

Executive Members of the ESCC Board

Joan Welch

Co-Chair



Joan Welch retired from Provincial Medical Affairs in Alberta Health Services in 2014. Her work experience includes government, a regulated health profession, and serving as Executive Director of the Fort Edmonton Foundation. She has a BA, an MBA, a certificate in mediation and negotiation, and is a CHRP (Retired).

As a volunteer, she is currently a Director at Large and the Chair of the Governance Committee on the River Valley Alliance, a public representative on the University of Alberta Senate, and the Vice Chair of the City of Edmonton's Community Services Advisory Board. She served for six years on the Edmonton Public Library Board (two years as Chair), the Edmonton Social Planning Council Board, the Government of Alberta's Board Development Program and the boards of both the Edmonton and Alberta human resources organizations.

Joan became a Member at Large on the ESCC Board in 2014 and currently serves as Co-Chair and on the Executive, Personnel and Policy Committees. She feels that being on the ESCC Board is a wonderful opportunity to learn about seniors' services and organizations, seniors' needs and Age Friendly Edmonton.

Holly Matthews

Co-Chair



Holly is currently employed as Director of Care at Chartwell Wild Rose Retirement Residence. She is a Licensed Practical nurse and a graduate of Northern Island College, Port Alberni, British Columbia.

She has held both educational and administrative positions in Alberta including a posting for two years as a charge nurse at the La Crete Continuing Care Centre in La Crete, Alberta. Her northern experience demanded extensive medical and community collaboration in order to tend to the needs of people in that community. It also demonstrated an ability to successfully provide care in an isolated and

different cultural milieu. Holly has demonstrated that she is an independent and keen learner with a great desire to continue to serve seniors in whatever capacity possible.

Gary Pool

Co-Chair



Gary is a retired business man having spent 24 years with Syncrude largely in Fort McMurray. His final position with Syncrude was manager of Regulatory Approvals and community relations with surrounding communities which included five first nations, six metis groups and a number of environmental groups. This position required him to build relationships, communicate effectively with many groups and to develop skills in community leadership. As well he learned firsthand the importance of respecting ethno-cultural diversity.

Following retirement Gary put all those skills to good use in his volunteer career. He has served on the Board of the Morinville Seniors Rendez-Vous Centre since 2001. This centre receives no funding, has no paid employees but is maintained by the seniors who volunteer there and who frequent the centre. Some of you will know Gary from his long standing committee and volunteer history with the Alberta Council on Aging (ACA). He is a great proponent of the Senior Friendly initiative and he has served the ACA as president and has represented ACA on the Senior Task Force, coordinated through Public Interest Alberta. Gary is a master at volunteering – helping seniors whenever and however he can.

Barb Gibson

Secretary



Barb is a career nurse educator and has been affiliated with the University of Alberta since 1970. She holds a B.Sc. in Nursing as well as a M.Ed. in Educational Administration. While now semi-retired for the last three years, Barb has stayed involved in her field through continued education and accreditation activities.

From a community involvement role, Barb is involved with a number of organizations including the Westend Seniors' Activity Centre (WSAC). Her current WSAC roles are as the Board's second Vice President and a member of their Community Engagement and Outreach Committee. Indeed, Barb has shown a strong commitment in giving back through her community involvement starting in 1965.

Directors of the ESCC Board

Michael Alpern



Dr. Michael Alpern is the founder and past Executive Director of the Job Safety Skills Society and a retired educator with more than 40-years' experience including 17 years as a senior manager with Alberta Education. He is a graduate of the University of Alberta earning B.Ed. and M.Ed. degrees and a PhD which researched the fields of organizational culture, development and leadership.

Michael has a long career as a volunteer and has served on many community boards including roles as President of Jewish Family Services Edmonton, Past-President of the Jewish Drop-in Centre, President of Beth Shalom Synagogue, Treasurer and currently Chair of the Futures Committee of the Edmonton Chevra Kadisha and an Alberta Safety Council board member. He previously served as Treasurer and Co-Chair of the ESCC Board of Directors.

Michael is passionate about building community through volunteerism and in ensuring that the needs of seniors are given appropriate levels of appreciation and consideration in both the development of public policy and in the implementation of community action. He has a keen interest in how boards of non-profit organizations function and over many years as a volunteer has developed skill-sets in the areas of board governance, visioning, bylaw and policy development.

Ratna Basappa



Ratna holds a BA with majors in Economics, Political Science and Public Administration. She also holds an Accounting Diploma and certification as a Systems Analyst. Her work experience includes 27 years with Legal Aid Alberta in their Information Technology department.

Ratna has been involved in volunteering since she was 12 years old. She has been on the Board of the Mill Woods Seniors Association (MWSA) for five years; the last two of which she has been the Board Secretary. For the last four years, Ratna has chaired the Diversity and Inclusion Committee for MWSA. This was a pilot initiative with the City of Edmonton and has been a great success. Ratna is a great ambassador for seniors when it comes to diversity and inclusion. She is currently the President of the Indo Canadian Women's Association.

F.W. [Rick] Brick



Rick retired in 2014 from his role as the Executive Director of Human Resources for the Alberta Government's Department of Health. Rick has been employed in the Human Resource function for over 30 years and has served as an HR Director in all three levels of government. He holds a Master's degree in Business Administration [specializing in Human Resource Management] and is certified as an HR professional by the HR Institute of Alberta, the Society of HRM, the HR Certification Institute, and the International Personnel Management Association-Canada. Additionally, he holds certification as a Project Management Professional and in administering various psychometric instruments. Rick is a former President of IPMA-Canada.

Rick is a faculty member of the University of Alberta's and Grant MacEwan University's Schools of Business. He is actively involved in retirement issues including being a Director on the Edmonton Chapter of National Association of Federal Retirees (NAFR).

Paul Cheung



Paul has a varied and strong background in the areas of media and marketing. A few of his accomplishments in those areas include successfully delivering a full hour news program to Cantonese viewers in Alberta as well as establishing the operation of a new housing and care facility for seniors. He has been employed as a producer, program host and director in television and radio. Paul also has worked as the Manager of the Edmonton Chinese Seniors Lodge and is currently the Project Director and Owner of his own small business.

Paul's education includes a BA in Psychology as well as specialized training for a Site Management Certification in Seniors' Housing and an Elders' Planning Counselor credential. Paul has an extensive background in public involvement with the Lions, within the Chinese community and various other organizations.

Sheila Clifford-MacKay



Sheila is a retired teacher who taught in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Alberta and was employed by Edmonton Public Schools and at the University of Alberta. She is also a registered medical technologist and has a Dip.Th., a B.Sc., a B.Ed. and an M.Ed. Sheila worked with Local 37 (Edmonton Public Schools), the Alberta Teachers' Association and was a western representative for the Canadian Teachers' Federation.

Sheila has served as Canadian Area Representative for DKG International and has also served on her community league, at the Edmonton Food Bank and at her church. She recently received an award from the Alberta Retired Teachers Association for her volunteerism. Sheila has served for many years on the board at SEESA and is currently the past-president.

Linda Ensley



Linda F. Ensley, MBA, earned her MBA while living in Boulder, Colorado and working in the Marketing Department of General Electric. She transferred to Edmonton with GE and continued her work in International Marketing, until she went to work for NeuroInspired Marketing, a brain based marketing enterprise. She has worked for international non-profits, and attended school in England, where she lived for many years. She is the Executive Director of Strathcona Place 55+ Activity & Services Centre.

Karen Greenwood



Karen is currently the Executive Director at Shepherd's Care at Home in Edmonton. Her educational background includes a Bachelor of Social Work and an Executive Master of Business Administration. She has extensive experience as a clinical social worker, administrator and volunteer coordinator in services related to home hospice and palliative care.

Karen is skilled in resource development and strategic planning. She has a good reputation for community leadership and does not shy away from political advocacy. Karen's desire to be part of the ESCC Board comes at a time when legal and ethical concerns of some of our seniors living in our communities and health facilities need our support and attention.

Vina Locke



Vina is Secretary on the Board of Trustees of North West Edmonton Seniors Society (NWESS), a position she has held for the past five years. A very energetic person, she is also Corporate Fundraising Chair, Special Events Coordinator, Fitness Instructor, Pianist for "Calder Cuties" and Emcee at social and other events.

Vina graduated from Alberta College with a diploma in Office Management and was employed as an Executive Assistant. She has also achieved certification in computers, fitness and music and is a former Piano Teacher with the Royal Conservatory of Music. Before retirement she was on staff at NWESS managing office affairs and programs and organizing outreach activities and volunteers. With illness in her family, she was a dedicated caregiver for many years.

Volunteerism is a very integral part of her life and Vina has worked with people of all ages while serving on Boards and Committees including NWESS; music, dance and athletic associations; and schools, church and community organizations. She provided office assistance to an Alberta MLA for years and acquired valuable insight into provincial and federal politics. Vina has participated in many Scottish and Ukrainian activities and has previous connections within the Muslim community.

Bauni Mackay



Bauni is a retired high school English teacher who served as provincial president of the Alberta Teachers' Association from 1993 to 1999. She also served on the board of directors of the Canadian Teachers' Federation for nine years. She holds two degrees from the University of Alberta. Bauni represented the City of Edmonton on the provincial Electoral Boundaries Commission in 2002. She served on the board of directors of the Edmonton YWCA from 2002 to 2004 as well as on the SAGE board of directors since 2010.

Vicky Sandouga



Vicky holds Master Degree in Business Administration and is a Certified Professional Accountant. Throughout her career, Vicky held various senior management positions within government as well as provided financial expertise to small businesses including the family business. Since retirement in 2010 Vicky has kept her skills current through volunteer work and keeping up with new trends through self interest studies, seminars at the University of Alberta, Athabasca University and Chartered Professional Accountants.

When Vicky isn't busy with family and friends you might find her at North Edmonton Senior Association (NESA) participating in different programs and clubs or volunteering. She has served on the NESA Board as past Vice Chair, Treasurer, Chaired the Risk Management Committee and is Treasurer for NESA Council of Governors. In 2016 Vicky joined ESCC Board as Member at Large. When time permits Vicky also volunteers at other organizations and is a life time member of the Edmonton Interfaith Center. Her motto is "No matter what you try do your best but make sure you have fun".

Chris Schieman

Chris is currently the Public Relations Manager with GEF Seniors Housing. His previous experience in the communications field includes working with other not-for-profits such as the Natural Health Practitioners of Canada and with larger organizations such as the University of Alberta.

Before working in communications, Chris was a magazine writer and worked with publications such as Calgary's Beatroute, See Magazine, Vue Weekly, Avenue Edmonton, the St. Albert

Leader Magazine, and with publications under Venture Publications. His passion for storytelling extends past his professional career and into his personal life as he currently runs the local food blog Do I have Something on my Face? at somethingonmyface.wordpress.com. His full professional portfolio can be found at christopherschieman.wordpress.com.

Mary Whale



Mary is a nurse with diverse experience in acute care, rehabilitation and health promotion. She is currently working with the Southside Primary Care Network specializing in the care of elderly patients within the context of a multi-disciplinary team. Mary holds certification as a Gerontological Nurse coupled with extensive training and background in that area. She has co-chaired the Age Friendly Edmonton Healthy Aging Working Group for the last four years.

In addition to her B.Sc. in Nursing, Mary holds a BA in Fine Arts and is active provincially and federally in societies of artists. She is an enthusiastic individual with a good sense of humour and a strong work ethic.

Ex-Officio Members of the ESCC Board

Shelley Kwong



Shelley Kwong is a graduate of Education from the University of Alberta. She has over 25 years of leadership experience including being the city-wide youth coordinator, working with community organizations in neighbourhoods and involvement with city initiatives such as Child Friendly, Youth Council, Nextgen and now with seniors.

Over the years, Shelley has been responsible for chairing the Youth Development through Recreation Symposium (YDRS), being an advocate for the voice of children and youth within the municipal government structure, planning events like Go Girl, Girl Power, Youth Week, LRT dance parties and National Child Day, and facilitating High Five courses to recreational staff and Kids At Hope training.

An underlying goal throughout the years has been providing the means where women of all ages can develop self-esteem, self-confidence and leadership skills through recreational opportunities.

When Shelley isn't busy writing up strategic plans, planning events or facilitating courses, you can find her giving high-fives to her kids at the baseball diamond and finding great deals at West Edmonton Mall.