



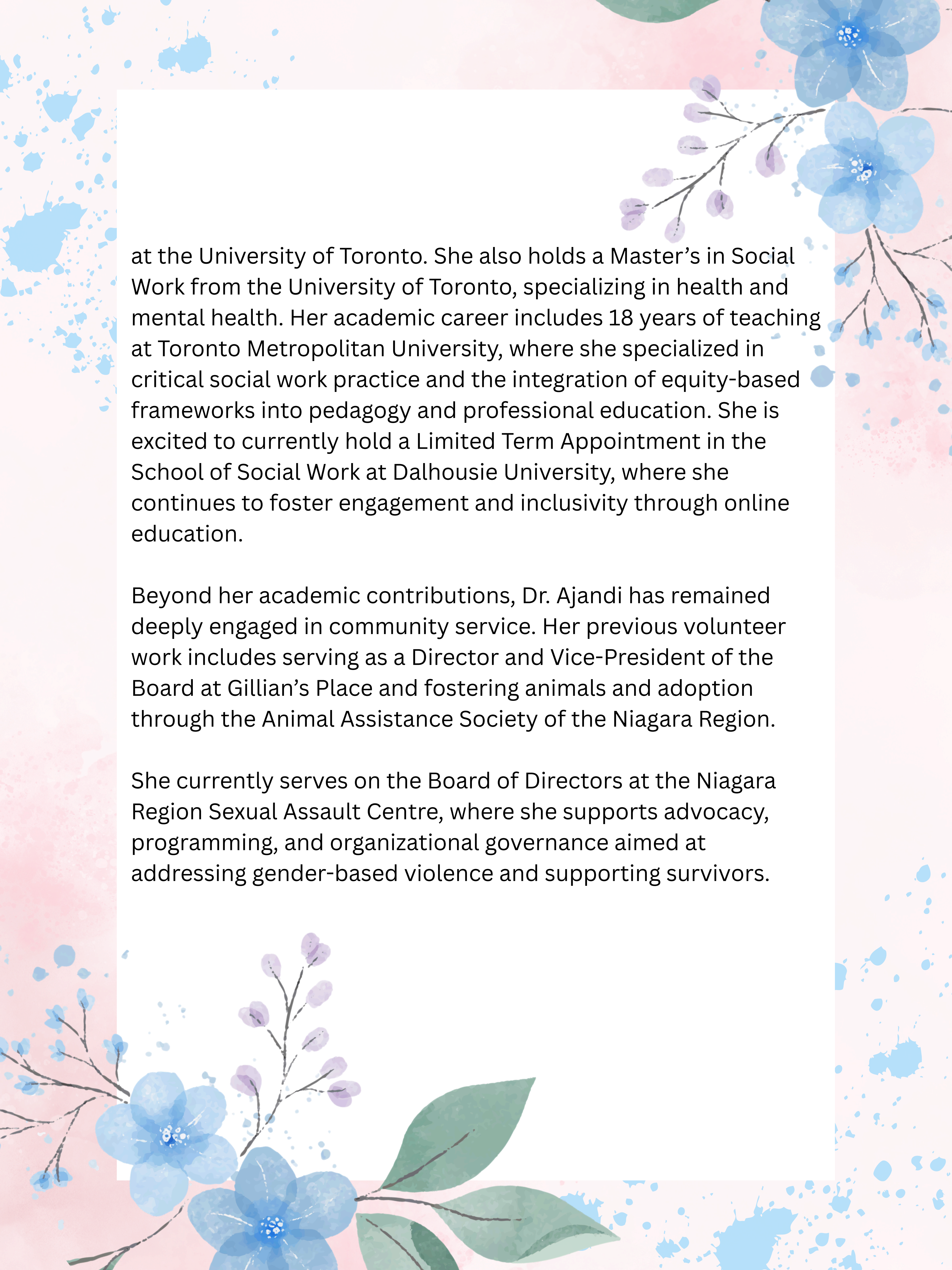
Dr. Jennifer Ajandi

Candidate Profile:

Dr. Jennifer Ajandi is an educator, researcher, and community advocate whose work is rooted in a longstanding commitment to equity, inclusion, and systemic transformation in education and social work. She brings over two decades of combined experience in academic teaching, governance, and community-based advocacy, with a focus on building inclusive structures that address inequities across institutions and communities. She has strong ties to the Niagara Region, growing up in St. Catharines, while also going to high school in Niagara-on-the-Lake at Niagara District Secondary School in their performing arts program.

Dr. Ajandi was elected to serve a four-year term as a School Board Trustee with the District School Board of Niagara (2014-2018), where she provided leadership on several key committees, including Policy; Special Education Advisory; and Student Discipline. In this capacity, she advanced initiatives that prioritized student well-being, equitable access to education, and systemic accountability. At the provincial level, she represented her Board as a Director with the Ontario Public School Boards' Association, where she contributed to shaping education policy across Ontario through a lens of equity and social justice. Find out more on OPSBA's website to see how School Board Trustees are involved in education at opsba.org.

Dr. Ajandi holds a Phd in Sociology and Equity Studies in Education from the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education



at the University of Toronto. She also holds a Master's in Social Work from the University of Toronto, specializing in health and mental health. Her academic career includes 18 years of teaching at Toronto Metropolitan University, where she specialized in critical social work practice and the integration of equity-based frameworks into pedagogy and professional education. She is excited to currently hold a Limited Term Appointment in the School of Social Work at Dalhousie University, where she continues to foster engagement and inclusivity through online education.

Beyond her academic contributions, Dr. Ajandi has remained deeply engaged in community service. Her previous volunteer work includes serving as a Director and Vice-President of the Board at Gillian's Place and fostering animals and adoption through the Animal Assistance Society of the Niagara Region.

She currently serves on the Board of Directors at the Niagara Region Sexual Assault Centre, where she supports advocacy, programming, and organizational governance aimed at addressing gender-based violence and supporting survivors.