

## **City of Edmonton's Community Safety and Well-being Task Force**

**Laila Bellony** immigrated to Canada from the Caribbean in 1998, settling in Toronto with her family. As an Afro-Caribbean woman, she has encountered countless experiences of erasure on the basis of race, culture, and gender. As a youth, she was exposed to inequity and witnessed the way in which police treated people of colour and residents of lower income neighborhoods. This prompted involvement both as a participant and a facilitator in programs aimed at at-risk youth.

She relocated to Edmonton in 2014 and continues to work in the social services field with vulnerable people, including those experiencing homelessness, substance abuse disorder, and living in poverty. During her time at the Bissell Centre, she served on the agency's CEO advisory and community restorative justice committees. Laila has also previously worked at Boyle McCauley Health Centre, Niginan Housing and is currently a crisis worker at the George Spady Society. In this role and others, she has been an advocate on behalf of clients to different public service agents, including case workers, medical personnel, and police. She is currently studying social work at MacEwan University and holds a Bachelor of Arts in Literature from the University of Toronto.