

## **WAVE Member Bios 2020/2021**

**Abby - Adetoun Aiyeleye** is a certified project management professional and business relationship manager with over thirteen years of experience across Europe, Middle East, Africa, and North America. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from the University of Greenwich (UK) and works at Enbridge as a Performance Specialist. In addition to offering career mentoring and support to young IT professionals, she serves as Vice President of the Alberta Network of Immigrant Women's board.

**Amy Yu** is a co-founder of an award-winning digital marketing agency, Kickbyte Digital. As a highly skilled project manager with almost 2 decades of experience in information technology and digital marketing, Amy has an incredible track record of successful projects with clients such as: Alberta Distance Learning Centre, Canadian Western Bank, Government of Saskatchewan, Associated Press, and Harper Collins. She is a recipient of the Alberta Premier's Award of Excellence and her company has won a number of awards through Digital Alberta.

In addition to the success of Kickbyte, Amy believes that it is essential to give back to the community. Amy is a strong voice of advocacy for women in technology and Alberta based companies. She actively participates and belongs to groups such Digital Alberta, YEG Women in Tech, #methodical, Canada Learning Code, and Amy is also a board member of Alberta Association of Migration Studies (AAMS), a group that aims to provide education and support outreach programs for migrants, migration processes, and urban change.

**Angelika Matson** is dedicated to building a more inclusive and connected Edmonton. In the past she has worked with the LGBTQ2S+ community to protect their right to have gay-straight alliances in schools, sat on the Edmonton Youth Council, has helped to pilot the Abundant Community Edmonton initiative in high-density neighbourhoods, has worked with socially isolated seniors, and has been highly involved in Edmonton's community league movement. She is also a mental health advocate. She currently does community development work with the Edmonton Mennonite Centre for Newcomers, helping immigrants and refugees capitalize on their assets to support their communities.

**Bailey Dawn Coty** is a young woman who was born and raised in Edmonton, having called Alberta's capital her home for 27 years. She is no stranger to fighting difficult battles, spending much of her childhood and adolescence overcoming a brain tumour that has left one side of her body paralyzed. Not one to let this stop her, she takes her unique perspective as a wheelchair user to fight for the rights of disabled citizens in Edmonton and abroad. Bailey is currently a student at MacEwan University pursuing an honours degree in Anthropology with hopes to proceed to a PhD. She often uses the intersectionality of her studies to engage in social justice activism.

**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.

**Elyssa Teslyk** is a human resources manager and systematic connector for Ottawa based M&C Consulting and Canadian tech company, MC2. She has an education in finance, marketing and human resources, and is working towards a masters in data science. Currently, Elyssa is working on developing interoperable marketplaces to bring people together to take positive action. Examples of upcoming inclusive, equity projects include building law enforcement training tools, learning tools for Indigenous youth, and tools for women interested in politics.

**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.

**Hersharon Sandhu** is a passionate and evocative writer who uses poetry and prose as a balancing bar as she walks the tightrope between her Indian and Canadian identities. As an immigrant, she understands, first-hand, the value of inclusive and diverse community programming in building relationships with newcomers to our city. Hersharon is a double-alum of the University of Alberta, with a degree in Sociology and an honors degree in Women and Gender Studies. Currently, she is using her client relations and copywriting skills at the School of Public Health, University of Alberta as a communications and engagement associate. Hersharon enjoys spending her spare time outside in nature, inside a book, or telling stories on her website [www.hrshrn.com](http://www.hrshrn.com).

**Joan Welch** grew up in Alberta and has lived in Edmonton for 45 years. She attended McGill (BA) and the University of Alberta (MBA) and obtained a CHRP (human resources designation) and certification in mediation and negotiation. She has worked for Alberta Health, the regulated registered nursing profession, and Fort Edmonton Foundation. After her retirement from Alberta Health Services Provincial Medical Affairs in 2014, she has been an active volunteer, serving on the University of Alberta Senate, the Edmonton Seniors Coordinating Council (Co-Chair for three years), Age Friendly Edmonton Leadership Table, the Community Services Advisory Board (one year as Chair), the Family and Community Support Services Committee (one year as Chair), Garneau United Assisted Living Place (Ashbourne House) executive and board, South East Edmonton Early Childhood Community Coalition executive, and Friends of the Edmonton Public Library board.

Joan's other volunteer experience includes the boards of the River Valley Alliance, the Human Resources Institute of Alberta, the Edmonton Social Planning Council, and the Edmonton Public Library (two years as Chair) and as a volunteer instructor for the Alberta Board Development Program.

Her interests are in the connections that link education (from early childhood to lifelong learning), social policy and prevention, primary health care, and community supports and planning for wellness and quality of life. She brings the perspective of a senior woman to WAVE to help expand public awareness and promote policies that address barriers to full engagement that women and others face.

**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.

**Kourtney Boucher** is a member of Miskisew Cree First Nation and moved to Edmonton in 2014 from Fort McMurray to continue her education. She is a graduate from the University of Alberta where she completed her Bachelor of Science in Psychology and Peter Lougheed Leadership College where she completed a certificate in Interdisciplinary Leadership Studies. She is working with the United Way on End Poverty Edmonton and enjoys spending time with her young sons.

**Kristina Midbo** is a graduate of the University of Alberta with a Bachelor of Laws degree and a Bachelor of Arts in Native Studies with Distinction. She is a member of the Sawridge First Nation in Treaty 8. Kristina believes that indigenous peoples have knowledge and experiences that government and organizations can learn from. She has deep connections to her community and continues to work alongside Sawridge members to strengthen their community now and into the future. After practicing law for several years, Kristina entered the provincial public service where she has served in numerous capacities. As the current Director of Indigenous Women's Initiatives, she is honoured to work with strong women leaders, both indigenous and non-indigenous, who inspire her daily as they work to improve the lives of indigenous women and girls.

**Michele Jackson** is originally from Ottawa and moved to Edmonton in 2000. After graduating from Carleton University in English and Philosophy she worked at the National Archives of Canada and later at Centretown Citizens Ottawa Corporation, a non-profit social housing organization. In 1992, she was fortunate to be selected as one of the hosting staff for the World Exposition in Sevilla, Spain where she was able to immerse herself in another language and culture through work and community.

Once in Edmonton, she worked for a variety of organizations including the Centre Culturel Marie-Anne Gaboury and the NDP Official Opposition, before deciding to return to university to pursue an after-degree in education at the Campus Saint-Jean. It was her dedication to youth, her love of communication and her lifelong commitment to language learning that inspired her to study in French and which became the foundation for her trajectory as an educator with Edmonton Public Schools where she taught French, Spanish, English and Social Studies at Eastglen for three years. However, in May of 2015, when then Premier Rachel Notley won the

provincial election, Michele could not resist the pull of the political sphere and took a leave of absence from teaching to work as the Ministerial Advisor to the Minister of Justice and Solicitor General. She subsequently moved to become the Chief of Staff to the Minister of Indigenous Relations and then finally landed in the Office of the Premier as the Director of Public Agency Appointments. It was her great privilege to be part of such a dedicated team led by an even more extraordinary leader whose diligence in ensuring gender parity on agencies, boards and commissions became the impetus for Michele's desire to continue this similar work with WAVE at the municipal level.

Over the course of her life, Michele has volunteered in a variety of organizations from women's shelters to her most recent position as a Board Member with Change for Children Association. She lives with her partner, Jonathan, and has two daughters, Sasha and Eliza.

**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.

**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.