

2018 Conference Workshop Presenter Biographies

Aaida Peerani, BA, JD, MBA

Aaida is a staff lawyer with the Centre of Public Legal Education Alberta and serves as the editor of the organization's long-running LawNow digital magazine. Prior to law school, Aaida worked with several non-profit organizations serving young people and promoting human rights. She has experience in a variety of legal areas.

ACSW Clinical Social Work Committee

The Clinical Social Work Committee is a regulatory committee reporting to ACSW Council whose purpose and mandate is to:

- Regulate the practice of clinical social workers in the province of Alberta
- Promote and advocate for the stand of excellence within the practice of clinical social work
- Review and approve applications and other documents related to the Clinical Specialty Registry
- Develop policies and practice resources related to clinical social work practice for review by Council and members.

Ai-Men Lau, BA, BSW Student

Ai-Men is a fourth year undergraduate social work student at the University of Calgary. She has a Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology and sociology from the University of Alberta. Her younger brother was diagnosed with autism at an early age and Ai-Men has been heavily involved with organizations that support people with autism. When her brother reached the age of eighteen, his experiences as an adult with autism cultivated a passion in Ai-Men to pursue alternative ways in supporting and empowering children and adults with autism.

Alexandra Sieben, BSc

Alexandra completed her undergraduate science degree with a major in psychology and minor in linguistics. During this time, she worked with people living with language disorders but, did not truly understand the challenges that a person with aphasia and language disorders face until she started working with Daralynn. Daralynn and Alexandra have worked together for almost two years, putting together this presentation.

Amy Munroe, SW Dip, RSW

Amy is the Peer Support Program Lead at Sagesse, formerly Peer Support Services for Abused Women. This Calgary based not for profit agency aims to empower organizations, individuals and communities to break the cycle of violence. Amy completed her Diploma in Social Work and Diploma in Child and Youth Care Counsellor at Mount Royal University. Amy has a passion for working with women using the powerful peer support model. Amy is dedicated to the mission of ending domestic violence in Alberta.

Anita Harder, MC R. Psych

Anita is a Registered Psychologist at the Calgary Women's Emergency Shelter (CWES). Anita has been with CWES since 2011. During her time there, she has participated in programming for perpetrators and victims of family violence and abuse; youth who have experienced or are at risk of experiencing family, interpersonal, or dating violence; and capacity building of informal supporters in the community. Presently, Anita serves as the Manager of Healthy Relationships, where she oversees a team of therapists who provide prevention and intervention counselling services to children and youth who have experienced family violence or are considered at risk.

Anne Marie McLaughlin, MSW, RSW

Anne Marie is an Associate Professor at the University of Calgary, Faculty of Social Work, and the Associate Director, Academic Central and Northern Region. Anne Marie's research interests include the integration of social work values and principles into practice, especially social justice. She has examined how social workers think about and pursue social justice in diverse settings including mental health practice and child welfare. She is also interested in the connection between political engagement and social work education. Other research interests include rural practice and child welfare.

Anne Sureshkumar, MSW, RSW

Anne has a Masters in social work, and a Masters in philosophy in guidance and counselling. Anne's professional work is in community social work and counselling. With her experience as a social worker in India she has learnt about how collective and individualistic societies function. This has assisted her in engaging with immigrant populations. Her areas of interest include mental health, domestic violence, intersectionality, identity development for ethnic and sexual minorities, and research.

Annette Lane, RN, PhD

Annette is an Associate Professor in the Faculty of Health Disciplines, Athabasca University. She is an award winning educator who has been involved in exploring the psychosocial needs and stressors of staff in domestic violence organizations and homelessness shelters.

Arlene Eaton-Erickson, MSW, RSW

Arlene has been a social worker for 21 years and is currently the Manager of Systemic Advocacy, Evaluation and Research with The Office of the Child and Youth Advocate (OCYA). She has been with the OCYA for twelve years in a number of different roles. Prior to this she was with Child and Family Services (Human Services) as a front-line worker and supervisor from 1996-2004. Arlene is also a sessional instructor with the University of Calgary, Faculty of Social Work, and Grant MacEwan University.

Ashley Cormack, MSW, RSW

Ashley holds a Master of Social Work degree with a clinical social work specialization. For many years she worked for community agencies and the government providing front-line services to at-risk families, children, and youth. Ashley's work shifted focus when she joined the Office of the Alberta Health Advocates as a Health Advocate Representative in 2015. She now focuses on advocacy in Alberta's health system while assisting patients and their family members to resolve concerns arising from their health care experiences.

Ashwini Dake, BSW, RSW

Ashwini is an emergency medicine social worker at the University of Alberta Hospital and Stollery Children's Hospital. Ashwini is a resourceful social worker that strongly advocates for global issues such as eradication of child poverty and promotion of mental health for the underprivileged. Ashwini is passionate about working with children and youth facing psychosocial problems within their social environment that contribute to poor mental health outcomes. Ashwini is determined to advocate for youth in crisis situations engaging in high risk behaviors.

Austin Mardon, CM, FRSC, PhD

Austin is an adjunct professor in the Department of Psychiatry and John Dossetor Health Ethics Centre, at the University of Alberta. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, a Member of the Order of Canada, and is an advocate for the mentally ill. His academic career was cut short when he was diagnosed with schizophrenia. Since then he has dedicated his life to public service, and to lessening the stigma affecting those with mental illnesses. He has served on the Alberta College of Social Workers Council and the Premier's Council on the Status of Persons with Disabilities.

Bob Marvin, MSW, RSW

Bob completed his, Bachelor of Social Work from the University of Manitoba and Master of Social Work from 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.

Bonnie Kowaliuk, BA, MBA, RSW

Bonnie is an eclectic mindfulness coach and transformational leadership consultant, accredited music therapist and business leadership consultant. Over the course of the past six years she has explored brain based approaches to learning, transformational leadership, health and wellness. She recently completed her designation as a Fellow of the Bonny Method of Guided Imagery and Music which employs music assisted mindfulness and psychotherapeutic approaches to help address a wide range of issues from health and wellness to optimal learning and performance.

Brenda Judy Hamelin, MASW, RSW

Brenda is a proud Indigenous Cree woman from Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation, Alberta. She has first-hand experience of the struggles of Indigenous peoples; the loss of culture, the residential school generational trauma/dysfunction, discrimination, loss of family, foster care, poverty and continuous grief and loss. Through her education she has gained a greater understanding of her history, which has helped shape her identity. She is committed to working towards a future where people's voices will be heard. She hopes to strengthen others, to work towards a future where people will be heard, and to work towards a better understanding so we can all work together for a better future.

Brightina Opoku-Yeboah, BSW, RSW

Brightina completed her Social Work Diploma at Grant MacEwan University in 2011 and has been working in the human services field ever since in various capacities. She recently graduated from the Bachelor of Social Work program at the University of Calgary. In January 2017 she joined the Office of Alberta Health Advocates where she's working with Albertans to help them navigate through the health system.

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 is committed to supporting members facing ethical dilemmas as well as educating members on the Standards of Practice and the Code of Ethics.

Bruce MacLaurin

Bruce MacLaurin is an Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Social Work, University of Calgary. His research and publishing has focused on child maltreatment, child welfare service delivery and outcomes, foster care, youth at risk and street-involved youth. He has more than 15 years of front-line and management experience in non-profit child and family services in Alberta and Ontario.

Cari Gulbrandsen, PhD, RSW

Cari is a sessional instructor and researcher with the Faculty of Social Work at the University of Calgary. Her teaching role involves designing and delivering social work instruction to prepare social work students in the Bachelor of Social Work program for professional practice. Her research interests include teaching and learning in social work education.

Cari Ionson, MSW, RSW

Cari is the Sexual Violence Response and Awareness Coordinator at Mount Royal University. She also collaborates with other post-secondary institutions throughout Alberta about fostering gender equality across the province. Believing in the transformational power of education to create and sustain change, she also develops workshops about sexual violence, consent, and bystander interventions to inform and empower the campus community. Cari also promotes and advocates for effective, intersectional, survivor-centric, trauma-informed policies and procedures to respond to complaints of sexual violence within Mount Royal University. She also serves on the Calgary Sexual Assault Response Team, providing support and information to people who have recently been sexually assaulted.

Carla Bertsch, MSW, RSW

Carla has been appointed as the University of Calgary's Inaugural Sexual Violence Support Advocate. Her professional experiences are primarily in the areas of domestic violence, mental health, and education. She holds a Bachelor of Applied Justice Studies from Mount Royal University, a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from the University of Calgary, and a Masters of Social Work from the University of Victoria. She provides confidential consultation and assistance to students, faculty, and staff who have experienced sexual violence. Carla is a dedicated social justice advocate, working towards socially just spaces for all people.

Carrie McManus, SW Dip, RSW

Carrie is the Director of Programs at Sagesse, a Calgary agency that empowers individuals, organizations and communities to break the cycle of domestic violence. Carrie completed her Diploma in Social Work at Mount Royal University in Calgary and holds a Bachelor of Arts from Dalhousie University in Halifax. Carrie focuses her work on the elimination of domestic violence through both individual and systemic change. Carrie has presented at conferences across North America, Australia, and Europe. In her time at Sagesse, Carrie has been instrumental in furthering the mission and vision of ending domestic violence in Alberta.

Catherine Mardon, BA, BSc, MTS, JD

Catherine is a retired attorney and recognized expert in dealing with clients with mental illnesses and/or mental disabilities and has given over 200 public speeches to consumers, students, and professionals. She is an author of ten books which have been translated into

over a dozen languages. She currently serves as a special advisor to the Glenrose Hospital on their Medical Ethics Board. Her advocacy on behalf of those with mental illnesses was recognized by Queen Elizabeth II's Diamond Jubilee Medal, and the Lieutenant Governor's Circle on Mental Health and Addiction's True Grit Award.

Charles Chenard, BSW, RSW, MPS-ATS

Charles is a social worker, spiritually informed psychotherapist, art therapist, drama teacher and theatre artist. He is presently a counsellor at Strathcona County Family and Community Services based in Sherwood Park, Alberta. In addition to his social work/counselling background, Charles has extensive experience in the theatre arts and has been involved in various aspects of Alberta's theatre scene since 1988, including more than fifty productions. He has facilitated workshops and classes on playwriting, acting, Commedia dell'arte, masks, movement and improvisation. His professional interests include merging expressive art, visual art with narrative therapy.

Christa Sato, MSW, RSW

Christa recently completed her Master of Social Work at the University of Calgary. Her scholarly interests focus on the experiences of second-generation Canadians, immigrants and refugees, community-based mental health, and anti-oppressive social work.

Christine Walsh, PhD, RSW

Christine is a Professor and Associate Dean (Research and Partnerships), with the Faculty of Social Work, University of Calgary. She is interested in developing and evaluating pedagogical approaches to promote student learning and contribute to their professional development as future social work practitioners.

Cindy Willet, BSW, RSW

Cindy has been an activist working on social justice issues for over thirty years. She has been an advocate in the LGBTQ community, including changing policies and facilitating education. Cindy completed her Bachelor of Social Work from University of Victoria in 2005. Cindy has worked as an Addiction Counsellor for over twenty years and developed a pilot project LGBTQ Treatment program in Vancouver. Cindy is an active member of the ACSW's Social Workers for Social Justice Group and Gender and Sexual Diversity Group.

Craig Collins, Senior Constable

Senior Constable Collins is the Hate Crime Coordinator with the Calgary Police Service. He has worked for the Calgary Police for eight years and has worked street patrol, general investigations (as an acting detective), child and elder abuse and fraud. Prior to working with the Calgary Police Service, Craig was a United Kingdom Police Officer with twenty-two years of service and has worked extensively within community policing.

Damien Lachat, BA

Damien is a front-line outreach worker in Edmonton, Alberta. They began their formation in social justice and equity through their studies at the University of Toronto, and shaped their practice through equity organizing, circle training, and lived experience. Their focus is integrating intersectional anti-oppressive practice in their work through discourse, advocacy, and education.

Danielle Forth, MSc, R. Psych

Danielle is a seasoned clinical trainer and consultant with Crisis & Trauma Resource Institute (CTRI). She is a Registered Psychologist and holds a Master's degree in Marital and Family Therapy and has over fifteen years of clinical experience working in front line mental health, consulting and teaching roles. She has a private clinical practice working with individuals, couples and families on a variety of mental health issues. As a therapist, Danielle strives to incorporate mindfulness and positive psychology interventions in her work. She brings a strong desire to facilitate excellent and enjoyable learning experiences to her workshops that reflect her compassion, warmth and humour.

Daralaynn Swensrude

Daralaynn comes from a background where she worked in a health care setting alongside speech language pathologists, occupational therapists, physiotherapists, nurses, doctors, and many more health professionals. Her perspective is unique in that she acquired a head injury at work over four years ago. As a result, she has been put in many situations where language has been her biggest challenge. Her goal, as a person with aphasia, is to now advocate for those who have communication barriers on a daily basis.

Darlene Marchuk, MSW, RSW

Darlene is a Metis woman who found healing from addiction through connecting to her Indigenous culture, something which she grew up without. She has twelve years of recovery from addiction. Of these twelve years, she has spent seven years formally educating herself and now has a clinical Masters degree in Social Work. After graduation she worked as an addiction counsellor at Poundmaker's Lodge and later stepped into the role of clinical manager.

David Nicholas, PhD, RSW

David joined the Faculty of Social Work in the Central and Northern Alberta Region as an Associate Professor in 2008. He has a background in psychosocial outcome and intervention research related to children, youth and families affected by illness and disability. David brings expertise in qualitative and mixed method research approaches. He brings an extensive clinical and administrative background in the fields of social work and health and disability.

Debra Coffey, RPC, MPCC, EFT

Debra is a Registered Professional Counsellor and founder of Healthstream Counselling & Wellness with over twenty-five years of experience in the human services field. She currently serves on the Canadian Professional Counsellors Association - Alberta Regional Management Team; and has previously served on the Board for Momentum Walk-In Counselling. Debra has developed a series of workshops called "Emotional Spa Day." One of the techniques she uses for these delightful days is Emotional Freedom Technique which helps reduce stress and promote calm.

Derek Chewka, MSW, RSW

Derek started his social work career after graduating from MacEwan's social work program. He discovered his own Metis ancestry late in life and achieved his Master of Social Work through the University of Calgary delivered at Blue Quills First Nation College (now University). Derek has previously worked at the Office of the Child and Youth Advocate and Children's Services. He has been a sessional instructor in the social work programs at the University of Calgary and MacEwan University. He recently took on a new role as Educator at MacEwan University in the Social Work Program. Derek also serves as the current Chair of the Indigenous Social Work Committee/Council Representative with the Alberta College of Social Workers.

Dianne Gray, BA, RSW

Dianne has over twenty-five years of experience working with diverse populations in various environments. She has worked in remote First Nation communities in assisting them with the development of social service programs, policies and procedures that best meet their vision. She has worked with youth, women, men and families struggling with mental health issues, addictions, developmental challenges and homelessness. She is well-versed in experiential approaches to learning and seeks to share some of her experiences and knowledge.

Dorothy Badry, PhD, RSW

Dorothy is an Associate Professor in the Faculty of Social Work, University of Calgary. Her research interests and area of expertise is on Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, (FASD) birth mothers and families of children with FASD, child welfare, substance abuse social problems for women and families, homelessness and disability advocacy. She developed the Caregiver Curriculum on FASD (www.fasdchildwelfare.ca). She is a member of Canada FASD Research Network Action Team on Women's Health/Prevention since 2008 and is the child welfare research lead for this network (appointed in 2016).

Elizabeth Friedman-Prokopishyn, MSW, RCSW

Leeza graduated from Bryn Mawr College with a BA in Russian, and Smith College with a Master of Clinical Social Work. Leeza works in the integrated DBT (Dialectical Behaviour Therapy) + PE

(Prolonged Exposure) modality. Prior to becoming a professional, Leeza volunteered at WOAR (Women Organized Against Rape) in Philadelphia, witnessing dissemination of PE at one of the two original clinics involved in efficacy research. Currently, Leeza works at the Alberta Health Services DBT clinic, and maintains a small private practice.

Emma Wylde, SW Dip, RSW

Emma, is the BELieve in YOU Program Coordinator at Sagesse, a Calgary agency that empowers organizations, individuals and communities to break the cycle of violence. Emma completed her Diploma in Social Work at Mount Royal University in Calgary. She is an active community member involved in volunteer work to end sexual and domestic violence. Emma has found her passion working at the intersection of sex work and domestic violence. Emma is dedicated to empowering people and communities to be free from violence in Alberta through her work with Sagesse.

Esther Leung, MSW, RSW

Esther is currently employed with the Addiction Recovery and Community Health (ARCH) program, focusing on providing consultation services for inpatients and outpatients at the Royal Alexandra Hospital. She has been recognized for her contributions to affordable housing and ending homelessness in Edmonton and has presented at a number of conferences and workshops on topics including capacity assessments, harm reduction, environmental public health and evidence-based holistic care. Through her work she has gained a strong knowledge in working with mental health concerns, substance abuse, and assisting people who have been impacted by suicide or who are experiencing suicidal tendencies.

Evan Anderson, BSW, RSW

Evan is a proud two spirited First Nations professional; who recently convocated from the University of Calgary with a Bachelor of Social Work. Evan has found a strong sense of identity through learning about his Indigenous heritage. Evan's goal is to be a positive mentor for those who are struggling in their own lives with addictions. His work has provided Evan valuable experiences in working with people in early recovery.

Evelyn Wotherspoon, MSW, RSW

Evelyn is a social worker, author and speaker specializing in early childhood mental health and vulnerable populations. Over the last two decades she has specialized in court mandated assessments of children and families in high social risk environments. She has given expert testimony on child mental health in precedent-setting court cases in Alberta. She has delivered keynote and plenary addresses, professional development workshops as well as public educational talks throughout the U.S. and Canada.

Gina Dimitroupoulos, PhD, RSW

Gina is an Assistant Professor at the University of Calgary. She has over twenty years of clinical experience delivering family based treatments, group therapy and individual counselling for adolescents and adults with mental health issues. Gina also has extensive research experience in various methodologies. She has three broad areas of research that all aim to promote inter-agency collaborations to support young people with mental health issues and their families.

Greg Bubel, BSW, RSW

After obtaining a certificate in Aboriginal Social Work in Edmonton, Greg moved to Kamloops B.C. where he completed his Bachelor of Social Work. He worked with at-risk youth and found a strong connection with members of the Aboriginal community. With guidance from the Aboriginal community and using Indigenous teachings, he developed a relationship-based strength approach to working with addictive behaviors. He has worked at Poundmaker's Lodge treatment center since 2009.

Heather Peddle

Heather Peddle has been with Edmonton Region Child and Family Services for the past three years focusing on youth. Her experience with youth engaged in high-risk lifestyle spans eighteen years. During her nine years with Edmonton John Howard Society, Heather worked in the REE*START program including in the role of coordinator. Heather is involved in various community initiatives and committees aimed at supporting practice that is creative and reflective of the changing and unique needs of high-risk and at-risk youth. Heather continues to support the integration of a trauma-informed, harm reduction, and strength-based practice in her work with youth.

Jake Kuiken, PhD

Jake has over thirty years of progressive service as a social worker with the City of Calgary. He was also the former president at the Alberta College of Social Workers. He graduated with a PhD from the University of Calgary.

Jane Oxenbury, M.Ed, R. Psych

Jane has a private practice in Calgary where she works extensively with the LGBT communities. Particularly, she works in the areas of same-sex domestic violence, bullying and harassment of LGBT youth and gender dysphoria. She has given numerous workshops regarding counselling techniques, sexual identity, domestic violence, childhood abuse, trauma, anger management, assertion, and communication. She has co-authored the chapters "Counselling Lesbians" in "Culturally-Infused Counselling: Celebrating the Canadian Mosaic" (2005) and "Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex Individuals" in "Canadian Counselling Psychology in the 21st Century".

Jeannette Waegemakers Schiff, PhD, RSW

Jeannette has been involved in research on program outcomes and service delivery models for persons with mental illnesses and homeless people for over thirty years. Her recently published book, “Working With Homeless and Vulnerable People: Basic Skills and Practices” addresses training and learning needs of frontline services staff. She holds a PhD from Columbia University, NYC and is a professor at the University of Calgary, a member of the Canadian Observatory on Homelessness and the Canadian Homeless Research Network. Recent research includes a comparison of “housing first” programs.

Jeff Halvorsen, MPA, CE

Jeff lives on the traditional territory of the Blackfoot. He has fifteen years of experience working with individuals experiencing family violence and abuse, homelessness, and leaving sex work/exploitation. He is currently pursuing doctoral studies in the Faculty of Social Work at the University of Calgary. His research focuses on how men’s practices create well-being for themselves and those around them. He has worked as the Manager of Research and Evaluation at the Calgary Women’s Emergency Shelter for three years. Previously, he worked on Innovation and Systems Change at the Calgary Homeless Foundation.

Jeff Surtees, B.Comm, LLB

Jeff Surtees is the Executive Director of the Centre for Public Legal Education Alberta. He began practicing law in Calgary in 1990 and has worked in senior management roles with several different non-profit organizations in Canada. The Centre for Public Legal Education Alberta was founded in 1975 with the mandate to contribute to, advance and promote the legal knowledge and education of the people of Canada.

Jennifer Hewson, PhD

Jennifer is an Associate Professor in the Faculty of Social Work, University of Calgary. Dr. Hewson’s research interests include age-friendly communities; social participation, isolation and inclusion; and policies and practices related to program and service delivery in the older adult sector. Her teaching has focused on gerontology, research and evaluation, community and international development, leadership in the social services, and field education.

Jennifer Wright, MSW, RSW

Jennifer graduated from Wilfrid Laurier University with a Bachelor of Arts in psychology. She went on to complete her Master of Social Work at the University of Toronto. Jennifer worked as a dialectic behaviour therapy (DBT) therapist with adolescents in the Greater Toronto Area prior to relocating to Alberta to join the DBT clinic at Alberta Health Services. At present, Jennifer continues to work at the DBT clinic and maintains a private practice.

Judith Mason, MSW, RCSW

Judith works at Alberta Health Services as a Program Manager in Addiction and Mental Health Services for adults. She is a Clinical Social Worker and Approved Clinical Social Work Supervisor and has been a member of the ACSW Clinical Social Work committee for the past five years.

Judy Feng, Dip (IA), B.Comm, JD

Judy is a staff lawyer with the Centre for Public Legal Education Alberta. She carries primary responsibility for managing the Centre's Residential Tenancies Legal Information Project and Laws for Landlords and Tenants website.

Ken Armstrong

Ken is the Oskapewis/Indigenous Cultural and Educational Helper at Homeward Trust Edmonton. He has worked with Edmonton's homeless and Indigenous communities in various capacities, including street outreach, since 2003. Ken was a health support worker with the Indian Residential School Resolution Health Support Program for four years. Ken is also an award-winning photojournalist whose photographic journey has taken him across Canada documenting our country's homeless and Indigenous populations. Ken grew up in Winnipeg and is a member of the Sagkeeng First Nation in Manitoba.

Lahn Jones

Lahn is a child and youth care practitioner with a sixteen year history of providing supports to families through not for profit organizations with a focus on violence prevention. He currently owns and operates a private family support business in the City of Edmonton, actively involved in promoting municipal initiatives including healthy masculinities, engaging men and boys, and gender based violence.

Lana Bentley, MSW, RSW

Lana currently serves as the Director of Program Operations at the YW Calgary. Prior to that Lana worked as the Manager of the Children's Inpatient Unit and Psychiatric Department at the Alberta Children's Hospital. Lana teaches part-time at Mount Royal University and volunteers with the Canadian Women's Foundation and the SHARP Foundation.

Lara Nixon, MD CCFP (COE) FCFP BSc

Lara is a family physician working in team-based, inner city care for older adults and an Assistant Professor with the University of Calgary's Department of Family Medicine. Her research interests include health equity, relationship-centered care, and medical education.

Lindsay Ames, BSW, RSW

Lindsay is a social worker and an artist. She began studying Expressive Arts through the apprenticeship program at the World Arts Organization in 2010 and continues to study presently. She also work as a social worker at the Royal Alexandra Hospital in the inner city of Edmonton. She works in the community with children and their families who are involved in family violence through Aboriginal Consulting Services.

Liza Lorenzetti, MSW, RSW

Liza was born in Montréal, traditional Six Nations territory - Mohawk or Kanien'kehá:ka land and has been living in Calgary, traditional land of the Blackfoot and Treaty 7 people, for many years. Her teaching, research, and community practice center on anti-oppression, peace building and social justice. She firmly believes in the interconnectedness of human rights and ecology, and the importance of doing one's own personal work as the root of social transformation.

Lori Sigurdson, MSW, RSW

Lori was elected to the Legislative Assembly of Alberta, representing the constituency of Edmonton-Riverview on May 5, 2015. On February 2, 2016, Lori was appointed Minister of Seniors and Housing. Lori holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science from the University of Alberta as well as Bachelor and Master of Social Work Degrees from the University of Calgary. She has over twenty-five years of experience as a social worker. A mother of three sons, Lori is an active volunteer in her community.

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.

Michelle Drefs, R. Psych

Michelle is the Director of Training for the School and Applied Child Psychology program at the University of Calgary. She earned her PhD in Human Development and Learning and MSc in School Psychology from the University of Calgary. She also holds a specialization in Early Childhood Education from the University of Lethbridge. In addition to her background in school psychology, Michelle is an experienced educator with six years teaching experience at the kindergarten and elementary levels—with the majority of her teaching career working primarily with First Nation students.

Mike Velthuis Kroeze, SW Dip, RSW

In 2015, Mike began working at Distress Centre Calgary as a Youth Program Coordinator. The following year, Mike began work on completing his Bachelor of Social Work through the University of Victoria. His experience with this program piqued his interest in anti-oppressive social work and channeled this into his work as a member of the Equity and Inclusion committee. Mike is also responsible for facilitating the “Being an Ally” volunteer training module where he is challenged by new volunteers to reflect on his own positionality and make connections to the way in which he teaches these skills to others.

Nancy Arthur, R. Psych

As a former Canada Research Chair in Professional Education, Nancy co-led a provincial team research project on interprofessional collaborative practice. She has provided training to student services staff regarding an integrated approach to interprofessional practice. Her current teaching and research interests focus on professional education for diversity and social justice, and international work and learning transitions.

Natalie St-Denis, MSW, RSW

Natalie, Mistahaya Maskwa Iskewew, is a PhD student in social work at the University of Calgary. She is of Acadian/Québécois heritage with Mi'kmaq/Mohawk ancestry. Although she lives in Blackfoot territory, her tribal knowledge is rooted in Sioux-Cree teachings and ceremony; she is also *oskâpêwis* (helper) to her Elders and community. In her role as a social worker, she continues to explore ways to decolonize social work practice, education and research to support the healing journey of Indigenous Peoples.

Nav Kaur, BEd, MEd

Nav has organized educational adult education workshops for a wide variety of demographics including immigrant newcomers and seniors to educate around human rights, labour and self-advocacy. Over the last five years she has organized education cohorts to support peers in various professions including student teachers, nurses and social workers. Her master's of education project looked at critical labour education and organizing for civic understanding.

Olivia Cullen, MSW, RSW

Olivia is currently enrolled in the social work doctoral program at the University of Calgary. Her research area is focused on child sexual abuse imagery online and how to support those impacted, as well as, training needs for professionals working in this area. Olivia has worked in the field of child and adolescent mental health for five years and most recently as an addictions and mental health counsellor in Whitehorse, Yukon. Other research interest areas include: feminist theory, methodologies and practices, and decolonizing education.

Peter Smyth, MSW, RSW

Peter oversees the High Risk Youth Initiative with Edmonton and Area Child and Family Services Region. He developed a practice framework and philosophy incorporating non-traditional intervention methods to better meet the needs of complex, troubled and street-involved youth population. He has written a book, book chapters and articles about issues confronting youth. He provides consultation, training and workshops on engaging and working with youth. Peter is a sessional instructor at the University of Calgary, Faculty of Social Work, and at the MacEwan University Social Work Program. His book *High Risk Youth: A Relationship-based Practice Framework*, was released in 2017.

Peter W Choate, PhD, RSW

Peter Choate is an associate professor of social work at Mount Royal University. His research has focused on child protection issues, parenting assessment and risk in families. He has served as a member of the Alberta Child Intervention Panel. He has been a social worker for over forty years working in area including child abuse, addictions, mental health, domestic violence and child protection.

Renee Iverson, MSc

Renee is the Manager, Clinical Services and Program Supports at Homeward Trust Edmonton. Previously, Renee worked in Minnesota as a mental health worker in an intensive residential treatment program. Renee carries a Master of Science from St Cloud State University in both Human Relations and Sociology. Her focus is on creating voice within poverty groups which has been critical for her work with homeless populations. She was co-chair on the LGBTQ2S Youth Homelessness Working Group that produced the LGBTQ2S Shelter and Housing Guidelines in Alberta.

Rick Guthrie, MSW, RSW

Rick is a social worker, community developer and organizer, poet/ writer and musician. His involvement in the inner city community has allowed him to witness a way of life that was rich in story, character, and tragedy. He has brought music and poetry into city centre agencies, into the classes he has taught at the University of Calgary, faculty of social work and into the work he did with Child and Family Services Authority. Over the last three years he has been taking Expressive Arts Training through the World Arts Organization. He is also on the Alberta College of Social Workers Council.

Robyn Romano, MSW, RSW

Robyn has been with Distress Centre Calgary for nine years where her passion for the non-profit sector has flourished. She has been part of many innovative initiatives in the areas of crisis

intervention including the delivery of online services. In 2017 she obtained her Masters of Social Work from the University of Calgary with a specialization of leadership in human services.

Ryan Bielby, SW Dip, RSW

Ryan joined the Office of the Alberta Health Advocates as a Mental Health Patient Advocate Representative in 2010. He has spent most of his career working with people in marginalized positions, specifically those with mental health challenges. He has worked in other government roles as well as non-profit and for-profit group homes, agencies and long-term care centers. Ryan has served on several special interest committees and has had input on a wide range of subjects related to health care, housing, addiction and mental health concerns and poverty. Outside of the social work arena, he enjoys spending time on various hobbies including motor scooters, vintage bicycles and in fitness competitions.

Samantha Pekh, MA, R. Psych

Samantha is the Director of PsychSolutions, Inc., a private practice in Edmonton. She specializes in the areas of trauma, bipolar, and suicide prevention. Her current work draws from her experience working in a variety of settings where she has been able to offer a range of services for children and families: including suicide bereavement, support groups, crisis intervention, and therapy. Samantha's goal at the community level is to contribute to increased awareness about suicide and to help people feel more confident in their ability to provide effective support. She is the author of children's books including "Why Did Daddy End His Life? Why Did He Have To Die? A Suicide Bereavement Book For Children and Parents."

Scott Stewart, MSW, RSW

Scott has worked at the Edmonton General Continuing Care Centre for eleven years, providing social work services for long-term care residents and their loved ones. He has also been a Designated Capacity Assessor since 2009. Currently, the majority of his practice is focused on the Enhanced Support Unit that provides specialized continuing care to individuals whose medical and/or psychological conditions preclude admission to regular long-term care environments. One treatment focus that has been challenging for the unit involves sexual disinhibition and inappropriate sexual behaviours. The need for better understanding and treatment options for individuals struggling with these concerns was the impetus for the creation of his presentation.

Sharon Steinhauer, MSW, RSW

Sharon works for University nuhelot'jne thaiyots'j nistameyimâkanak Blue Quills as Coordinator of Social Work Education since 1998. The University is situated in a former residential school owned and operated by the seven First Nations in northeast Alberta. Sharon is a trainer in Facilitating Circles for diverse groups including schools, government agencies, and non-profit

organizations and has been training facilitators for Family Group Conferencing since 2003 at the College. She is an active member of a multi-partner group called RECONCILIATION – St. Paul.

Shawn Ewasiuk, BA, MBA

Shawn Ewasiuk has had various leadership positions within the Government of Alberta. This has included roles with of the Premier’s Council on the Status of Persons with Disabilities and the Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped program. He was previously a partner with an Edmonton based consulting firm.

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 Alberta College of Social Workers (ACSW) in 2013. She is committed to supporting ACSW members facing ethical dilemmas, as well as educating members on the ACSW Standards of Practice.

Stephanie Bozzer, MSW, RCSW

Stephanie Bozzer is currently working in private practice and specializes in working with children and adolescents with mental health disorders. She has worked in child welfare as a case manager, the school systems as an emotional behavioural therapist, and with CASA and Alberta Health Services. She is on the Alberta College of Social Workers clinical registry and has the designation for supervision. Stephanie is working towards her designation as both a play therapist and as an expressive arts therapist and has been involved in supervision sessions with specialists in these areas for the past two years.

Sue McBeath, RN, Mental Health Nurse

Sue is a member of the Stollery Pediatric Mental Health Crisis Team. She has been nursing for over thirty years with experience in Emergency Medicine, Acute Care, Intensive Care Unit, Occupational Health, Injury Prevention, and teaching high risk youth. Sue has been passionate throughout her career in providing care to adolescents who are faced with all types of adversity. Being part of this team has been and continues to be one of the highlights of her career.

Suzanne MacKinnon, MSW, RCSW

Suzanne studied social work at Jane Addams College of Social Work in Chicago and has worked in forensic clinical social work and community development in Colorado and British Columbia. She takes particular interest in non-traditional social work and multi-disciplinary collaborative practice to improve the functioning of individuals, families, systems, and society. Suzanne is excited to share her passion and experience with others.

Tami Carlin

After graduating from an Administrative Assistant/Legal Secretary course Tami spent two years doing corporate law in B.C. She then moved to Alberta and took up a career in administration work where she has been for the last seven years. Tami was hired as an Administrative Support Professional with the Alberta College of Social Workers (ACSW) in 2016. She is committed to supporting ACSW members with competence, complaints and discipline, as well as clinical registry applications.

Tammy Sheppard, MSW, RSW, CSAT

Tammy is a social worker in clinical practice in Edmonton who balances a successful private practice along with her position in a mental health clinic. She currently works primarily with post-partum women and individuals experiencing sex addiction. For the past fifteen years she has worked with women in several capacities including family violence, children's services and addictions. Tammy has facilitated numerous workshops on post-partum depression, communications, healthy relationships and anxiety. She received her Master of Social Work at the University of Toronto, where she specialized in concurrent disorders.

Tammy Troute-Wood, RN, MN

Tammy works for Alberta Health Services (AHS), Calgary Zone as a Sexual and Reproductive Health Specialist. Her focus is to build the capacity of health care professionals to incorporate healthy sexuality into their professional practice. Tammy is also one of the co-chairs for the AHS, Calgary Zone Sexual and Gender Advisory. The advisory's vision is to provide leadership and direction to support Calgary Zone to create welcoming, inclusive and safer healthcare environments for people who identify as sexually or gender diverse (LGBTQ+). Tammy also is an instructor for the University of Lethbridge and University of Alberta.

Theresa Jenkins

Theresa has extensive direct clinical, supervisory and management experience working with women working in and seeking to exit the sex trade. She leads a front line agency, RESET (formerly Servants Anonymous).

Trish Smith, MSW, RCSW

Trish is a clinical social worker and supervisor in private practice in Grande Prairie, Alberta. Trish is the owner/operator of Counselling Now, a responsive therapy service that uses a brief narrative therapy model of practice. Trish is a sessional Instructor with the University of Calgary, teaching across the curriculum in the Bachelor of Social Work program. Trish has worked as a Mental Health Therapist, Child Protection Worker and Learning Consultant. Trish also provides workshops, supervision, and other social work consulting services through her private business, Trish Smith Counseling and Consulting.

Vibha Kaushik, PhD, MA

Vibha is a Doctoral Candidate in the Faculty of Social Work, University of Calgary. She has a Bachelor's degree in social work and anthropology with a minor in Economics from the University of Lucknow, India and a Master's degree in German from the University of Calgary, and in social work (University of Lucknow, India). Her dissertation focuses on the settlement and integration of skilled immigrants. Her research interests also include diversity, oppression, and social justice; social work with immigrants and refugees; international migration and Canadian immigration; gender and migration, linguistic challenges of immigrants, and mixed methods research.

Victoria Burns, PhD, RSW

Victoria is an Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Social Work, University of Calgary. She has a Bachelor's of Art from the University of New Brunswick, Bachelor of Social Work, Masters of Social Work and PhD in Social Work from McGill University, and post-doctoral training in urban studies (Institut National de Recherche Scientifique) in Montreal, Quebec. Victoria's community-based research interests focus on the intersection of aging, place, and homelessness, all of which are inspired by several years of social work practice with vulnerable older adults.

Wesley Tokohopie, MISW, RSW

Wesley is a Nakota Sioux man from the Ocean Man First Nation in Saskatchewan. Due to disruption early in life, he was separated from his family through the Residential Schools, and foster homes. As a result of the trauma he experienced in these places, he abused alcohol and drugs for thirty-five years. He has been clean and sober since 2006 and holds a Master in Indigenous Social Work degree (2014). He has a combination of lived experiences, as well as education, which gives him the opportunity to help change lives. He is an addictions counsellor at Poundmaker's Lodge.