

Appointee Biographies of New WAVE members

Members Appointed in July 2022

Alison Bailie

Alison is a professional policy analyst and dedicated volunteer who actively explores the barriers to equity, diversity and inclusion and develops collaborative space to jointly reduce these barriers. Professionally, Alison has assessed ways to limit climate change in Alberta, B.C., the United States, Australia and New Zealand over the past almost 30 years. Through that work she has created opportunities for people with different, and sometimes opposing, viewpoints to enter challenging discussions and find common solutions. She worked for the Government of Alberta for five years where, in addition to analyzing policies, she was a co-instigator for an employee-led equity, diversity and inclusion convening team. Alison is now working on climate analyses with a small consulting firm.

Alison's volunteer time in Edmonton includes hands on action helping children with disabilities to find the joy of riding bikes, supporting adult learners to improve their reading, writing, and speaking skills, and bringing her lovely dog Aspen to schools and shelters as part of animal assisted wellness.

One of her references notes that "Alison is committed to equity of all forms, and has courage to speak up for what is right, and a powerful ability to build collaboration.

Rhiannon Duval

To Rhiannon's core, she is a people person; the work that she does is fueled by a passion and care for the people she encounters. This drive is evident throughout Rhiannon's work and volunteer experience working directly with clients seeking support from the University of Alberta's Sexual Assault Centre and WIN House, Edmonton's Women's Shelter. Through this work in the gender-based violence sector, Rhiannon has not only developed immense expertise, but also judgment and professionalism. All of the work she does is driven by her commitment to social justice and to the empowerment of marginalized people. This commitment was fostered and developed during Rhiannon's undergraduate and graduate degrees with the Women's and Gender Studies department at the University of Alberta. An education in this field offers foundational formal and theoretical knowledge on the structures that disproportionately impact women and non-binary folks. This education coupled with Rhiannon's

experience working directly with houseless folks living in Edmonton offers a unique perspective for the work of WAVE.

Alongside the formal aspects of Rhiannon's resume, it is essential to highlight her core interpersonal values that elevate her overall application. Rhiannon is passionate about connection, relationship building and community. She strives to move throughout the world in a way that brings joy or comfort to people's lives and reduces the harm that exists in our current social structures. Alongside this passion for connection, grows an unyielding commitment to collaboration and teamwork. As a central tenet to community organizing, in order to achieve meaningful change, Rhiannon recognizes that we need to work together. Without such cooperation, we risk excluding or minimizing the voices of the marginalized groups we seek to support. Therefore, collaboration, professionalism and positive teamwork is a core value that Rhiannon brings to any work she does. In full, Rhiannon would bring warmth, passion and dedication to the important work that WAVE is already doing.

Tiwalade (Tiwa) Ighomuaye

Tiwa is a dedicated member of the community who has invested her time in serving and providing support to address the needs of others. Since she made Edmonton her home a little over three years ago, she especially offers support to newcomers by connecting them to resources, providing French/English translation services and valuable information to ease their settlement. She engages with different community groups such as the Boys and Girls Clubs, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Edmonton and Area and various Christian Centres to discuss issues women may be facing and propose potential resolutions.

She has provided support to members of the community either through the Multicultural Health Brokers or through the Nigerian Leadership Circle. She has shared insights on the impact of household income, family dynamics, and primary caregiver on a woman's career decision/choice. She is a passionate STEM champion and has given her time to serve on the review committee for the Women-In-STEM scholarship by the Ministry of Culture and Status of Women. She brings a wealth of experience as a great communicator, collaborator and creative problem solver.

Jacqueline LeBlanc

Jacqueline grew up outside of Beaumont, Alberta and has resided in the Edmonton area her entire life. She completed her Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in Women and Gender Studies from the University of Alberta in 2013 and graduated from the University of Alberta's Juris Doctorate program in 2016. She currently practices criminal defence. Much of her work is dedicated to representing community members facing houselessness, addiction, and poverty.

During her undergraduate degree, she was the External Affairs Chair for the Women Studies' Undergraduate Association. In law school, she volunteered for the Criminal Law Project for Student Legal Services. Jacqueline is also passionate about women's rugby and has coached highschool rugby for several years as well as served on the board for the LA Crude Rugby Football Club.

Kiratpreet 'Kirat' Sraa

Kirat is an individual with a passion for helping her community. She is actively involved in various organizations with a special interest in working towards gender equality. Whilst being an engaged community member, she is a full-time student at the University of Alberta working towards her Bachelor of Science degree. She is constantly trying to learn new things whether it be via new experiences, people, or activities. One of the ways she does this is by conducting research with a psychology lab within the University of Alberta science department.

Kirat Sraa was a recipient of ACGC's Top 30 Under 30 award for her work with various organizations including her previous volunteer work with WAVE. She would like to take her involvement a step further by serving on the committee.

Members Appointed in April 2022

Elli Dehnavi

Elli Dehnavi is the Vice Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences at Norquest College. Before joining Norquest, Elli was the Executive Director of the Centre for Race and Culture, a non-profit organization in Edmonton with a focus on education, research, and advocacy and the vision of creating a society free of discrimination and racism. In this role, Elli led a diverse portfolio of community engagement, cross-organizational

partnerships, community programming and advocacy, and advised organizations and leadership teams on inclusive strategy. She holds a PhD from the University of Alberta, and her research interests involve gender studies, Middle Eastern cinema, and transnational feminism. She has several years of teaching experience, and has taught at the University of Alberta and MacEwan University. Elli has extensive experience in community service and sits on several advisory boards and working groups, including the governance board of REACH Edmonton and Edmonton Community Foundation's research advisory committee on systemic racism (Vital Signs Annual Report).

Outside of her professional life, Elli enjoys watercolour painting, yoga, hiking, and exploring local cafes and restaurants.

Santana Febrey

Santana is a neuro-diverse, driven, and enthusiastic woman who strongly believes in a safe, equitable, and inclusive Edmonton for all. Having over 8 years of experience in the nonprofit world through volunteer work and employment, Santana understands and appreciates how important growth and change are. Her involvement in the non-profit world has given her experience in program development, fund development, volunteer management, policy creation, and social media management.

Santana's passion and understanding of diversity, inclusion and advocacy for all marginalized groups is what brought her to this next chapter with the WAVE committee. Santana is well known for her voice in advocating for youth, parents, individuals with disabilities, women, LGBTQ2S+, and BIPOC groups. Santana knows the work that still needs to be done and is incredibly proud of the work that has been accomplished before her. Santana is certain her voice can help lift and amplify the voices of many and help ensure women are not only heard but have a seat at the table.

Maria George

Maria is an electrical engineering student at the University of Alberta. On experiencing cultural issues that exacerbate gender gaps in the engineering space, she was driven to found the department of Equity, Diversity, Inclusivity, and Decolonization (EDID) in the Engineering Students' Society (ESS) of the University of Alberta, representing 4800+ engineering undergraduate students. This included designing equitable recruitment processes, creating mandatory inclusivity training for ESS members, and connecting

existing EDID student groups to ESS funding. She also founded a national network of Equity Directors across 10 major engineering programs to spearhead change on a larger scale.

As a first-generation immigrant who has called Edmonton home for more than 12 years, Maria believes that individuals are an accumulation of their experiences - experiences that are inevitably narrated by their set of demographics. In some shape or form, these experiences connect all members of a community to each other. By embracing the natural-born diversity of Edmonton, she hopes to contribute to building a culture that is more creative than the past, and far more resilient for the future.

Areezah Jiwa

Areezah Jiwa is passionate in supporting, uplifting, and amplifying the voices and confidence of those around her. She is a practicing lawyer at a global law firm in Edmonton. Areezah's parents were expelled from Uganda as refugees and subsequently made Edmonton their home. As a born and raised Edmontonian, Areezah strives to make her community a welcoming environment for everyone.

Areezah is a strong believer in equitable access to justice for marginalized groups. Areezah has worked with the Association for the Prevention of Torture and the United Nations in developing guidelines for law enforcement officials in implementing procedural safeguards to prevent the use of ill-treatment and torture of suspects. Areezah also volunteers to assist Afghan refugees in completing their application forms to support their journey to live in Canada. Areezah is currently the Co-Chair of the Canadian Bar Association Young Lawyers Section and a member of the Alberta Civil Trial Lawyers Association Women's Legal Forum.

Echo Keizer

Echo Keizer is passionate about many things: arts, personal fitness, and the vast potential Edmonton has as a city for opportunity and growth, to name a few. Not born here but raised in Edmonton most of their life, they enjoy frequenting local small businesses, farmers markets and sitting down at Remedy Cafe for a good cup of tea.

Echo holds a bachelor of science with a major in biology and minor in chemistry, and is aiming to go back to school to pursue a career in medical research with a focus on a

holistic approach to medicine and the inclusion of marginalized groups in healthcare, for example BIPOC and transgender people. As a non binary person, they have personally seen and experienced the struggle of the transgender community and feels strongly about breaking down the stigma surrounding being transgender in society as a whole and specifically in the realm of politics and healthcare.

Del Marlow

Del Marlow has called Edmonton home for more than 20 years. She spent approximately 2 decades working in the non-profit sector in Edmonton. She has a great deal of experience working at agencies such as the Sexual Assault Centre of Edmonton, Elizabeth House, Crossroads House, WIN House, A Safe Place, E4C and the Boyle McCauley Health Centre; Pathways to Housing. She has also volunteered in places where she felt that she could make a difference in the lives of others (especially women). Including being involved in the planning of International Women's Day events, December 6 memorial events, and being integral to the erection of a December 6 monument in the City of Edmonton.

Del currently works in a Government of Alberta social benefits program. She is a people leader in her current employment role and is passionate about doing leadership well. She has her GBA+ certification and continues to explore ways in her professional and personal life to get involved in her community and to continue to learn about current issues including facing all women.

Thy Nguyen

Thy Nguyen moved to Edmonton with her family, as refugees, in 1975 and despite moving away in 1998, has always identified as an Edmontonian.

After completing a Bachelor of Arts in Women's studies at the University of Alberta, she worked as a family support worker at Lurana women's shelter. Later, she taught English for several years in Japan and Taiwan.

Thy is a Chartered Professional In Human Resources and a Conflict Management specialist, having obtained her Masters Degree in Conflict Analysis and Management. She has served on various Not-for-profit boards for over 10 years. Now that she has returned home to Edmonton, she is eager to serve and contribute to the community.

Olubusola Onasile

Olubusola has her background in Microbiology, before completing a Masters of Public Health at Simon Fraser University in British Columbia. She has worked in the field of Public Health and Research for both governmental and nongovernmental organizations locally and internationally. She is currently the Capacity Building Facilitator at HIV Edmonton working primarily with the African, Caribbean and Black Canadian population in Edmonton. She is passionate about improving the health and wellbeing of underserved population groups through engagement, education and empowerment.

Appointee Biographies of Returning WAVE members 2019

Nadia Bouslama is a born and raised Edmontonian, a small business owner, and an advocate for women and the creation of safe and inclusive spaces. She joined W.A.V.E with the desire to help our city continue to flourish and grow as a place that respects, values, and promotes equality for all persons in their places of work and in their communities. She believes that by opening the doors of communication, we are given an opportunity to use not just our commonalities but also our differences to cultivate a unique, vibrant, and progressive Edmonton culture not bound by conventional ideas.

Nadia pursues a broad-based acquisition of education and knowledge in areas ranging from the creation of botanical skin care to labour relations and policy. She also enjoys exploring Edmonton's spectacular river valley with her partner and their energetic little dog. She frequently attends local theater and music events.

Funmi - Oluwafunmilayo Omole has been a proud Edmontonian since moving to the city as a young adult. She is a proud auntie of 4 wonderful young people and enjoys being as involved in their lives. She has worked in the insurance industry for the last 12 years and enjoys helping her clients navigate the complexities of risk management. As a chartered insurance professional, she is part of a great network of professionals from various industries.

She is currently working towards an accounting degree at NAIT. She is passionate about human rights, equity and access to programs that empower people of all backgrounds and education levels to be the best they can be in their communities, careers and their day to day lives. Funmi currently works with the LGBT Newcomer Group mentoring newcomers. She is also connected to the African community in the city.

Muno Osman is a Registered Social Worker with over 10 years' experience in frontline social work, community development as well as international development. Muno has extensive and varied professional experience in social work, advocacy as well as gender and development.

Muno is passionate about women's equality and works hard to see a world where women in Edmonton and beyond live up to their fullest potential.

Muno holds a Bachelor of Social Work and a Masters of Social Work with an specialization on anti-oppressive Social Work. Muno speaks English, Somali and Swahili. When she is not working, Muno enjoys writing, cooking and attending community events. Muno recently published children's books in the Somali language to address the lack of suitable Somali literature for children in Canada.

Julianne Threlfall is the Senior Manager of Public Works for CN Rail. She has 12 years in the railway industry which is complemented with a Bachelor's degree in Leadership. Julianne has been a mentor to young women and advocate for women in non-traditional gender roles/careers. Additionally Julianne serves on the United Wave Stewardship Committee focusing her passion for women's rights and lifting young women out of poverty.

Charlotte Wray's multi-cultural parentage is intrinsically "Canadian". Her family tree includes ancestors who emigrated to Canada at the turn of the 20th century from China, Ireland, Germany and the USA. A large contingent of her parent's family settled in Edmonton in the 1960s, providing her with a connection to the city. She was born and raised in Hong Kong and spent her primary years educated in Cantonese, then later in an all girls' English secondary school. Charlotte moved to Edmonton in 2010 to continue her studies and obtained a Bachelor of Arts, with distinction, in Women and Gender Studies at the University of Alberta.

Currently as staff and alumni at the University of Alberta, Charlotte maintains a close connection to the community there, by serving students through her work at the Career Centre and as a volunteer with the Alumni Association. Off campus, Charlotte works to build connections with community members through cooking classes hosted by the not-for-profit Converse and Cook. She also supports career development with Edmonton Public Library's WorkForce Development program. Teaching the basics of resume and cover letter writing weekly as a volunteer.