dwyer** is a Scarborough native, and one of the many kids that benefited tremendously from Scarborough community basketball programs. Jon is the CEO of Aereus Technologies.

**Max Daviau** founded Lay-Up in September of 2013 with the goal of providing all kids in Toronto with access to high-quality basketball programming. Over the last five years, he has guided Lay-Up from a basketball-focused organization to one that prioritizes participants' personal development and off-court enrichment above all else. Under his leadership, Lay-Up has expanded to provide programming to over 500 youth annually. Prior to Lay-Up, Max worked at Madison Square Garden where he led premium pricing for the New York Knicks and Rangers. Max has an MBA from George Washington University and a BCOM degree from McGill University.

**Michael Simonetta** is Chairman at Evolve ETFs and a founding partner of Talon Partners Inc. Among his prior endeavours, Michael was the cofounder and CEO of an asset management firm, founding shareholder and vice chairman of a successful software company, partner in a public accounting firm, and a CFO of a national retailer. He has led or been a significant participant in numerous acquisitions, turnaround situations, and financing transactions totaling in excess of \$1 billion. In his spare time, Michael serves as the Chairman and Founder of Drive for Dreams Foundation which primarily supports King Nation Basketball, a non-profit organization.

**Trevor Bullen** is the Vice Principal of Riverdale Collegiate Institute. Prior to that, Mr. Bullen spent 14 years teaching Business and Physical Education at Eastern Commerce Collegiate Institute, where he coached basketball and learned how to impact lives through sport. His career in education was predated by a stint in politics, where he worked as part of the staff of the Solicitor General and Minister of Correctional Services at Queen's Park. Mr. Bullen's desire to give back to the community can be attributed to his parents, who were passionately and enthusiastically involved in many causes. Trevor was born and raised in Orillia, moving to Toronto after graduating with an Honours Bachelor of Commerce from McMaster University.

## **ABOUT LAY-UP**

Since 2013, Lay-Up has been running FREE leadership basketball programs in Toronto's priority communities. Using high quality basketball training as a platform, Lay-Up delivers meaningful, customized off the court programming that will equip and inspire youth to overcome barriers in academia, life skills development and healthy living. Lay-Up's mission is to empower community leaders of tomorrow and gives participants an equal opportunity to develop as basketball players, and more importantly, as people. To facilitate programs all across the city, Lay-Up works closely with its partners at Basketball World Toronto, MLSE Foundation, Jumpstart, Second Harvest and Ontario Basketball Association.

To date, Lay-Up has provided programming for over 1,200 youth, including over 400 in 2017 alone.