
PHILANTHROPY AND NONPROFIT LEADERSHIP

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Carleton
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Philanthropy and
Nonprofit Leadership



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DAMILOLA ABIMBOYE

Damilola Abimboye's interest in the nonprofit sector began a few years ago when she discovered her passion for marginalized individuals. She first discovered an interest in the human services arena through the community projects she partook in to help raise awareness about marginalized and vulnerable populations such as the homeless, the elders, underserved youths etc.

Shortly after her discovery, she started her own nonprofit organization with the objective of breaking the cycle of youth homelessness through entrepreneurship, education and innovation.

Through her nonprofit organization, she has contributed her time and resources to the communities of Toronto, Ottawa and Vancouver. And now she is looking forward to increasing her skill set when it comes to nonprofit management and leadership. This background has provided her with the motivation and context to pursue the MPNL program.

Upon completion of her Master's degree, she hopes to embark on another academic journey - a PhD program in Public Policy and Governance; her academic goal is to take on government leadership roles where she can contribute immensely to the laws and policy decision-making associated with marginalized individuals.

She has 4 years of experience in the sector, through her nonprofit organization, and she has contributed her time and resources to the communities of Toronto, Ottawa and Vancouver. Through her active participation in activities such as funding, organizing charity events, government grants and other charitable activities, she has supported marginalized communities and she looks forward to continuing doing so with the resources available to her.

Her knowledge in Canada's nonprofit sector and her interest in studying about other diaspora communities will leave a long-lasting impact on her professional and academic journey.



MOROUJ BAKHSH

Morouj is a Muslim woman, proud to have developed her professional career in Canada. She graduated with a B.Sc. in Health Management from York University. She has over 7 years of experience in nonprofits.

She had significant experience with homeless communities at the nonprofit homeless shelters. She worked as the Team Lead Refugees Employment Counselor with YMCA, and worked directly with refugees from war torn countries. This was a very specific experience for her as an immigrant, since she understood the challenges they faced and was happy to give back. Her experiences have allowed her to work with increasing responsibilities carrying out social welfare tasks at many

organizations. These diverse experiences working with vulnerable populations reflected on her commitment to growth, professionalism and leadership.

With her current work as a Caseworker for Employment and Social Services with the City of Toronto, she is seeing that her dream of developing a shelter system that proactively addresses the social determinants of health of all of Canada's full diaspora are beginning to unfold.

Morouj is confident that the MPNL will offer her the skills and expertise that she would need to achieve her goals of advancing equity for Muslim women through the nonprofit sector.



CINDY BOUSTANI

Born and raised in Lebanon, Cindy has always dreamt of a better world for her community. She graduated from the Balamand University in Lebanon with a Master's in Architecture while also pursuing a minor in Psychology at the Lebanese University. Parallely, Cindy was working as an Emergency Medical Technician and a trainer for the Lebanese Red Cross for over 7 years, where she discovered her passion for the nonprofit sector.

When visiting Beirut after moving to Montreal a few years ago, she realized that she has more to give to post-conflict communities. She decided to turn her passion into her life's mission, leading her

to joining the MPNL program. Since then, she is working on building socio-cultural community centers in post-conflict regions, starting in Lebanon, promoting physical, mental and emotional growth within youths affected by intergenerational trauma.

Cindy also loves travelling, whether it's for volunteering purposes or just chasing new experiences and indulging in new cultures. In her free time, you can find her enjoying the sun outdoors, walking her cat, Nounou, or reading and drawing in the park.



MAB COATES- DAVIES

Mab Coates-Davies is a museum professional raised in Edinburgh, Scotland and Toronto, Ontario. Mab has a degree in Public History from Concordia University and is passionate about storytelling and creating meaningful experiences for museum communities. As the Senior Manager of Visitor Engagement and Operations at the Textile Museum of Canada, they oversee multiple revenue streams, manage a large volunteer team and drive operational improvements, surrounded by a team of talented textile artists and museum enthusiasts.

Mab is an avid swimmer and frequenter of art exhibitions and dive bars. They love

dissecting reality television with friends, exploring different Toronto neighbourhoods and cuddling with their cat, Groucho.

Mab is excited to enter the MPNL program to better understand the roots and possibilities of philanthropy and expand their engagement with the broader nonprofit sector. With collaboration at the heart of all their work, Mab can't wait to work with fellow students with varied lived experiences and passions.

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DIANA COLANGELO

Diana is an aspiring social impact communications and organizational development professional with experience working in the nonprofit, public, and private sectors. Above all, she is an avid believer in leaving things better than when you found them, which has defined her interest in exploring a career in philanthropy. Her passion lies in implementing creative and innovative solutions as an advocacy tool to better support marginalized people, while holding policy accountable in areas of the highest need. Most recently, Diana has enjoyed working in the field of gender justice alongside her tremendous colleagues who continue to amaze and inspire her. Diana and her team are gracious recipients of the Ontario Ministry of the Attorney General's 2021/2022 Victim Services Awards of Distinction for their work empowering survivors of violence and creating positive change for victims of crime.

Graduating from the University of Waterloo in 2020, Diana holds an Honours Bachelor of Arts with minors in French and Psychology, and specializations in Social Work and Individual Well-Being and Development. Further to this, she pursued a post-baccalaureate certificate from Toronto Metropolitan University in Public Administration and Leadership, and continues to seek out opportunities for professional development. Diana is excited and honoured to be joining the 2023/2024 MPNL program cohort alongside her peers, whom she is certain she will learn from just as much as the program itself. She is eager to learn more about philanthropy and leadership in the nonprofit sector, and how they influence social and political change.

In her spare time, Diana enjoys cross-stitching, learning new languages, practicing calligraphy and visual design, reading, and spending time with her beloved dog, Lyla, and hedgehog, Maisie.



JENNIFER GARDEN

Jen has been in the nonprofit sector since 2010 professionally, however, she's been fundraising and volunteering nearly all her life with her parents ingraining the meaning of community and being in the service of others at a young age. She is currently the Chapter Director for Make-A-Wish Canada, Northern Alberta and has been with the organization for more than eight years.

Jen graduated from Augustana University with a BA in Drama in 2007, then from MacEwan University with a certificate in Arts & Cultural Management in 2010. The certificate program's internship with Theatre Calgary introduced her to the

world of professional fund development and found her love for donor relations and fundraising. After her husband was posted to the military base in Edmonton, she started her work with Make-A-Wish and that mission has become her absolute passion.

Jen lives in Edmonton with her husband and two daughters. She wants to show her kids how to make the world a better place and that learning is a life-long experience, much like her own parents taught her.



FERVONE GOINGS

Fervone was raised, educated, and has worked most of her life on Treaty 6 territory and currently works in Amiskwaciwâskahikan, also known as Edmonton, Alberta. She completed her Master of Science at the University of Alberta, worked in research, and then pursued other endeavors including starting a business, raising a family, and pivoting to the nonprofit sector in 2000. She has been in her current role at the University of Alberta since 2016 as WISEST (Women in Scholarship, Engineering, Science & Technology) Team Lead.

Under her direction, WISEST strategically engages with thousands of female and gender-diverse students through programming designed to overcome barriers underrepresented groups face in

STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math). Fervone leverages her experiences from STEM education, research, business development, and nonprofit administration and her lived experience as a woman in STEM to advocate for more inclusive educational and workplace settings.

Fervone is anticipating that the MPNL program will support her current work, expand her network, and open avenues for future collaborations. She is excited to be joining innovative thought-leaders making an impact. She hopes her own journey is marked with growth, inspiration, and motivation to continue to transform society through philanthropy.



MINDY GOLDBLATT WEBBER

Raised in Dundas, Ontario, Mindy has spent the better part of her personal and professional life making meaningful connections, and pursuing her passion for effecting positive change.

After receiving her B.A. in Psychology from York University in 1999, Mindy went on to graduate from Humber College's Fundraising & Volunteer Management program. There she gained the skills and knowledge required to make real and tangible impacts in the community.

Throughout her career, Mindy has applied her skills as a Fundraiser working in major gifts, annual giving, event management, and corporate sponsorship for some of the nations most respected institutions including Mount Sinai Hospital

Foundation, Princess Margaret Cancer Foundation, and Food Banks Canada. Her interests in youth mental health and social determinants of health led her to the Faculty of Community Services at Toronto Metropolitan University where she is the Associate Director of Development.

The MPNL program is an opportunity for Mindy to renew and fine tune her industry knowledge, while also expanding her critical thinking skills and philanthropic network.

She is beyond excited to join this exciting and diverse class, reignite her passion for learning and philanthropy, and set a leading example for her two teenage daughters.

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CARLY GOODMAN

Carly is a proud Vancouverite, Torontonian and Montrealer (living on traditional Kanien'kehá:ka nation lands), with more than 10 years of experience advocating for equity and social justice among and in partnership with underserved and marginalized community groups. She completed her Bachelor of Science, Honors in Psychology from Western University, and a Master of Science in Occupational Therapy from McMaster University before following a circuitous career path in diverse practice settings across Canada and in California, U.S.A.

More recently, she led an Inclusion & Diversity initiative at a nonprofit organization that amplified voices of those living with brain-based disabilities and their families while shifting minds and opening hearts of many. In the process of nurturing authentic relationships, pushing

the boundaries for what could be, and delivering on innovative programming, projects, and purposeful partnerships, her curiosity about nonprofit leadership and philanthropy was sparked which led her to this program.

Carly is humbled to be part of this 11th cohort and aspires to further expand her capacity to bring about positive change, build new bridges, and foster the conditions necessary alongside others in this arena for more resilient and collaborative social ecosystems to thrive.

In her free time while living with her husband and family in Tiohtià:ke/ Montreal, Quebec, she enjoys running, hitting up all the local foodie spots, travelling the world when she can, and volunteering to give back to her community.



ANNA HAMILTON

Anna graduated from Mount Allison University with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Art History and a minor in Museum and Curatorial Studies. Her undergraduate research consisted of two projects: *Assessing Cultural Accessibility in the Maritimes*, which sought to measure barriers to cultural accessibility for those with disabilities; and *Accessibility and the Curatorial*, which addressed the impact of accessibility in art galleries through partnership with artists and curators with disabilities. Anna has gained experience in Indigenous law and culture while working on a conference for the anniversary of the R. v. Marshall decisions, and certificate programs through the CBA and University of Alberta.

Anna believes that tackling issues from different perspectives will lead us to a kinder, more compassionate and just world. Her academic and personal pursuits as an artist have led her down a path which intersects multiple disciplines. Anna is passionate about lifelong learning in various capacities and was fortunate to travel to the United Kingdom for an international exchange program.

Anna calls the Maritimes home and looks forward to engaging in the MPNL program while abroad. In her spare time, she can be found painting, cooking, doing yoga, and spending time outdoors.



MICHAEL HISCOE

Michael Hiscoe has worked in the Developmental Services Sector for over 20 years. Michael joined the Ottawa-Carleton Association for Persons with Developmental Disabilities (OCAPDD) in 2006, providing direct support to adults with developmental disabilities in residential, supported independent living, and day program settings. Michael completed a Graduate Certificate in Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Management in 2017 through Toronto Metropolitan University. He then moved into a supervisory position at OCAPDD in 2020 overseeing one of OCAPDD's 19 residential programs and leading them through one of the first COVID-19 outbreaks in Ottawa.

After two and a half years as a Residential Supervisor, Michael was promoted to Director of Supports and Services at OCAPDD. As part of the senior management team, Michael is leading OCAPDD's COVID-19 response and is helping guide the agency's strategic direction to better enable its 550 employees to support over 400 individuals.

Michael is excited and privileged to be part of the MPNL program and is looking forward to connecting with other current and future leaders from the nonprofit sector.

As Michael participates in this program, he is being supported by his wife, Jessica, and daughters Josephine and Elizabeth.



SARAH JASMINE HODGSON

Sarah is passionate about Canadian arts and culture. Her interest in the arts began at a young age but her passion was nurtured during her time spent at the University of Ottawa completing a Bachelor of Fine Arts. During her undergraduate, she was mentored by professors as a research assistant, actively curated local exhibitions and notably exhibited her work in Ontario and Quebec.

Since graduating, Sarah's focus has been to connect and grow Ottawa's cultural landscape. She has worked for The Ottawa Art Gallery as a Curatorial Assistant, The Canadian Robotics and AI Ethical Design Lab as a Researcher and

The Ottawa Jazz Festival as a Designer. More recently, Sarah has been assisting with the promotion and funding of Canadian curators and artists at The Hnatyshyn Foundation.

Sarah hopes to gain further knowledge and skills from the MPNL program so that she can have a significant impact on the development of cultural programs in Canada. She also hopes to gain the tools to turn her passion project *Nosy Mag* an Ottawa arts and culture publication into a sustainable nonprofit organization.



JEREMIE HOOPER-GRANDBOIS

Graduating from Carleton University with a BA, Combined Honours in Law and Philosophy, Jeremie explored the relationship between law and technology, focusing on issues such as technological neutrality and digital liberty.

Jeremie has over 20 years of experience in the entertainment industry, both as a performing artist and administrative support for independent touring artists. In his role at the Victoria Conservatory of Music, Jeremie is currently implementing the 2020-25 Strategic Plan and has helped guide western Canada's largest music conservatory through the pandemic to receive the 2021 Lieutenant Governor of BC Award for exceptional leadership,

community engagement and commitment to mentoring others throughout BC.

Jeremie would like to examine the nonprofit sector's existing culture and its role in re-enforcing barriers to inclusive and diverse arts education. He would also like to help the nonprofit sector modernize their operations by embracing digital technology to help optimize their impact on their respective communities.

Born in South Korea but raised in Canada, France and New Zealand, Jeremie can always be found with an electric guitar in hand, discussing dinosaurs with his beautiful wife, Kristen.



JING JIA

Jing got her Bachelor's degree in Tourism Management from Xuzhou University of Technology in China. Jing was interested in philanthropy because she got help from a local charity when she was in high school. Jing hopes to give back her gratitude to the community through volunteering and donation. She volunteered to raise donations for remote mountain people and volunteered to provide monthly service for the elders when she was at the university. She kept donating to the Red Cross.

Jing worked at Wuxi Charity as an Information Management Specialist. She managed the organization's online

presence and created digital content; designed content strategy and budget for "Online Fundraising" events; and aided in the administration of financial aid to underserved families, by helping select eligible recipients.

While working on project implementation, she realized how the importance of the internal system construction is crucial to the credibility and integrity of the charities which leads her to learn about nonprofit operations in depth and in a systematic way. Jing wants to study in the MPNL program with the question of how public policy and philanthropy can combine and help each other.



ERIN LARMONDIN

Erin Larmondin (she/her) is a recent graduate of the University of Waterloo from the School of Environment, Resources and Sustainability. After completing work placements in nonprofit housing cooperatives, and volunteering with different health charities in Ontario, Erin discovered her passion for philanthropic work and creating a better community.

With a passion for a more sustainable, affordable, and accessible housing environment, Erin was drawn to cooperative student housing and their model of creating community-based housing that focuses on member interaction and youth-community

involvement. Erin continuously advocates for creating a resilient and more accessible housing industry.

When looking for a program that explored all of her interests, it was no shock that Carleton offered an extensive graduate program that would allow her to continue her passions in the philanthropic and nonprofit sectors, while further developing her skillset and connecting her with the MPNL cohort members.

Outside of school and work commitments, Erin enjoys travelling, practicing new recipes, and taking her dog Bonnie on long walks.



NELLY LI

Nelly is from Hong Kong. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Psychology and Economics from the US. For 14 years, she worked in the private sector, through which she acquired solid knowledge in research, management consulting as well as corporate strategy and business planning.

As she felt a growing desire to apply her skillsets for social good, she decided to make a career change about a year ago to work at one of the world's leading foundations. As a senior manager, she is responsible for management of projects to help nonprofit organizations in Hong Kong in building sector-wide capacity. She also maintains a strategy and planning role which allows her to contribute to the foundation's long-term development with her past commercial experiences.

As someone who is relatively new to the philanthropy industry, Nelly sometimes feels that she lacks the specific skills to excel in her role and drive system changes. She is particularly drawn to the MPNL program at Carleton because it covers a broad spectrum of topics necessary to lead effective and sustainable nonprofit organizations.

She is looking forward to learning many of the best practices from, and building connections with, fellow students and field practitioners through the program.



MEGHAN MAACK

A proud Carleton alumni member, Meghan graduated with a BA, Canadian Studies in 1995. Fast forward to 2023 and you can find her back on Carleton's campus as a member of the university's advancement team. Meghan is a Senior Development Officer, with a focus of working with supporters to establish legacy gifts in wills.

Before joining the planned giving team at Carleton University, Meghan worked as a front-line fundraiser in small, medium, and large not-for-profit organizations in the Ottawa area. Her career began with event planning and peer-to-peer fundraising, but after receiving her CFRE accreditation in 2021, Meghan shifted her focus to major and planned giving. Meghan has raised funds for a variety of causes including disability rights, social services,

international development, and health care. Meghan loves working with individual donors, hearing their stories, and uncovering their connection to cause.

Meghan also volunteers with ABLE2 a local organization that focuses on supporting people who live with disabilities and is co-chair of the fundraising and awareness committee. Meghan is also an active CAGP and AFP member, attending national conferences and mentoring new fundraising professionals.

An active adventure traveller and a person who loves the outdoors, Meghan enjoys biking, hiking and canoeing with her circle of friends, family and loyal dog, Olive.



ESTHER McCUTCHEON

Esther graduated from St Lawrence College with an Advanced Diploma in Human Resources, and then from Laurentian University with a Bachelor of Business Administration, Honours Degree. After working several years in the private sector, she accepted a position as the Operations Manager for the Ontario SPCA Lennox & Addington Animal Centre.

Over the course of her time at this animal shelter, she led the team through many organizational changes, as well as thousands of homeless pet adoptions across Ontario. Most recently, Esther accepted a position with the Ontario SPCA as their very first Strategic Initiatives Manager, focusing on project management and strategic planning.

Esther has volunteered for almost ten years with a local charity providing humanitarian relief for specific communities in Peru, Zambia, and Uganda, subsequently joined the board in 2018, and then accepted appointment as the Home Director in 2020.

Always striving to better herself and stand out from the crowd, Esther is honoured to join the 11th cohort of the MPNL Program. The connections and education will complement her career, as she strives to grow and be a change maker in the industry.



EMMA MURGIDA

Emma received her undergraduate degree in Psychology from Wilfrid Laurier University in 2022. Through these classes, Emma was exposed to the world of social justice and participated in research examining moral development and human behaviour ultimately prompting her first co-op placement within the nonprofit sector.

Since graduating, Emma has continued her experience in the nonprofit industry working in a social enterprise where she supports individuals experiencing homelessness with finding meaningful employment. In this role, she gained experience working one-on-one with program participants and established relationships with community partners. Emma has been able to continue to work on innovative projects and launch new

ideas by participating in the Leadership Social Justice Initiative hosted by the University of Toronto School of Cities and The United Way GTA.

With the growing demand for services provided within the nonprofit industry, and her passion for helping others, the MPNL was Emma's perfect match. In pursuing this education, Emma hopes to continue to expand on her leadership potential, develop new skills, and learn from the perspectives of other individuals working within the sector.

In her free time, Emma can be found in the kitchen trying out a new recipe or relaxing by the water with a book.



MICHELLE MURPHY

Michelle is a native of Nova Scotia with an expressive nature and a passion for movement. She entered the world of performing arts at a young age when she attended Canada's National Ballet School; she subsequently began a twelve-year career as a professional ballet dancer with several theatres across Europe. The majority of her career was with the Dutch National Ballet, in Amsterdam, NL, and the Royal Swedish Ballet, in Stockholm, SWE. Upon returning to Canada, Michelle pursued studies at Queen's University and has become fascinated by fundraising and opportunities for fostering the Arts and Culture community in her home country.

Michelle enters the MPNL program motivated to investigate strategies for active engagement from discretionary

donors, and wishes to address the ways younger generations can contribute to artistic endeavors. As an aspiring artist, Michelle experienced access to resources and support made possible by donors to the Arts. The empowerment she felt as an artist is something she wishes to facilitate for more Canadians by developing the sector.

In her spare time, Michelle stays connected to her dance roots with somatic and explorative dance styles and teaches various movement methods. She enjoys an active lifestyle with her partner that includes skiing, tennis, beach-trips and hikes with their dog, Dawson.



JENNI OSBORNE

Jenni (she/her) completed her Bachelor of Commerce degree at the University of Victoria many years ago. In the two plus decades since, she has travelled around the world, visited 27 countries and lived in four different countries. She worked in multiple industries but found her true calling when she started working for the Foundation at North Island College on Vancouver Island, British Columbia.

While adjudicating awards based on financial need, it was an extremely impactful experience for Jenni to witness the extent of barriers people faced, not only to education, but to stable housing, food security and reliable healthcare. The other side of the job entailed cultivating a

donor base to support student success. Engaging with corporate donors highlighted the vast potential for stewarding funds to those who need it most.

Through this program, Jenni aims to advance her knowledge in the areas of financial stewardship, public policy advocacy and campaign building in order to attract and leverage corporate gifts to create more access for all.

Jenni loves the outdoors, travelling and her black lab dog, Ebony. She also loves to curl up in front of a fire and read a good book- and maybe even write one, one day!



KARENVEER PANNU

Karenveer received her BA from the University of Toronto, where she double majored in Political Science and Diaspora Studies, and minored in English. She also completed her M.Ed at OISE (U of T) in Curriculum and Pedagogy. Karenveer is passionate about liberatory education and knowledge building processes grounded within community.

Karenveer works as a community animator at the Tamarack Institute. She has been supporting Tamarack's Participatory Grantmaking project in the Peel region.

This project has been an experimentation in trust-based philanthropy and is what inspired her to pursue this program at Carleton University. She looks forward to continuing her understanding of philanthropy and the nonprofit sector through this program.

In her free time, Karenveer enjoys listening to music and podcasts, going to concerts and visiting bookstores.



KOURTNEY PARKER

Over 20 years ago, Kourtney was drawn to a career in helping people. She hoped to make an impact on people and need nationally or globally. Education was the pathway to that future. However, in the late 1990's, formal education in nonprofit leadership or philanthropic management was lacking. College offered applied skills in public relations and after achieving two diplomas at Cambrian College while volunteering with several nonprofit agencies, Kourtney entered the work force in philanthropy.

Progressively, Kourtney took on roles in the philanthropic sector with the National Ballet School, University of Waterloo, St. Mary's General Hospital, Women's Crisis Services and the University of Guelph.

Volunteering with nonprofits was also an important part of her interests.

Her pursuit of formal education lead to her Certified Fund-Raising Executive designation in 2010 and subsequent recertification every three years. In 2022, Kourtney earned a certificate in Leadership from the University of Guelph. Interested in nonprofit work with community impact for a potential global application, she is inspired by the MPNL.

Kourtney resides on the Haldimand Tract and offers respect to the First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples who now call it home. She acknowledges her responsibility to the generations yet to come.



WILLIAM PEAT

William Peat is an executive with over 12 years of experience working to connect the Irish Diaspora with Irish culture and history. He is originally from Dublin, Ireland, and holds a Master's degree in Anthropology from NUI Maynooth, specializing in Irish Diaspora Identity.

He has worked as a researcher on John McColgan's worldirish.com project, co-founded NGen Ireland, a nonprofit that helps connect and celebrate younger Irish people; and consulted on Diaspora

engagement with many organizations.

At Canada Ireland Foundation, he has helped facilitate the organization's growth to include a rebranding, two capital projects with combined budgets of over \$18 million, and the development of the Foundation's internal processes. During his time at CIF, the programming and community have continued to grow. He is immensely proud that CIF is one of the largest Irish-focused organizations in Canada.



JEAN PENG

Growing up in Toronto, Ontario, Jean first came to Ottawa on a field trip with her high school concert band. Her appreciation of the arts led her back to Ottawa in 2019 for a Bachelor of Arts in Film Studies (Honours) at Carleton University, where she graduated in 2023.

Jean's interest in volunteering started in high school, helping others learn music as a piano teacher. Jean's passion for supporting those who need it further developed when she joined the Carleton University Students' Association's (CUSA) Foot Patrol service centre as a volunteer in her first year. Three years later, Jean first heard of the Master of Philanthropy and Nonprofit Leadership program while contributing to the CUSA Unified Support

Centre as a volunteer leader. She knew she had to apply and was thrilled to receive her offer! Jean looks forward to offering a unique, film-oriented perspective while learning more about managing and financing philanthropic initiatives. She intends to apply her skills to a future career in housing or food-related support.

On the personal side, Jean developed a passion for pursuing a number of adrenaline inducing activities and is looking forward to going whitewater rafting, gliding, and skydiving this summer!



ALISON QUARTARO

Alison (she/her) is the Senior Manager of International Programs and Partnerships at Canadian Feed the Children, an international organization that promotes community-based solutions to food security and food sovereignty in Bolivia, Ghana, Ethiopia, Uganda and in Indigenous communities across Canada. Over the last fifteen years, Alison has worked throughout Southeast Asia and Canada as a grants specialist with comprehensive experience developing and implementing international health programs, largely focused on nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive interventions. In her last field position, Alison was Grant Manager for Action Contre la Faim-Myanmar (ACF) during the Rohingya Genocide. ACF provides life-saving nutritional support for vulnerable women and children in a rapidly changing, highly challenging context.

Alison holds an undergraduate degree from Trent University in Indigenous

Studies and a Post-Graduate Diploma in International Development Management Studies from Humber College. This is supported by professional accreditation as a Foundation-level Proposal Management Professional (APMP), PMP certification, and sector-specific Project Management training including Project Management for Development Professionals- Practitioner and CDPM-Level III Expert Certified Development Project Manager certifications.

Alison is eager to join this 11th Cohort of the MPNL degree. She is hoping it will expose her to different methods, fields and perspectives, assisting in her journey to become a well-rounded leader. She is particularly interested in post-colonial approaches to organizational development and growing her abilities to support robust, sustainable community-led development.



RHEANN QUENNEVILLE

Rheann is an enthusiastic individual with a passion for helping others. She graduated with an Honours Bachelor of Arts in Psychology concentrating in Health and Well-Being minoring in Neuroscience and Mental Health here at Carleton University in 2022. Throughout her undergraduate degree, she had the opportunity to volunteer for numerous nonprofits and fundraising events within the field of brain/mental health. One of the said nonprofits Rheann continues to be implicated with is the Women's Brain Health Initiative where she is a Young Person Cabinets member as well as their secretary. Her time as a volunteer at the Women's Brain Health Initiative solidified her desires to have a career within the nonprofit sector.

After graduating, Rheann worked as a research assistant at a Clinical EEG and Neuroimaging laboratory and as a Recreation Program Coordinator at the Brain Injury Association of the Ottawa Valley where she gained experience with different forms of nonprofit work.

Rheann hopes to gain experience within all the areas of philanthropy throughout her masters which will open numerous doors to different types of nonprofit work. During her free time Rheann enjoys cooking, reading, playing sports, and spending time with friends and family.



JULIA RUSSELL

Julia first took an interest in the nonprofit sector while completing a high school co-op placement at a local agency that provided early intervention services to children with special needs. She continued to work and volunteer with social service agencies while completing her post-secondary education at the University of Waterloo. She obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in Social Development Studies and a minor in Peace and Conflict Studies (2016) as well as a Bachelor of Social Work degree (2017). Julia is currently a Registered

Social Worker with a community nonprofit organization in Waterloo Region, Ontario that supports individuals with developmental disabilities and Autism Spectrum Disorder and their families. Julia is looking forward to continuing her knowledge of the nonprofit sector through the MPNL program and hopes to gain additional hands-on leadership skills.

Julia enjoys hiking with her husband and two energetic and loving Cocker Spaniels, Hunter (7) and Rory (4), as well as reading and spending time with friends and family.

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TARA RUSSELL

Spending time in nature has always been Tara's favourite way to connect with friends and family, think through complicated issues, or find joy and type one (or two) fun. It is this connection with nature, that drew her to work trying to protect it. Tara graduated with a BScH in Biology from Queen's University in 2013, before moving to Alberta. Here she found new challenges in environmental conservation. She is now the Program Director with the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society Northern Alberta Chapter where she has spent the last seven years working to advance the protection of Alberta's public lands and waters. She has led grassroots campaigns

to protect important headwaters regions, and to prevent the removal of provincial parks. Through all this work, she has also faced the challenges that come with funding environmental work, public policy advocacy and small nonprofit operations. These challenges, and her desire to be more effective in her conservation work, are what drew her to the MPNL program.

Tara lives in Treaty 6, in Edmonton, Alberta with her husband and her cat. When she is not working, she is out biking, skiing, spending time with friends or digging around in her community garden plot.



MEGAN SKYVINGTON

Megan Skyvington, BFA, CFRE is a designated Certified Fundraising Executive (CFRE) with over twelve years of progressive experience in higher education advancement, community building in the arts and equity-focused healthcare.

Currently, Megan is the Senior Director, Philanthropy and Corporate Partnerships at Women's College Hospital Foundation (WCHF) in Toronto. WCHF is Canada's leading academic ambulatory hospital and a world leader in women's health. Since 2020, Megan has had the privilege of partnering with hospital colleagues in seeking private support for their frontline work, both in the hospital and the surrounding community. Megan has spent significant time championing the Centre for Wise Practices in Indigenous Health, the Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Care Centre, and the Crossroads Refugee Clinic.

Megan earned her Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) in Drawing and Painting from OCAD University in 2011. As a lifelong artist and

participant in the creative economy, her time at OCAD U honed her abilities as a storyteller. Her work also allowed her to evolve as an advocate through understanding her lived experience with trauma, seeking to carefully connect with and support others with a similar lived experience. After graduation, Megan launched her art and community organizing efforts, establishing Women King Collective with two of her closest collaborators. Eventually, she found herself drawn to the third sector for altruistic reasons and because she sought work that fit into an increasingly complex world that needs the support not-for-profits provide more than ever.

Megan is committed to exploring how fundraising can do better as an industry - this includes removing barriers, centering equity, and creatively approaching best practices in fund development. She looks forward to using her time in the MPNL program to dive into these areas and more.

PHILANTHROPY AND NONPROFIT LEADERSHIP



SARAH THATCHER

For over three decades, Sarah Thatcher has worked with children and youth in a variety of capacities, all focused on improving their social, physical and emotional wellness. As a former franchise business owner, multilingual teacher, and community advocate she has spent her time inspiring and empowering the next generation to search for their purpose and find meaning in their lives. Her commitment to helping youth resulted in her nomination in 2005 for a Women of Distinction Award and in 2009 for Top 40 Under 40 in 2009 with the City of Guelph.

Sarah is a life-long learner and holds three bachelor's degrees in Religious Studies, German History and Language and Education and is fluent in English, German and French. As an educator she has over ten years of experience in designing, developing and delivering virtual and in-person learning programs.

As an avid traveler, Sarah has spent time visiting, living and working in over 50 countries, including the Middle East region, where she worked as an

international school teacher. She is well equipped in multicultural settings and demonstrates empathy and compassion for people with varied life experiences.

In her local community, Sarah's passion for the wellbeing of others and positive social change is witnessed in her role as an advocate and ally, helping organize local collaborative projects with schools, charities, not-for-profits and businesses. Sarah is active in municipal politics, serving on the Community Master Planning and Waterfront Strategy Committee to improve the lives of those who live in her community of Huntsville, Ontario. In 2022, Sarah launched Greyleaf Consulting to come alongside charitable and not-for-profit organizations to help them plan strategically and create funding strategies to improve programming and support sustainable organizations.

When she is not researching, reading or connecting with like-minded people, she enjoys spending time with her husband of 20 years, her two fabulous children and her desert-rescued cat & dog.



RILEY WEYMANN

A passionate community builder and storyteller, Riley has been active in a wide range of social and environmental issues across the country. He graduated from Carleton University with a BA in History, focusing on popular protest and public history, and is now looking to develop his skills and experiences into new avenues in order to better help those around him.

Having served as Chair of Resource Development for Rotaract Canada, along with many other positions within Rotary

International, Riley is very experienced with advocating and fundraising for issues that matter to Canadians. This knowledge also helped his work in the heritage industry, informing many of the projects he undertook in partnership with museums and archives.

In his spare time, Riley enjoys researching and writing cookbooks, hiking, and finding new board games to play. Originally from BC, he also takes any opportunity to go back and spend time in the mountains.



MOLLY WILKES

Molly is a highly motivated individual who has dedicated her life to helping those in need. She graduated from Carleton University in 2021 with a Bachelor of Social Work, which led her to her current role as a Social Policy Advisor at Indigenous Services Canada. However, her passion for nonprofit work was ignited during her time shadowing the head of Operations and Fundraising at Belong to Youth Services in Dublin, Ireland. Witnessing the positive impact of nonprofit organizations on the communities they serve inspired her to become part of that world.

Molly was drawn to the MPNL program at Carleton University because it offers an opportunity to gain a deeper

understanding of the inner workings of the nonprofit sector in Canada. She hopes to learn how to effectively support these organizations in gaining the attention and funding they need to make a real difference in the community. Her ultimate goal is to assist nonprofits in developing the programming necessary to serve those in need and to strengthen communities across Canada.

Molly's experiences and education have shaped her into a passionate advocate for social justice and equity. She is committed to using her skills and knowledge to make a positive impact on the world. Molly is thrilled to be part of the MPNL program at Carleton University and looks forward to seeing where this journey takes her.



NICK YEO

Intention and integrity are core concepts that drive Nick's pursuit of his professional and personal objectives. He is excited to embark on this next stage of his learning and looks forward to engaging with his peers in the 11th MPNL cohort.

Nick received his Bachelor of Arts in History and Philosophy from McGill University, and a certificate in Business Innovation from University of Toronto's School of Continuing Studies. Over the past two decades, he has applied his skills to a range of causes: from fundraising for a social network for social good, to managing the operations of a diversity focused film festival, to designing innovative programs for young entrepreneurs.

Currently he's Director of Programs at Rise, the only national charity sitting at the intersection of mental health and entrepreneurship. His team delivers trauma-informed programs and services that help marginalized Canadians achieve financial stability and social inclusion.

Nick is a first-generation Canadian and after spending 8 years of his youth in Asia, he now calls Toronto home. He enjoys taking on new challenges, including parenting two rambunctious toddlers, training in martial arts and attempting to read 50 books each year.

