

## **MAYOR'S TASK FORCE for the ELIMINATION of POVERTY**

### **BISHOP JANE ALEXANDER (Co-Chair)**



Bishop Jane Alexander was born in England and began her professional life in 1981 as a music teacher in Newcastle Upon Tyne. On moving to Canada she earned a Master's Degree in Education in 1993 and a Ph.D. in Educational Psychology in 1996, both from the University of Alberta. She earned a Master's degree in Theological Studies in 2001 from Newman Theological College. She was ordained to the priesthood in 2001, served in several parishes in the Diocese of Edmonton and became Dean in 2006. Jane was consecrated and installed as Bishop of Edmonton on May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2008.

### **JUSTIN ARCHER**



Justin Archer is a partner and Managing Director at Berlin Advertising and Public Relations, an Edmonton-based communications agency. He moved from his hometown of Calgary to Edmonton a decade ago to start a career in communications--first working in provincial politics, and then moving to the agency world. He's worked on many issues management files and directed the development of integrated advertising and public relations campaigns. He believes strongly that poverty, and child poverty in particular, causes immeasurable damage to our society and to the humanity of those who experience it. He is very pleased to serve on the Mayor's Task Force.

## JEFFREY BISANZ



Jeffrey Bisanz is Professor and Chair in the Department of Psychology at the University of Alberta. The focus of his research is child development. He served as the Director of the Community-University Partnership for the Study of Children, Youth, and Families (CUP) from its inception in 2000 until 2011. At CUP he worked to develop community-based projects in a variety of areas, including early child development, education, and health. He serves on the Board of Directors of the Muttart Foundation.

## KATE CHISHOLM



Kate Chisholm has overall responsibility for the management of Capital Power's legal, regulatory and external affairs (including communications, stakeholder relations and community investment). From 2004 to 2009, she served as EPCOR's Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary, directing all legal, regulatory and environmental affairs for EPCOR, EPCOR Power LP, and their respective subsidiaries.

Ms. Chisholm received numerous awards for excellence in corporate counsel notably prestigious the Robert V.A. Jones Award by the Canadian Corporate Counsel Association in 2008 National Post's Western Canada General Counsel Awards in 2009.

Mrs. Chisholm gives generously to her community and currently sits on the boards of the United Way Capital Region, the Legal Education Society of Alberta and the International Association of Corporate Counsel, as well as sitting on the Edmonton LRT Governance Board.

Mrs. Chisholm also passionately champions diversity and inclusion, having commenced Capital Power's Diversity and Inclusion initiative, created the MORE mentoring program for high potential young professional women in Edmonton, and being named one of Canada's "Top 50 Diversity Champions" by *Women of Influence Magazine*.

## YVONNE CHIU



Yvonne is one of the founding members of the Multicultural Health Brokers Co-op in Edmonton. The MCHB Co-op is a workers co-operative established to address health and social issues experienced by immigrant & refugee families.

As a member of the Co-op, Yvonne has spent the past decade exploring a variety of participatory processes to engage immigrants/refugees in making visible their struggles & aspirations for the purpose of community actions and social change. Areas of concerns include immigrant/refugee health, early parenting, early childhood development, youth issues & community relations with mainstream institutions.

Prior to this, Yvonne had worked as a Settlement Counselor in Edmonton's Chinatown, a Social Development Officer at the Alberta Multiculturalism Commission, and a Health Promotion Practitioner with the former Edmonton Board of Health.

## JOSEPH A DOUCET, PHD, ICD.D



Joseph Doucet became Dean of the Alberta School of Business on July 1, 2013. He joined the School in 2000 and, from 2005, was the Enbridge Professor of Energy Policy. He has held faculty or visiting appointments at Université Laval, the University of Florida, and Université Montpellier (France). He earned his PhD from the University of California, Berkeley.

Under Dean Doucet's leadership, the Alberta School of Business continues to build on its globally recognized research excellence and outstanding learning environment while growing its impact in the areas of energy and the environment, entrepreneurship, and international business. The School's vision is "Leaders from Alberta for the World."



Doucet's research interests are in the areas of energy and regulatory economics and policy. He regularly provides strategic advice to firms and governments in these areas. His research has appeared in journals such as the Journal of Regulatory Economics, the Canadian Journal of Economics, Energy Economics and The Energy Journal. He is a member of the Editorial Board of the Journal of Regulatory Economics and, between 2000 and 2006, he was Editor of the journal Energy Studies Review.

Doucet currently sits on the boards of the EPCOR Community Essentials Council (ECEC), the Institute of Certified Management Consultants of Alberta (CMC-Alberta), and the 2014 ITU World Triathlon Grand Final.

### **SARAH EADIE**



Sarah works as a staff lawyer at the Edmonton Community Legal Centre, practising poverty law. In that role, she advises and represents low income members of the community facing serious legal problems, who would otherwise be unable to retain counsel. She has also volunteered on the Boards of Directors of various non-profit agencies in Edmonton, including Student Legal Services and the Elizabeth Fry Society of Edmonton. She is committed to ensuring that everyone, regardless of economic status or other personal characteristics, has equal access to the protections of our legal system. When not working or volunteering, Sarah enjoys spending time with her young family.

### **LOUIS HUGO FRANCESCUTTI, MD, PHD, MPH, FRCPC, FACPM**



Dr. Louis Hugo Francescutti is a native Montrealer who went west, fell in love with the open space and clear blue skies of Alberta and never left.

For many Albertans, Dr. Francescutti has become synonymous with public health and safety. He received his combined MD / PhD from the University of Alberta in 1987 and, while training as a general surgery resident, became fascinated with the subject of trauma. He completed a Masters of Public Health and a preventive medicine residency at Johns Hopkins University School of Public Health in Baltimore.

He is a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada and a Fellow of the American College of Preventive Medicine.

In 1995 he returned to Edmonton as an emergency and preventive medicine physician at the Royal Alexandra Hospital where he witnessed the devastating impact of preventable injuries and made it his mission to continue to promote injury prevention. Over the past two and a half decades, Dr. Francescutti spearheaded a number of public safety awareness initiatives and campaigns such as award winning multimedia injury prevention program for teens (HEROES); an innovative emergency medical response computer program to treat injuries on site; and founded that lets emergency responders better treat and track injuries at the scene Coalition for Cellphone-Free Driving

He has chaired numerous committees and task forces that deal with public health and injury prevention as well as received numerous provincial and national awards.

## **COUNCILLOR BEN HENDERSON**



Ben was born in New York, grew up in Winnipeg, went to Peterborough to attend Trent University, and then came to Edmonton to do his MFA in Directing at the University of Alberta in 1981 and has subsequently refused to leave. Most of his career was in theatre. He was the first Artistic Director of Nexus Theatre which did lunch time and late night theatre out of its underground home downtown in McCauley Plaza. He was also Artistic Director of Great West Theatre in Fort MacLeod, Theatre Network in Edmonton, and with Marty Chan founded Running With Scissors Theatre. Overtime his work has toured most of Canada and parts of Britain. His last job in the theatre world was as Dramaturg for the Saskatchewan Playwrights Theatre Centre helping playwrights craft their work.

During this time he was also heavily involved in arts advocacy serving as the first Vice President of the Edmonton Arts Council and as President of the Professional Arts Coalition of Edmonton (PACE).

He also trained and worked as a mediator, working mostly in organizational mediation and with parent and teen mediation, something he continues to dabble in to this day.

And then, in 2007, his life took a substantial turn as he left the theatre world to take on municipal politics, being elected as a City Councillor in the City of Edmonton. He first represented Ward 4 which took in the entire centre of the city and then with the change in ward boundaries he now represents Ward 8 which takes in the central south side.

While with the City he has concentrated on a number of initiatives including a Winter City Strategy, an Edmonton Poverty Elimination strategy, and (as an avid bike commuter) pushing for improvement for Edmonton's bicycle and transit infrastructure. He has also gained a keen interest in City planning. He represents the City on the board of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), and represents the FCM on the Canada Council on the Social Determinants of Health.

Before being elected Ben was also heavily involved with community work, mostly as Vice President of the Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues (EFCL) and as Chair of the Planning and Development Committee for the EFCL.

He and wife Laurie Blakeman, who is the Member of the Legislature of Alberta for the constituency of Edmonton Centre, have lived happily in the community of Rosssdale, in Edmonton for many years with their menagerie of dogs and cats.

Ben is an avid curler. He curled in high school and then for reasons he can't remember stopped in university. He started again about a decade ago and now can't figure out why he ever stopped.

## **SANDRA HUCULAK**



Whether working in government, communications, corporate social responsibility (CSR) or community investment, Sandra's career has been connected and energized by the notion that meaningful and enduring social investment happens only when many aspects come together: creativity, imagination, inspiration, and a great listener's instinct for what's important to an organization and its many audiences.

This has guided her work for the Government of Alberta, Calder Bateman Communications, Capital Health and, currently, ATB Financial, where she created the first CSR framework for the largest Alberta-based financial institution.

Her career highlights include developing culturally appropriate curricula for health professionals in strategic communications, community advocacy and media relations for the World Health Organization; teaching course in Asia, Europe, South America and the Middle East; and facilitating Community Advocacy Workshop for African health care providers to develop breast cancer screening services for women. She lectures at the University of Alberta's School of Business, takes her CSR learning to other Alberta business and community leaders, and volunteers with boards, including Sorrentino's Compassion House Foundation.

## EUGENE IP



Eugene Ip is a social worker, currently, Chair of Community Studies Department at NorQuest College. Between 1986 and 2008, he was a social worker and a social planner with City of Edmonton. For 6 years during that period, he had spent with Ministry of Children's Services, Government of Alberta doing outcome reporting work. He has been a sessional social work instructor with University of Calgary, Faculty of Social Work, Northern and Central Region since 1997, becoming a full time educator in his professional discipline in 2008 when NorQuest College began to offer the Social Work Diploma Program. He completed social work undergraduate and graduate work at University of Victoria; in 2010, he received a doctorate in social work from University of South Africa in Pretoria.

## MARK HOLMGREN



Mark Holmgren is the CEO of Bissell Centre. For more than 30 years, Mark has worked to address a variety of social issues, including poverty, homelessness, mental illness, addictions, and troubled families. He has held executive positions at Operation Friendship and United Way and cut his teeth doing street outreach for Boyle Street Community Services back when it was a small agency of 10. Mark is also consultant to non-profits and governments and has more than 15 years of experience providing services in the areas of strategy, innovation, social housing development, and organizational change. Clients have included municipal governments, numerous funders, educational institutions, social service agencies, arts and culture groups and health organizations. Specific examples:

MacEwan University, Edmonton Folk Music Festival, Telus World of Science (nee Odyseeum), Alberta Council of Disability Services, Muttart Foundation, and The Family Centre.



Recently Mark was selected to serve as one of 10 national thought leaders for the Tamarack Communities Collaborating Institute. Mark is an avid blog writer and has been published widely in print and online media. His creative work has also been aired provincially and nationally by CBC radio and appeared in dozens of literary journals.

### **TIFFANY LINKE-BOYKO**



As Chief Operating Officer for Startup Edmonton, Tiffany is involved in organizing, coordinating and delivering a range of programs and events such as Preflight Program, DemoCamp, Startup Weekend, and TEDxEdmonton. Previously, Tiffany spent eight years with Extreme Dream Ministries as an event organizer planning youth conferences all over Canada and overseas. Some of her highlights have been organizing a conference at a soccer stadium in Malawi, Africa and organizing the annual YC Alberta that takes place each May at Rexall Place in Edmonton with 16,000 delegates. Tiffany is also on the board of Edmonton Women's Dream Centre an addiction recovery program for women.

### **MARIA MAYAN**

Maria Mayan is the Assistant Director, Women and Children's Health, Community-University Partnership for the Study of Children, Youth and Families and Associate Professor, Faculty of Extension. She situates herself at the intersection of government, not-for-profit, funding and university communities and values working together to address complex health and social issues. She believes that embedding health and social problems within their historical, economic, political, social, and cultural environments is necessary to come up with practical options for needed change.



## **CARMAN MCNARY**



Carman practices tax and corporate law as a partner at Dentons Canada LLP, focusing on strategic level planning for and representation of individuals and businesses of all sizes and sectors, as well as First Nations engaging in business enterprises on and off of traditional lands. He chaired Dentons' National Tax Practice Group from 2002-2012 and taught as a Sessional Lecturer at the University of Alberta, Faculty of Law, from 2001-2006. Carman has always been engaged in the Edmonton business and charitable fabric through volunteer work in many capacities, including among other activities the Edmonton Community Foundation (Chair since 2012), Alberta Chambers of Commerce (currently

Vice Chair), the Edmonton Homeless Commission (member), the Edmonton Chamber of Commerce (Director 2004 – 2011 and 2010 Chair), and the United Way of the Capital Region where he served on the Campaign Cabinet and has led Dentons' annual campaign since 2003. In 2008, Carman finished almost 34 years of service in the Canadian Forces as a Captain (Navy) in the Naval Reserve, and he has been awarded a number of national, provincial and professional honours in recognition of his activities.

## **JANICE MELNYCHUK**



Janice Melnychuk has been a small business person, a long time community volunteer and elected official. She served as a Public School Trustee and City Councillor in Edmonton for 12 years which led to committee work at the provincial and national levels. She has been the Executive Director of Vibrant Communities Edmonton, a multi sector initiative on poverty reduction and a member of the Poverty Reduction Steering Committee for the City of Edmonton. She is a trained Executive Coach and continues to coach and mentor people in business, leadership, governance and politics.

## COUNCILLOR SCOTT McKEEN



Ward 6 Councillor Scott McKeen is familiar with the ins and outs of City Hall. The hometown journalist spent 24 years at The Edmonton Journal – more than half of it as a reporter and columnist covering civic affairs. As a member of the City Hall press gallery, he covered three mayors – Jan Reimer, Bill Smith and Stephen Mandel – as well as a number of his current colleagues on city council.

Scott's began at The Edmonton Journal in 1986. His duties at the paper ran the entire spectrum, from crime reporting to the environment beat. In 2001 he was named the newspaper's city hall columnist. Scott was short-listed or won a number of prestigious journalism awards during his career. But his strongest memories are of the stories and columns in which Edmontonians trusted him to write their deeply personal stories.

He also became actively involved in the community, as a volunteer director of the Downtown Edmonton Community League, the Edmonton Mennonite Centre for Newcomers, the Downtown Vibrancy Task Force, the Alberta Alliance on Mental Illness and Mental Health and the Lieutenant Governor's Circle on Mental Health and Addiction. Scott was also the City of Edmonton's first ever Blogger in Residence, a position he stepped down from recently to run in Ward 6.

Scott has three grown children – Jennifer, Molly and Matthew – who all live in Edmonton. He lives in Ward 6 in the community of Oliver. He rides a yellow Vespa scooter, is a lifelong student guitarist and played with the Urban Coyotes in the 2012 Heart of the City music festival.

## ANNE SMITH



What began as a youth volunteer experience, turned into a lifelong commitment to changing lives and creating stronger communities.

Anne Smith first connected with United Way in Calgary, as a volunteer youth representative on the Board of Directors; and continued these efforts with United Way in Edmonton when she moved to the Capital Region in 1975.

Then, in 1984, the meaningful connection to United Way's work became permanent when Anne officially joined the Capital Region staff as Communications Director. In 1993, she was promoted to Senior Vice President, and then appointed President and CEO a short two years later.

Anne dedicates herself to a spirit of collaboration and community building. This approach has enhanced relationships in the sector, grown community and donor support, and increased the visibility of the social issues affecting the more than 123,000 people who live in poverty in the Alberta Capital Region, and the many thousands more who live on the margins.

Her efforts have also driven the creation of innovative programs and initiatives, such as The InKind Exchange, Partners for Kids, Success by 6 and, most recently, WE Magazine – a community-based publication that focuses on issues experienced in the region and the results we can achieve together. Along with her commitment to United Way, Anne has served on the Edmonton Housing Trust, Edmonton Community Foundation, the Leadership Committee to End Homelessness and the TELUS Community Board. Currently,

Anne is Chair of the Edmonton Homeless Commission and Co-Chair of the Edmonton Committee to Eliminate Poverty. Her contributions to the community have been recognized through numerous honours locally and nationally; and most recently as one of the recipients of the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal.

## **ZAHRA SOMANI**



Zahra Somani is a seasoned Director with diverse entrepreneurial and leadership experience. She has over 18 years of experience in the retail and hospitality industry. In addition to serving on various community Boards and Committees, she currently serves as the Chair of the Stollery Children's Hospital Foundation Board of Trustees. Zahra is a member of the Ismaili Council for Canada and a member of the University of Alberta's Joint Liaison Committee, focused on supporting the University of Alberta's efforts to enhance community engagement through Leadership, Professional Development and International Engagement. She is a passionate ambassador motivated by the desire and ability to influence and strengthen communities that enhance quality of life.

Zahra is a graduate of the faculty of Education from the University of Alberta, and has an MBA from the Edinburgh School of Business. She is a recent graduate of the Institute of Corporate Directors. In her spare time, she enjoys travelling and spending time with family and friends.

## FIONA CAVANAUGH



Fiona Cavanagh is the Executive Director of the Centre for Public Involvement (CPI) ([www.centreforpublicinvolvement.com](http://www.centreforpublicinvolvement.com)), an organization founded through a partnership between the University of Alberta (Faculty of Extension) and the City of Edmonton to advance the scholarship and practice of public involvement. Prior to her work at the Centre, she was the Program Manager of Public Engagement for Change for Children, an Alberta non-profit. In this role, she created and managed innovative and experiential engagement programs for youth, K-12 and post secondary students, and Alberta

educators. Fiona has also served two terms as the Chair of the Board of the Alberta Council for International Cooperation (ACGC) and provided leadership for non-profits working in partnership with international communities to address global poverty.

Recently, she recently served as the chair of the 2014 IAP2 (International Association of Public Participation) North American Conference on Public Participation. Fiona has an undergraduate degree in Sociology and rural development and an M.Ed in Educational Policy Studies from the University of Alberta. Cavanagh is also a Steering Committee member for Alberta Climate Dialogue and an instructor in the Faculty of Extension.

In 2014, Fiona was named one of Edmonton's Top Women in Business by the *Wanderer*, an Edmonton online magazine. She is also fluent in Spanish and has lived and worked in many countries across Central and South America.



## CHERYL WHISKEYJACK



Cheryl Whiskeyjack is the Executive Director of the Bent Arrow Traditional Healing Society. She started her career in human services with Bent Arrow in 1995 as a youth worker, and became executive director in 2008.

Cheryl has had a hand in developing most of Bent Arrow's programs and services, many of which are accredited, creative initiatives that fill gaps in service provision for Aboriginal people in Edmonton. As the organization's ED, Cheryl leads a team of over 100 employees – the Bent Arrow family. She works to ensure high quality programs and services, and a sense of belonging to the Bent Arrow family for the children and families who come to Bent Arrow.

Cheryl currently sits on a number of community boards and committees. She has been on Canadian Accreditation Council (CAC) Board since 2008, and involved in the Council in various capacities since 1996. Cheryl began serving on the Child and Youth Care Advisory Board for Grant MacEwan University in June 2010. In 2013, Cheryl joined the Steering Committee for the Edmonton Poverty Reduction Initiative.

Cheryl was awarded the 2011 Homeward Trust Recognizing Outstanding Organizations and People in Housing (ROOPH) Award for Outstanding Service to the Aboriginal Community. She was selected by the Norlien Foundation to speak at Harvard University in 2013 about Kahkiyaw and Aboriginal children and youth in care. In the same year, Alberta Venture Magazine named Cheryl one of its esteemed ``Next10`` leaders to watch.