

Board of Directors

Michael Capus, Chair

Since 2017, Michael has been a Partner with KPMG LLP. He began as a consultant with the firm in 2006, and he was promoted to Senior Manager by 2012. He has extensive experience in strategy development, financial and cost modelling, business process improvement, and performance measurement and management. He has a Bachelor of Commerce from the University of Alberta. His past community involvement includes work with 630 CHED's Santas Anonymous, Whitemud Equine Learning Centre Association, and the United Way.

Jill Thygesen, Treasurer

Currently the Director of Finance at Concordia University of Edmonton, Jill Thygesen has a Chartered Accountant designation (CA, CPA), complemented by a bachelor's degree from the U of A with a double major in Economics and French Language and Literature. She has a strong background in the fields of finance, accounting, and risk management, all honed during her time as an auditor at Ernst & Young LLP. During her career, Jill has become well-versed in the financial needs of NPOs. Her community involvement includes volunteering with InMotion Network and YWCA Edmonton.

Katherine Huising, Secretary

Katherine is the Associate Vice President, Ancillary Services at the University of Alberta. Prior to her time with the University of Alberta, Katherine had a career with the Government of Alberta, most recently as the Chief of Protocol. Her previous government positions included: Director of the Northern and Southern Alberta Jubilee Auditoria and Manager of the Northern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium. In addition, Katherine has served on various Edmonton boards and committees including the Glenrose Rehabilitation Hospital Foundation, the Edmonton Downtown Farmers' Market Association, and the Canadian Country Music Awards Organizing Committee (2013 and 2014).

Pam Averill, Director

Currently, Pam is the Manager of Job Design and Evaluation for the University of Alberta. Previously, Pam was the Manager of Human Resources for the Government of Alberta (Office of the Auditor General). Pam has a certificate in Human Resource Management and a BA (Political Science & Sociology). Pam currently serves on the Governance Committee of Edmonton's Food Bank. She is passionate about strategic initiatives, program planning, and leadership development.

Daniel Cardinal, Director

Dan Cardinal has been proudly serving the Métis Nation within Alberta for over six years. He started in 2014 as the MNA Region One Vice President and was then successful in his campaign for MNA Provincial Vice President in the 2018 election. Daniel is passionate about preserving Indigenous languages including both Cree and Michif, the language of his people. He has taught Cree with the Edmonton Catholic School Board, owned his own business, and served as a practical nurse. Daniel sits on many boards all relating to language, tradition, and culture preservation. He currently sits on the board of Métis Crossing Advisory Committee. Daniel's main priority is advancing the Métis Nation through promoting education and Métis culture for future generations.

Khadija Jiwani, Director

Since 2015, Khadija has been the Strategic Director at Aliya's Food Limited, an Edmonton based frozen food manufacturing company. She has in-depth experience of food safety and the food supply chain in North America. Prior to her current role, Khadija worked in international development improving access to water and sanitation in urban areas of Zambia. Khadija's education includes a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from the University of Alberta and a Master of Business Administration with a focus on entrepreneurship and social responsibility.

Clodia Kanna, Director

Clodia has been calling Edmonton home since she immigrated from Syria in 2008. Clodia is a professional civil engineer with 22 years of experience in project management and a master's in business administration. She is also a certified Interior Designer with a creative eye and attention to detail. Clodia is a business owner for an initiative she and her hubby started in 2019.

Clodia grew up in the Middle East, and she immigrated to Canada to give her two kids a better life. Clodia is a strong advocate for equality and diversity, and she strongly believes in giving back to the community. Throughout her journey, Clodia felt the warmth of the Canadian generosity, from welcoming her with an open heart to supporting her drive to continue her education and achieve her professional designation as a Professional Engineer P. Eng in Canada.

Clodia currently works at Alberta Innovates as Senior Manager for the Project Management Office, and she has been with that organization for over five years. She previously worked for an engineering firm where she got the required experience and supervision to get her P.Eng designation.

Clodia has always been an active volunteer with different organizations, from Habitat for Humanity, where she built houses for low-income families, to Windmill Microlending, where she mentors professional immigrants like herself to integrate into the Canadian workforce.

Pam Lafferty, Director

Pamela Lafferty is currently the Director of Tax & Payroll at AutoCanada. She has over 20 years of accounting and tax experience, working with not-for-profit organizations, private companies, and public corporations.

Pamela earned a Bachelor of Commerce degree from the University of Alberta. She articulated at PwC, where she obtained her Chartered Accountant designation and advanced to the role of Senior Manager in the Tax group. In 2014, she moved to leading the Liquids Pipelines tax group at Enbridge and then started at AutoCanada in 2020. Pamela is the past President of the YWCA Edmonton Board of Directors and has volunteered for several charitable organizations.

Pamela was born and raised in Edmonton and feels privileged to now sit on Edmonton's Food Bank Board of Directors and contribute to an organization that has such an important impact on our community.

Ryan Lowe, Director

Ryan Lowe has 15 years' experience in the energy industry. He is currently a manager at Enbridge and is responsible for the operations and maintenance of critical energy infrastructure in the Edmonton Area. Ryan is currently pursuing an Executive MBA from the University of Alberta with a focus on leadership and culture, corporate strategy, and technology & innovation. Prior to moving to Edmonton in 2020 with his wife and two school-age children, Ryan served as a board member with the Fort McMurray Search & Rescue. Ryan is a skilled leader who is passionate about building better leaders, better communities, and helping others to reach their full potential.

Paul McElhone, Director

Paul McElhone is a Senior Consultant with McElhone Consulting and the former Dean of the Mihalcheon School of Management at Concordia University of Edmonton. Previously, he served as Executive Director of the School of Retailing at the University of Alberta School of Business. Paul established the School of Retailing and helped to raise in excess of 11 million dollars for the Faculty of Business. His 40+ years of professional and academic marketing experience has led to consulting projects with corporations nationally and internationally. Paul's board experience spans more than 35 years. He holds a Bachelor of Arts from McMaster University and PhD from the ESCP-EAP (Pantheon-Sorbonne Doctoral School) Paris, France.

Barry McNabb, Director

Barry McNabb, CPA, CA, is a senior financial leader with extensive industry and government experience in strategic & business planning, financial reporting, performance measurement, enterprise risk management, and information technology. He has a Bachelor of Commerce degree from the University of Alberta and has also completed the Ivey School of Business Executive Program. Barry is currently the Vice President, Finance for Alberta Innovates and its two subsidiaries InnoTech Alberta and C-FER Technologies. Barry is also a member of the City of Edmonton's Energy Transition Climate Resilience Committee and has previously served on other boards including Wheelchair Sports Alberta, Boyle McCauley Health Centre and the Canadian Mental Health Association.

Alim Nizar Somji, Director

Alim is the Executive Vice-President of the Jaffer Group of Companies. Alim has a Bachelor of Arts (with distinction) in Honors Business Administration from the Richard Ivey School of Business at the University of Western Ontario, and a Post Graduate Certificate in Real Property Valuation from the Sauder School of Business at the University of British Columbia. He has served as a Board Member for Elves Special Needs Society and as the Chairperson of the Economic Planning Board of His Highness Prince Aga Khan Shia Ismaili Council for Edmonton.

Hosneara Thibodeau, Director

Hosneara Thibodeau is the In-house Legal Counsel for Colas Western Canada Inc., which is part of the Colas Group, a leader in the heavy construction industry across the globe. Prior to joining Colas, she worked as a Crown Prosecutor in the Edmonton Crown office where she gained invaluable experience in conducting criminal trials in French and English. She also worked for the Quebec Revenue Agency doing tax and civil litigation in Montreal, Quebec. Hosneara is a member of the *Barreau du Québec*, the Law Society of Alberta and the Law Society of British Columbia. Hosneara became an activist for women's rights at a very young age. She volunteered with the *Coopérative Ajddigue* in Tidzi, Essaouira, Morocco to promote women's empowerment in remote regions by helping them produce argan oil with traditional methods and commercializing the products to become financially independent. Hosneara currently serves in the Advocacy Committee of the Edmonton Food Bank.

Tracy Wyrstiuk, Director

Tracy Wyrstiuk has held several senior executive roles with the Government of Alberta in the areas of social services, health, community development, arts and culture, and justice. She is currently the Assistant Deputy Minister of Court and Justice Services with Alberta Justice where she oversees all court operations for the province and works with the judiciary and legal community. Tracy previously served as an Assistant Deputy Minister within Community and Social Services, Culture and Tourism, and Human Services. Prior to joining public service, she was in private legal practice and was a sessional legal instructor with Arctic College teaching law courses in remote Arctic communities. Tracy holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree with Distinction and a Bachelor of Laws Degree from the University of Alberta. She has completed the Niagara Institute Executive Leadership Program and the Ivey Senior Public Sector Leader Program. Tracy has a strong passion for not-for-profit organizations and knows the importance of strong vibrant communities.