

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### **Katherine Huising, Chair**

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).

### **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.

### **Pam Lafferty, Secretary**

Pamela Lafferty has over 20 years of accounting and tax experience, working with not-for-profit organizations, private companies, and public corporations. Pamela currently leads the Canadian Taxation group at EPCOR. Prior to this role she spent 11 years at PwC, and then made the move to industry to lead the Liquids Pipelines tax group at Enbridge and subsequently took on the role of Director, Taxation & Payroll at AutoCanada.

Pamela is the past President of the YWCA Edmonton Board of Directors and has volunteered for several charitable organizations in Edmonton.

### **David Benjestorf, Director**

David has been practicing corporate commercial law in the Edmonton area since 2000 and currently serves as Chief Legal Counsel and Director of Development for the Alldritt Group's Alberta operations. He is also an entrepreneur, owning several Edmonton-based companies. Throughout his career, David has received numerous accolades for his outstanding achievements. These include being recognized as Alberta Venture Magazine's "Leader of Tomorrow" in 2005, Knighted under the International Order of the Noble Companions of the Swan in 2008, receiving the AFP Social Services Award in 2020, the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Medal in 2022, and the Ukraine Crisis Humanitarian Aid Award in 2023.

During the pandemic, David spearheaded a community agricultural project that donated hundreds of thousands of pounds of fresh vegetables to the Food Bank. As the project expands, he aims to incorporate indoor vertical farming for year-round production. Affectionately known as "Farmer Dave," he wears this title with pride. In addition to his professional endeavours, David established a Friends of Ukraine Group, which has provided support and coordinated services for hundreds of families fleeing the war in Ukraine. In his leisure time, David enjoys traveling, education, sports, antique tractors, marksmanship, and spending time with his two Dachshunds, Maddie and Max.

### **Georgina Fairbank, Director**

Georgina is currently the Director of Employee Services at the City of Leduc, where she oversees all aspects of human resources for a municipal workforce. Prior to this, she held senior roles with the City of Edmonton, including Director of HR Strategic Services and Supervisor of Paratransit Operations.

With over 18 years of experience in strategic, operational, and human resources leadership roles, she has a strong track record in organizational transformation, employee/labour relations, and strategic planning. She holds a Bachelor of Science from the University of the West of England, is a PROSCI Certified Change Management Practitioner, and is currently pursuing NACLA Level 1 through the University of Alberta.

She is deeply committed to using her lived experience to contribute to an organization that plays a vital role in strengthening the community.

### **Harry Fuccaro, Director**

Harry grew up in Edmonton and has lived here all his life. Harry is a proud Metis man; his family has deep roots in Edmonton. Harry's family has a Social Justice history in Edmonton and Alberta, his uncle was one of the founding members of Metis Nation of Alberta. Harry is married with 2 sons, with five grandchildren, also Harry has one step son, and one step daughter and there are another 5 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren. Harry is University educated (U of C) and is a registered Social Worker. Harry also has a passion for setting up Tipi's. Harry has set up Tipi's for schools in and around Edmonton area, for different events in Edmonton, RCMP, City of Edmonton Police also for TELUS World of Science and Edmonton Food Bank.

### **Doug Hughes, Director**

A lifelong Edmontonian, Doug Hughes has been a partner at the law firm of Bishop & McKenzie LLP since 1989 and began working at the firm as an articling student in 1983. His practice focuses on real estate, including commercial transactions and commercial leasing. In addition, he also has experience in the area of wills and estates and is a proponent of planned giving. Previous not-for-profit board experience includes the Paper Chase Recycling Project, WeCan Cooperative and the Edmonton Food Bank. Over the years Doug and his wife Wanda have enjoyed volunteering at various Food Bank events and in the warehouse. Doug is very proud of his late mother, Janet Hughes, who also served on the Board. Janet helped create the Edmonton Food Bank and volunteered countless hours of her time to the Food Bank over a period of almost forty years. In honor of Janet, the Hughes family established the K. Janet Hughes Endowment Fund at the Edmonton Community Foundation, with income from the Fund donated to the Food Bank each year.

### **Ryan Lowe, Director**

Ryan Lowe is a Director of Supply Chain Management with over 15 years of experience in the energy sector. His expertise spans from maintaining critical energy infrastructure to enabling effective supply chain solutions that fuel the quality of life for millions of people across North America. Ryan is an alumnus of the University of Alberta School of Business, where he honed his skills in leadership, organizational strategy, and technology & innovation.

Prior to moving to Edmonton in 2020 with his wife Janessa and two children, Ryan actively contributed to the Fort McMurray community as a board member of Fort McMurray Search & Rescue and Fort City Church. He is committed to lifelong learning and has a deep passion for community engagement, leadership development, and empowering others to achieve their full potential.

### **Clodia Kanna-Laurent, Director**

Clodia is a dynamic and results-driven Professional Civil Engineer with 24 years of experience in project management and strategic leadership. She holds a Master's in Business Administration and brings a rare blend of technical precision and creative vision as a certified Interior Designer and business owner.

Throughout her career, Clodia has led cross-functional teams to implement strategic initiatives that delivered measurable improvements in operational efficiency, cost reduction, and industry-standard excellence. She is a strong champion of project governance frameworks, ensuring every initiative aligns with safety protocols, regulatory compliance, and performance targets. Her leadership has been instrumental in guiding organizations toward sustainable growth, both in executive roles and as a dedicated Board Member and Chair.

Since immigrating to Edmonton in 2008, Clodia has made it her mission to give back. She is a passionate advocate for equality, diversity, and justice, consistently working to build stronger, more inclusive communities. Her volunteer work includes building homes for low-income families with Habitat for Humanity, mentoring skilled immigrants through Windmill Microlending, and shaping policy and advocacy as a Board Director at the Edmonton Food Bank.

Clodia previously served as Chair of the Executive Committee at APEGA, where she played a key leadership role in advancing professional standards and guiding organizational strategy. Her experience as a Board Member and Chair across various organizations reflects her commitment to impactful decision-making and community service. Clodia also served as an ambassador for APEGA on the Edmonton Design Committee, where she advanced urban design excellence while upholding public safety and professional standards.

Clodia believes in creating a better future for the next generation by fostering innovation, inclusion, and meaningful change. Her guiding principle is simple yet powerful: "Our actions today profoundly shape the world our children and grandchildren will inherit."

### **Heather MacCallum, Director**

Heather MacCallum is President and Chief Executive Officer of NCSG Crane & Heavy Haul. Prior to this, she held roles as the Chief Financial Officer and VP Finance at NCSG Crane & Heavy Haul for seven years. She is a Chartered Professional Accountant and has a Master's degree in Professional Accounting with over 16 years of experience in both the public and private sectors. She is currently a board member of Alberta Board of Skilled Trades, responsible for advising Advanced Education on the direction of Alberta's designated trades certification system, as well as a member of Alberta's Provincial Audit Committee. She is skilled in strategic and financial leadership, governance and negotiations.

### **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.

### **Cedric Naoussi, Director**

Cedric Naoussi brings over a decade of experience in the public sector and financial services industry. He is currently the Director of Finance supporting the Client Experience & Technology portfolio at ATB Financial. He leads financial planning and analysis including business advisory services, forecasting, management reporting and financial performance.

Cedric previously served as the Treasurer for the Africa Centre for five years from 2019 to 2024 where he provided guidance from a governance perspective on financial matters impacting the organization. He is passionate about social services and the City of Edmonton (which he has called home since 2007). The opportunity to serve on the Edmonton Food Bank's Board of Directors – and contribute to everyone having access to an adequate and nutritious supply of food – would be a significant personal and professional milestone. On a personal note, he enjoys spending time with friends and family. He is also a soccer enthusiast as actively plays throughout the year and follow major professional leagues and competitions.

### **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.

**Michael Capus, Director Emeritus**

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.

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