

## 2017 Conference Workshop Presenter Biographies

### **Audrey McFarlane**

Audrey currently has two roles as the Executive Director for the Lakeland Centre for FASD and the Executive Director for the Canada FASD Research Network. She was one of the founders of the Lakeland FASD Committee that led to the development of the Centre and its services. Her past 20 years have been working with individuals with FASD, their families and service system to develop best practice service models in rural diagnosis, community outreach and prevention.

### **Anne-Marie McLaughlin, PhD, RSW**

Anne-Marie is a full time faculty member at University of Calgary, Faculty of Social Work since 2006. Her teaching and research interests include social work practice and social justice. Her previous practice experience includes child welfare and mental health practice in rural and northern Alberta.

### **Arlene Eaton-Erikson, MSW, RSW**

Arlene has been a social worker for 20 years. She started her career with Child and Family Services in Edmonton, where she worked primarily with high-risk youth. In 2004 she started working at the Office of the Child and Youth Advocate (OCYA) as an individual advocate. Arlene is passionate about working with children and youth and ensuring that their voices are heard. For three years Arlene was the Community Engagement Advocate with the OCYA, and is currently the Manager of Systemic Advocacy, Evaluation and Research. Arlene is also a sessional instructor with MacEwan University and the University of Calgary (Edmonton Division). Her teaching has focused on social justice and social work within community contexts.

### **Alicia Kalmanovitch, MSW, MPA, RSW**

Alicia is a Social Work Instructor at Portage College in Cold Lake, Alberta. She has a MSW with an International and Community Development specialization from the University of Calgary and a Master of Public Administration from Queen's University. She has a passion for community development and public policy.

### **Ashley Cormack, MSW, RSW**

Ashley holds a Bachelor Degree in Justice Studies from Royal Roads University and a Master of Social Work degree with a clinical social work specialization from the University of Calgary. Since 2009 she worked for community agencies and the Government of Alberta providing front-line services to at-risk families, children, and youth. Ashley's social work practice shifted focus in 2015 when she joined the Office of the Alberta Health Advocates as a Health Advocate Representative.

### **Ashley Mooney, MSW Student**

Ashley is currently completing her Masters in Social Work at the University of Calgary. She completed her Bachelors of Science in Psychology in 2012. In her psychology degree, she took several courses that focused on how art can be incorporated into both school and therapy settings. Ashley is currently working at Alberta Children's Hospital on the mental health unit where she has found art an excellent way to help children explore themselves, and develop their life skills. In the last year, Ashley started



formally practicing expressive arts therapy at an MSW practicum with Sara Clark, and continues to incorporate art into both her social work practice and self-care.

**Ajay Pandhi, MSW, RSW**

Ajay is the president of Pandhi Counselling and Mediation Services. He also works for Alberta Health Services as a therapist at the Fort Saskatchewan Correctional Centre. There he does trauma and addiction work in various capacities with the diverse population housed at the center. Prior to this position Ajay worked in a cancer ward - where he ran groups and did individual therapy with families of children who are in treatment, whose children are palliative or are diseased. He has created and run many successful groups dealing with subjects such as grief, trauma, parenting, palliative illness, co-dependency, addictions, hypnosis, etc. Ajay is the president of Canadian Federation Clinical Hypnosis – Alberta branch and National branch.

**Becky VanTassel, BSW, RSW**

Becky has been employed in the non-profit sector since 2001; she holds Bachelor of Social Work and a Master of Adult Education specializing in Educational Research. During this time she has had the opportunity to work with diverse populations in the areas of counselling, education, community development, and harm reduction. Her efforts have been focused in the areas of addiction, housing, sexual assault, mental health, sexual health, and working with people with developmental disabilities. These prior experiences have allowed her to explore the holistic aspects of sexuality, violence prevention, and sexuality after trauma.

**Bethan Kingsley, PhD**

Bethan is a postdoctoral fellow with the Evaluation Capacity Network. Her role is to coordinate and research the network using collaborative strategies. In research more generally, she takes a community-based approach to explore social issues using qualitative methods. Bethan also works with Terra Centre and Brentwood Housing Society to develop a model of supportive housing for teen families using an evaluative approach. In addition, Bethan is a consultant within Situ Change Strategies.

**Bertha Anderson, MEd, BEd, BSW, RSW**

Bertha is from the Woodland Cree tribe. Woodland Cree people are primarily from Treaty Eight in Northern Alberta. Bertha has many years of working in Child Welfare with the Alberta government and will share her knowledge and expertise working as front line generalist in both urban and in First Nation communities. Prior to this work Bertha was a teacher, school principal and consultant in the field of Education.

**Bob Marvin, MSW, RSW**

Bob completed his BSW from the University of Manitoba and an MSW University of Calgary. Currently he is a full time instructor in the Social Work Diploma program at NorQuest College and a former sessional instructor at the faculty of Social Work, University of Calgary, and Central and Northern region.

**Bruce Llewellyn, MSW, RSW**

Bruce joined the Alberta Association of Social Workers in 1984. After retiring from government service, he joined the Alberta College of Social Workers as a staff member in October 2013. As one of the



Managers of Regulatory Practice, he has provided staff support to the Continuing Competence Committee. He regularly provides support to social workers in completing their continuing competence requirements.

**Carol Lawson, MSW, RSW**

Carol is a social worker in the Calgary Brain Injury Program, Outpatient Clinic at the Foothills Medical Centre. Carol has been a social worker since 1970 and graduated from The U of C with her MSW in 1972 and has worked in brain injury since 1983 and now provides support to brain injury survivors and their families throughout their life time journey. Carol only works part time at this stage of her own life as she is transitioning to her next career: retiree!!

**Carolyn Anderson, PhD, RSW**

Carolyn was a clinical social worker in private practice for 25 years before being hired at Mount Royal University to teach in the Social Work Program. After 18 years, Carolyn is now a Certified Daring Way™ Facilitator and focuses her time providing Daring Way™, Rising Strong™ and Daring Leadership™ workshops to individuals, community organizations, and businesses locally and internationally. Carolyn has witnessed the positive impact of Brené Brown's research on social work practice over the past four years and is excited to share this work with colleagues

**Caitlin Beaton, BSW, RSW**

Caitlin is a social worker that has spent over fifteen years volunteering and working with people living in poverty in the non-profit sector in frontline and leadership positions. In 2014 she completed an MBA from the Alberta School of Business, focused on economic and social sustainability in business and non-profits. For the past two years she has been a Director at Bissell Centre and is passionate about developing programs and services that will create pathways out of poverty.

**Cathy Richardson/Kinewesquao, PhD**

Cathy is a Métis scholar currently working as an Associate Professor at the Université de Montreal. She spent seven years as an Associate Professor in the School of Social Work at the University of Victoria. Cathy is a co-founder of the Centre for Response-Based Practice, an organization dedicated to helping people recover from violence. She is a family therapist and received her Ph.D. in the School of Child and Youth Care in Victoria.

**Carrie McManus, RSW**

Carrie is the Program Manager at Sagesse, a community based agency that empowers individuals, organizations and communities to break the cycle of violence. Carrie completed her Diploma in Social Work at Mount Royal University in Calgary, Alberta and holds a Bachelor of Arts from Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia. During her time at Mount Royal University Carrie found her passion for working towards eliminating domestic violence through a peer led student dating violence project Stepping Up.



**Charmaine Patterson, MSW, RSW**

Charmaine has worked passionately with people for the last 18 years in the field of mental health and has continued to marvel at people's abilities to be resilient while also struggling with a racing mind or experiencing intense emotions. In 2001 she had the opportunity to take some Dialectical Behavioural Therapy Training and began to learn about mindfulness from that particular lens. While working overseas in Wales, UK Charmaine was introduced to a particular meditation practice (Brahma Kumaris) as she was seeking out a way to not burn out and manage the transition of living outside of Canada. While completing her Masters back in Lethbridge, in 2011 she gravitated to Jon Kabat-Zinn's mindfulness series and is now particularly fond of Tara Brach.

**Coby Eaglebear, BA**

Coby Eagle Bear is from Kainai First Nation also known as the Blood Tribe. She grew up and lived on the south end of the Blood Reserve until recently. She began her employment with the Office of the Child and Youth Advocate office in Calgary on October 2014 as the Aboriginal Engagement Consultant and enjoys sharing her knowledge and culture. Coby graduated from the University of Lethbridge where she lived, worked and volunteered for several years.

**Colleen Hook**

In 2007, Colleen was hired to develop, and later supervise, a program to mentor youth and young adults who are living with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder. The program launched in July of 2008 and has since expanded to include, not just one to one mentorship, but life skills and support groups as well to teens aged 14-19 for a period of up to three years. Relationship and strength based practices are employed to assist youth as they transition into adulthood and services.

**Claire McMenemy**

Claire is a member of the Law Societies of Alberta and Upper Canada. A former criminal lawyer, she is currently a student in the University of Calgary's Masters of Social Work program and works with youth with a focus on spirituality and resilience.

**Diandra Lewis, R Psych**

Diandra has been counselling for 3 years and has experience working as both a generalist and a trauma informed counsellor. She identifies as an introvert and has been exploring the role introversion plays in her life personally and professionally. Since introversion is often shamed in our culture, Diandra believes it is important to continue the conversation about what it means to be an introvert. She believes that being an introvert should be celebrated and also met with compassion.

**Ellen Perrault, RSW**

Ellen is the Associate Dean (Teaching & Learning) at the Faculty of Social Work, University of Calgary. She brings over 25 years' experience in social work and educational leadership and is passionate about student practice learning and organizational improvement.



**Florence Uranta, MSW, RSW**

Florence has been the social worker at the inpatient tertiary neuro rehab brain injury team (U58) at the Foothills Hospital since 2008, working with patients transferred from acute care units once medically stable and ready for rehab and discharge. Florence received a MEd in 2003 in Nigeria before coming to Canada, and an MSW in 2007 from the University of Calgary

**Gary Benthem**

Gary is the Manager of Housing Support Services at the Terra Centre, overseeing two partnerships in housing for pregnant and parenting young dads and moms in the city of Edmonton. A Child and Youth Care Counsellor graduate from the Calgary area, Gary's background is in youth homelessness and program development. Having spent time as an in-home supporter in the Services for Young Dads program at Terra, Gary brings a whole family approach to supporting young families.

**Gina Dimitropoulos, PhD, RSW**

Gina is an Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Social Work, University of Calgary. Dr. Dimitropoulos is studying the impact of family meal patterns and food security issues on health mental health of children and adolescents. Her clinical and research interests focus on family based treatment for individuals with health and mental health issues. She teaches a course on health and social work with a specific focus on social determinants of health including food security. She has a cross-appointment with the Department of Psychiatry and an Associate Member of the Mathison Centre for Mental Health Research and Education. She is also a full member of Alberta Children's Hospital Research Institute

**Heather Rowland, MSW, RSW, RYT 200**

Heather has dabbled in yoga and mindfulness for years, but rediscovered it in 2010 when she realized she was starting to experience that dreaded social work term..."Burnout". This prompted her to re-engage in yoga and meditation in a much more intentional manner than ever before. The impact on her personal life was significant, and she began focusing her professional development on all the different types of mindfulness based trainings she could. In 2012 she went all in and enrolled in a yoga teacher training program. She realized then that the themes from her yoga training echoed the themes in her clinical work with clients. She began incorporating yoga and mindfulness regularly with her client work.

**Jamie Gore, DCF & Artist**

Jamie discovered the drum circle at Calgary Women's Centre workshop and knew instantly that it was for her. She complete *Drum Circle Facilitation Training* shortly thereafter and has been mentored by Judy Atkinson and Circles of Rhythm for over 7 years. In addition to her drum art workshops, Jamie's core gift as a facilitator is working with youth, mental and physical health, disabilities and seniors.

**Janki Shankar, PhD, RSW**

Janki is a full time Faculty member since 2007. Teaching and research interests include Diversity, oppression and social justice, Social Work practice, Mental Health, Family violence , Immigrant health and well-being.



**Jane Slessor, BSW, RSW**

Jane has twelve years of experience working in the Inner City and currently works for the University of Alberta in the Community Social Work Team. After graduating from the social work program at the University of Calgary, Edmonton Division in 2005, Jane started with Boyle Street Community Services and held multiple roles over the years including Adult Support Worker, Indian Residential Schools Health Support Worker, Adult Services Manager and Manager of Innovation and Evaluation.

**Julie Drolet, PhD, RSW**

Julie is an Associate Professor, Faculty of Social Work has published extensively in international social work and social development with a particular focus on gender and development, climate change and disasters, international social protection initiatives, international and Canadian field education, qualitative research, and international migration and Canadian immigration. She teaches courses on social work and sustainable social development, international social work, social work practice with immigrants and refugee, social work research, and field education.

**Jeannine Carriere, PhD**

Jeannine is Métis and originally from the Red River area of southern Manitoba. She has been teaching social work since 1994 in Alberta and at the University of Victoria, School of Social Work since 2005 where she is Chair of the Indigenous Specializations and oversees the Indigenous Student Support Center for the faculty of Human and Social Development. Her research interests include Metis child wellness, Aboriginal adoptions and identity and advancing Indigenous knowledges. Dr. Carrière has been a practitioner in Aboriginal child and family services for over thirty years and has conducted several research projects related to her research interests with a number of publications.

**Jessica Ayala, RSW**

Jessica is Director of Field Education at the Faculty of Social Work, University of Calgary. Jessica has experience being a faculty liaison for students completing practicum, as well as supervising practicum students as a field instructor. Jessica and the rest of the Field Education team in the Faculty of Social Work are also engaged in a variety of research projects relating to field education, and recently completed a national project on the crisis in field education and creative new approaches to field education.

**Jessica Shaw, PhD, RSW**

Jessica is an Assistant Professor with the Faculty of Social Work at the University of Calgary. Her experiences as a youth growing up in rural Northern Ontario helped to shape her understanding of the importance of service accessibility, and of the nature of dual and multiple relationships. Jessica's research focuses on issues related to bodily autonomy, self-determination, and stigma around marginalized needs in healthcare; especially those related to pregnancy, birth, abortion care, and medical aid in dying.

**Jody-Lee Farrah, MSW, RSW**

Jody has a Bachelor degree in Social Work from the University of Windsor and a Master of Social Work degree with a specialization in Leadership from the University of Calgary. Throughout the past 15 years,



she has practiced social work in Windsor, Ontario, Fort McMurray, Alberta, St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador and Edmonton, Alberta. Her experience has ranged from not-for-profit community organizations to hospital settings with a focus on seniors, home care, general medical practice, psychosocial oncology, nephrology and complaints resolution. Jody-Lee has served as the Associate Registrar for the Newfoundland and Labrador Association of Social Workers, working in the area of complaints resolution.

**Joanne McCready, RSW**

Joanne has been a Social Worker for 12 years and joined Bethany Care Society in 2014. Prior to joining Bethany Care Society, she lived in Saskatchewan and worked as a Senior Supervisor with people with intellectual disabilities. Upon coming to Alberta Joanne found a passion to work with individuals under the age of 65 who reside in long term care. On her down time Joanne enjoys camping, reading and hanging out with family.

**June Churchill, MSW, RSW**

June is a registered clinical social worker with over 30 years of experience in the areas of mental health and community counseling. Before retirement she worked with older adults at Calgary Family Services where she developed an 8 week program addressing the emotional and spiritual issues of growing older entitled Gathering Your Wisdom. Upon retirement she developed a 6 week group entitled The Final Chapters inviting older adults to explore the issues of mortality. She has offered this program through the Calgary Association of Life Long Learners.

**Judy Chew, MSW, PhD, R.Psych**

Judy is the Training Coordinator and Senior Counsellor at the University of Calgary, Counselling Centre. She also holds an adjunct associate professor position in the Werklund School of Education (Applied Psychology). Her clinical practice covers a wide range of concerns that span the life cycle, including mother-adult daughter relationships and family-of-origin work. Judy's counselling approach places value on collaboration, respect for individual differences and diversity, and as well as the promotion of wellbeing.

**Judy Butler, BSW, RSW**

Judy began her social work career in 1974. During employment as the Medical Social Worker in the Peace River Hospital Complex she attended a conference led by Dr. Kubler Ross. This led to a specialty in Palliative/Gerontology Care. Upon graduation from the U of C Judy worked in Seniors Congregate Housing which included community palliative work. Since 2009 she has been working as the Social worker at Foothills Country Hospice in Okotoks. Dignity Therapy is now available to the residents there since attending the 2013 training by Dr. Harvey Chochinov in 2013 in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

**Kathi Campbell, BSW, RSW**

Kathi is a BSW graduate of the University of Manitoba. She is the Regional Manager for Multi-Cultural Services & Supports for Edmonton Region Child & Family Services. In collaboration with community partners, Kathi was responsible for the development of the Multi-Cultural Services Framework for Edmonton Region.



**Kathleen Belanger, MSW, RSW**

Kathleen is a social worker/family therapist with the Neuropsychiatry Service. She has a Master's degree in Social Work from the University of Calgary where she completed her internship in systemic family therapy with the Calgary Family Therapy Centre. Kathleen has worked with the Neuropsychiatry Service for the past two years and has specific interest in social justice as part of family therapy. In addition to her clinical practice, Kathleen is working to build system partnerships for frontline clinicians to participate in research and to decrease the time it takes for academic research to inform clinical practice.

**Karen Nielsen, BSW, RSW**

Karen is a visiting Graduate Professor at Athabasca University where she teaches in the Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences. She also has a private practice where she works mainly with minors.

**Kate McGoey-Smith, MSW, RSW**

Kate is a Certified Food for Life Instructor, Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine. She holds certificates in both Nutrition of a Healthy Heart and Plant-Based Nutrition (August, 2014), from T. Colin Campbell Center for Nutrition Studies in Partnership with eCornell. Kate is a former Registered Nurse.

**Kelly Stratford, BSW, RSW**

Kelly has worked with young people, their families and communities in a number of roles over the past 25 years. Her work has included direct work in both the child welfare and medical social work fields as well as work in practice analysis, quality assurance and critical injury and fatality reviews. She has worked with the Office of the Child and Youth Advocate for the past 10 years as an individual advocate and currently as the Manager of Advocacy Services South. She is a passionate advocate for ensuring young people are recognized as having agency in their lives and have opportunities to both come to know their rights and have opportunities to act to secure them.

**Kim Johnston, BSW, RSW**

Kim is a registered Social Worker, and member of the Alberta College of Social Workers. She has worked in health care services, with Child Development Services and with Child and Adolescent Addiction and Mental Health Services for over 10 years. Kim is passionate about anti-oppressive social work practices in health care, and has been a strong advocate for families accessing health care services.

**Kristy Brosz, BSc, MSW, RSW**

Kristy obtained her BSc, BSW, and Clinical MSW from the University of Calgary and has been a registered Social Worker since 2011. Her background includes a wide variety of working with both adult and pediatric patients and families facing life threatening and/or life-limiting illnesses. Through this work she has come to be very passionate regarding need for dignity considerations in patient and family centered care at end of life. She currently works in the outpatient Cardiac Function Clinic at Foothills Medical Center where she works with patients diagnosed with congestive heart failure through to end of life.



**Laurie Nelson**

Laurie serves the membership of the ACSW in her role as Registration/Online Service Support Analyst. Laurie brings many years of database development, administration, analysis and data integrity. Laurie has worked in a regulatory environment meeting the needs of both clients and regulation. For Laurie, information and numbers are like “chocolate” to the rest of us!

**Laurie Norman, RSW**

Laurie has been a Social Worker for 13 years and joined Bethany Care Society in 2012. Prior to joining Bethany Care Society, Laurie worked as a Seniors Outreach Worker. Laurie has had a passion to work in Gerontological Social Work all her life. On her down time Laurie enjoys spending time with her dog, family, traveling and enjoys being out in nature.

**Lance Drozda**

Lance is the founder of i-am-heart, a Calgary-based organization bringing a more empathetic and heart-based approach to emotional self-awareness, coping and regulation for boys and men. Lance has been facilitating men’s self-development workshops since 2011 in addition to aligning with various non-profit organizations to further support the emotional growth and safety of both children and adults. Lance is a father to two young boys.

**Leeann Hilsen-Ashford, RSW**

Leeann is a Field Education Coordinator at the Faculty of Social Work, University of Calgary. Leeann is located in the Central and Northern Region; Edmonton. Leeann is interested in innovative approaches to field education, as well as field supervisor development.

**Lemlem Haile, BSW, RSW**

Lemlem is a social worker and social justice activist involved in community development with the social justice lens. Lemlem works to connect community and economic development as a platform to address economic inequality at the neighborhood level. She is a new settler to treaty 7 land who is willing to learn how to not perpetuate colonialism ideals.

**Linda Kreitzer, PhD, RSW**

Linda teaches at the University of Calgary, Central and Northern Regional office in Edmonton. Her teaching interests include international social work, immigrants and refugees, international indigenous issues, community development and international social work. Her research includes the topics in the area of African social work, mental health issues with Africans settling in Canada, compassion fatigue, social work with Parkinson’s clients, and indigenous issues. She has also published several books including “Social work in Africa: Exploring culturally relevant social work education and practice in Ghana.”

**Lise Durand, MSW, RSW**

Lise has been with the Office of the Child & Youth Advocate since 2012. She has worked within the area of child welfare since 1978. Lise has worked in all areas of the system. Both Terri and Lise are passionate



in their belief that young people are rights holders and that their voices need to be heard in decisions that affect them.

#### **Lisa Ragan**

Lisa is a BSW student at the University of Calgary. She recently received a PURE research award for her work on social work and food security. Her research interests focus on food security and nutrition, and women's health. Lisa returned to school in 2015 after a fifteen year break. During that time she worked as a Research Assistant for the Alberta Youth Tobacco Survey, and as a Program Coordinator for the Alberta Cancer Board's Prevention Unit. Lisa developed a passion for health promotion and nutrition while studying Dietary Technology at SAIT, and working as a nutrition counsellor. She has a BSc in Psychology and a MA in Cultural Anthropology, both from the University of Calgary.

#### **Liza Lorenzetti, RSW**

Liza is an assistant professor in the Faculty of Social Work, at the University of Calgary, on Blackfoot and Treaty 7 Territory. Her interest in social change is grounded by approximately thirty years of practice and activism on interconnected social issues such as gender-based violence, poverty elimination, peace-building, and anti-racism.

#### **Lorraine Letkemann**

Lorraine is the Associate Director of Field Education – Southern Region, for the Faculty of Social Work, University of Calgary. She has experience as an Integrative Seminar instructor, a Faculty Liaison and a Field Instructor in the both the BSW and MSW programs. She is also an active member of the Field Education Committee.

#### **Lynn Barry, PhD, RSW**

Lynn worked as a child welfare interviewer/investigator for over 20 years in Calgary, Alberta, Canada and was the Coordinator for Training and Staff Development with child welfare from 1999-2002 before resigning in 2003. She was the founder and Executive Director of the Canadian Child Abuse Association (CCAA) for thirty years (January 1985-June 2015). She coordinated and delivered the bi-annual conference, *Joining Together: An International Conference on Child Maltreatment* for a decade and remains actively involved with CCAA as a program consultant and trainer. She recently completed her Ph.D. dissertation at Memorial University of Newfoundland.

#### **Mary Valentich, PhD, RSW**

Mary is a Professor Emerita with the Faculty of Social Work at the University of Calgary. As a clinician, policy analyst, and activist, much of her work focuses on human sexuality and feminist practices. In addition to her scholarly and activist pursuits in those fields, Mary has contributed to advancing national conversations about end-of-life issues, and in particular, of assisted dying.

#### **Marj Buerger**

Marj has been employed with the Government of Alberta for the past 18 years. She has spent much of her career working with older adults, vulnerable, and marginalized populations. Throughout her career in the Alberta Public Service, she has held a variety of positions. In her current role with the Office of the Alberta Health Advocates, Marj works in a client centered environment helping Albertans navigate the



health system, connect with valuable resources to meet their health needs and resolve concerns. Marj is currently enrolled in the Social Work Program at MacEwan University and will be graduating in the spring of 2017 with a Diploma in Social Work.

**Marlene Mulder, MA**

Marlene is a research analyst in Academic Research and Development at NorQuest College. Her research includes projects on immigration and settlement with the Prairie Metropolis Centre, and work with Indigenous and other marginalized populations at Homeward Trust Edmonton. Together with Bob Marvin she is a recent recipient of a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Grant funding a research project that focuses on how the marginalized use social capital to build a better life. Marlene has extensive experience as a private sponsor of refugees.

**Melissa Tremblay, MSc**

Melissa is a doctoral student in the School and Clinical Child Psychology Program at the University of Alberta. While completing her Masters degree, Melissa worked in early childhood measurement and evaluation, and completed a certificate in community-based research and evaluation. Melissa has also worked as a program evaluator in partnership with indigenous communities implementing a substance abuse and violence prevention program.

**Melanie McIntosh, BAPsych**

Melanie has worked with vulnerable young people for over 20 years and has a passion for enhancing advocacy efforts in this area. She has been in her current position in Engagement and Education since October 2012 and a member the Office of the Child and Youth Advocate team for 10 years. Prior to working with the OCYA she gained valuable experience in the community as a facilitator and educator with young people, families and within schools. She is a strong advocate for a society that is inclusive and respectful of young people.

**Mel Blitzer, MSOD**

Mel is an organizational consultant, business advisor and educator. He has long experience partnering with leaders, professionals, groups and organizations around the world to assist them in achieving desired results in pursuit of their business goals. Mel is co-author of the latest evolution of Powerful Professionals—the e-book. He is the designer of the Partner2Win system of leadership development as well as being the lead author of its interactive modules and skill training programs.

**Mikaela Burgos, PhD Student**

Mikaela is a second year PhD student in the Counselling Psychology program at the University of Alberta. Her research background is in the area of immigrant and refugee mental health, resilience and acculturation. She has a specific interest in community-based research and its implication in service-provision and policy development. As a student clinician, Mikaela works with at-risk youth and families, and practices from a person-centered and systemic framework.

**Michelle Maser**

Michelle earned a BCom in 2003 at the University of Alberta and a BSW in 2009 through the University of Calgary in Edmonton. She has since worked alongside the seniors' community in the inner city of



Edmonton in both frontline and leadership roles. This past spring, Michelle completed the Master of Social Work program with a specialization in the Leadership in the Human Services from the University of Calgary.

#### **Murray Hiebert, MSc**

From Calgary, Murray specializes in professional and leadership development. With 100s of clients ranging from Fortune 500 companies through not-for-profit agencies to small entrepreneurial organizations, Murray's proven specialty is professional results—developing professionals, coaching, and strategy development. He recently joined the ACSW Council as a public member.

#### **Myra Baynton, RSW**

Myra is the Field Education Coordinator for the MSW Distance Program (Leadership specialization) in the Faculty of Social Work, University of Calgary. She has also been the Faculty Liaison for this program, facilitating the Integrative Seminars and working with students and field instructors from across Canada and other regions.

#### **Noreen Majek**

Noreen coordinates Council and ACSW administrative processes as the Executive Assistant/Administrative Team Lead. Large system changes are familiar to Noreen and she enjoys establishing the tools to meet the needs of the communities she supports. Prior to this, Noreen worked with Alberta Human Services in Workforce Development in development of training and the implementation of their online education environment. As well, Noreen worked with the University of Alberta in Medical Education as a Program Administrator. Noreen comes with many years in Administration coupled with strong leadership and a joy in working with teams.

#### **Nelly Chow, BA, BSW, RSW**

For the past 6 years, Nelly has been part of the Early Supported Discharge Team, an innovative multi-disciplinary team that provides intensive in-home neuro rehab to clients who have survived a stroke or brain injury. She is also one of 26 Heart Math instructors for the Calgary region, and uses these strategies often with patients in managing the emotional changes and adjustments during their recovery. She received her BSW from the University of Calgary in 1987.

#### **Peter Baylis, PhD, RSW**

Peter is a clinical supervisor with Addiction and Mental Health Services, part of Alberta Health Services in the Bow Valley. He has been working in the field for over 25 years with a focus on addiction and mental health concerns with children and adolescents. He is a sessional instructor with the University of Calgary, and currently volunteers with the Alberta College of Social Workers' discipline and clinical committees.

#### **Raz Chan, BA, DOMP**

Raz is the author of two books on personal development, recognized as a best-selling author for my contribution to Power Principles for Success with Brain Tracy. He's been an owner of a health and wellness company since 2005 specializing in manual osteopathy, wellness classes in martial arts specifically Chinese self-healing arts such qigong, self-acupressure for stress reduction, anxiety, and back



pain. He holds a black belts in various martial arts most notably Brazilian Jiu-jitsu, began his training 42 years ago at the age of 5 under his father James Chan.

**Rachel Braeuer, BA**

Rachel is the LGBTQ\* Domestic Violence Program Coordinator with Sagesse. She is an educator, facilitator, and writer with a background in LGBTQ and gender studies, performance studies, and literature and has given lectures in these areas across Canada and in the U.S. She is an active LGBTQ\* community member, involved with a range of different queer organizations in Calgary.

**Rebecca Stares, MSW, RSW**

Rebecca graduated with an MSW in 2007 from the University of Calgary. She is certified through the Equine Assisted Growth and Learning Association, and in Trauma-Focused Equine Assisted Therapy. Rebecca has been in private practice for 6 years, in Canada and the USA, using animal assisted therapy with clients with an array of presenting concerns.

**Robert Manolson, BA, CCDP**

Robert Manolson is a Certified Career Development Professional with over 40 years of experience as a skilled speaker and high energy facilitator. He's an expert in Career Counselling and Workshop Facilitation and brings his motivational art form to both youth and adults ready to make a career change. He doesn't settle for anything less than insisting we all follow our heart and build the life we love

**Roseline Carter, RSW**

Roseline is a registered social worker and is the Director of Programs at Calgary Sexual Health Centre (CSHC). She has been working as a social worker in Calgary since 2004 and has been with CSHC since 2012. Her role is primarily focused on program development, design, evaluation, partnership management and community development. Calgary Sexual Health Centre has a number of programs that focus on giving people information and tools to know their sexual health rights as individuals and in relationships. She is a volunteer for organizations that focus on women and social justice issues and is currently the Board Chair of the Women's Centre of Calgary.

**Rick Enns, PhD, RSW**

Rick is the Associate Dean, Faculty of Social Work, University of Calgary. Research interests include housing circumstances of refugees in Edmonton and western Canada, federal immigration policy, and resettlement programs and strategies.

**Sabeena Tariq, MA**

Sabeena is a final year Bachelors of Social work student at the University of Calgary. She has a Master of Arts in Sociology from Pakistan and almost four years of work experience in social services with a focus on women's health and empowerment. Her latest experience was with the disability policy supports team at the Assistant Deputy Ministers Office, Alberta Human Services. Social justice, gender-based violence, anti-racism and peace building are some of her areas of interests in social work.



**Sara Clark, MSW, RSW**

Sara has been working with children, youth and families for 20 years in Alberta, British Columbia, and Saskatchewan. She has worked as a frontline Child and Youth Care worker, case manager, program supervisor, program developer, and therapist with diverse populations. She currently works part-time as a therapist in private practice at Dandelion Family Counselling and full-time for Alberta Health Services as a Family Counsellor on an inpatient adolescent psychiatric unit in Calgary, AB.

**Sarah Mullin, RSW**

Sarah has been a Social Worker for 11 years and joined Bethany Care Society in 2011. Prior to joining Bethany Care Society, Sarah worked in the area of domestic violence. Sarah has found a great passion in working with and advocating for adults and seniors who reside in long term care. On her down time Sarah enjoys camping, hiking, and spending time with her family and her dog and 2 cats.

**Serge Bayingana**

Serge is originally from Rwanda and is an active member in the Rwanda community in Edmonton. Serge is the current president of the Genocide Memory Keepers Association, an organization dedicated to raising awareness about the 1994 Genocide in Rwanda and other genocides in the world and which supports survivors and their families both in Alberta and in Rwanda.

**Sharon Schultz**

Sharon is currently the FASD Program Supervisor for Step by Step and Coaching Families with Catholic Social Services. She was hired in 2006 as a frontline worker for the Step by Step program. In 2011, Sharon became the program supervisor for Step by Step and Coaching Families. The Step by Step program provides advocacy through relentless connectors and coaches parents who have the Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder and are actively parenting children to help prevent family breakdown. Coaching Families mentors provides intensive support to families with children with fetal alcohol spectrum disorder.

**Sheryl Pearson, MSW, RSW, LLB**

After a career in social work, law and policy consulting, Sheryl was hired as one of two managers of regulatory practice with the ACSW in 20013. As one of the Managers of Regulatory Practice, she is committed to supporting members facing ethical dilemmas as well as educating members on the Standards of Practice.

**Shannon Lauder**

Shannon has devoted over 20 years of professional social work practice serving children and their families and has always valued her advocacy role and the significance of self-advocacy skills for young people. She has been an individual advocate with the OCYA for nearly three years. Prior to that, she worked in numerous position for the Ministry of Human Services, Child and Family Services division in Alberta (caseworker, investigator, team leader, delegation trainer, and with the Family Support for Children with Disabilities program). Her best learning has consistently come from young people themselves.



**Sophie Yohani, PhD**

Sophie is an associate professor of counselling psychology and a psychologist with a specialization in trauma and refugee/migrant mental health. Dr. Yohani's interests lie in multicultural counselling and the mental health and psychosocial adaptation of refugees and migrants. Research activities examine psychosocial adaptation, trauma, sexualized violence, mental health and health service delivery using resilience, hope, critical multicultural counselling, and feminist theories.

**Tatiana Oshchepkova**

Tatiana is a Project Coordinator in the Faculty of Social Work, at the University of Calgary. She has five years of experience working with diverse communities and individuals in Calgary. Her professional interests include work with oppressed populations, primary violence prevention, promoting and supporting healthy, respectful, non-violent relationships.

**Tamara Gross, BA**

Tamara has been working with the College since December 2014 and took the role of Competence Program Coordinator in September 2015. She has been helping members in the online system since its implementation in Feb 2015 and believes strongly in life-long learning after returning to MacEwan University in 2015 to take introductory Social Work credits.

**Terri Pelton, BSW, RSW**

In her role as Director, Terri is responsible for the investigations into the death and serious injury of children receiving designated services from the Ministry of Human Services and Youth Justice. She has worked within the area of child welfare since 1987. Terri has worked as a frontline protection worker, supervisor and as an analyst at the Ministry until moving to the Office of the Child and Youth Advocate in 2007.

**Tracy Guillet, RSW**

Tracy has been a therapist for the past 11 years. She has worked in the areas of interpersonal trauma, addiction, and cancer-related issues. Over these past years, she has developed a personal and professional interest in the area of introversion. Being an introvert herself and a parent to two introverts and one extrovert, she started to explore how introversion is often seen as a negative characteristic.

**Valerie Bunz, MSW, RSW**

Valerie is one of the two social workers working within the Calgary Brain Injury Program (CBIP), Outpatient Clinic providing assessment, support and counselling to adults and family members who have experienced an acquired brain injury. Valerie has been in this role for the past 4 years and completed an MSW in 1996. As part of the CBIP Valerie also works with Nelly Chow providing social work support in the ESD intensive in-home neuro rehab program with adults who have an acquired brain injury.

**Yvonne Chiu**

Yvonne is a founding member of the Multicultural Health Brokers Cooperative, an Edmonton organization of 80 brokers from 25 different ethno cultural communities that serves over 2500 families



each year. The organization and its members have won 10 awards in the past 15 years, including the Premier's Award for Excellence in 2007. Yvonne herself has been recognized in multiple ways including as one of CTV's Women of Vision, a YMCA Peace Builder's Medal, a Human Rights award from the Humphrey Centre for Peace and Human Rights and an honorary doctorate from the University of Alberta.

