



# Premier's Council on Charities and Civil Society

Annual Report 2021-2022

**Premier's Council on Charities and Civil Society — Annual Report 2021-2022**

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# Executive Summary

The Premier's Council on Charities and Civil Society (the Council) is a public advisory agency established to provide independent advice to government on its relationship with civil society organizations and address pressing social issues in communities across Alberta. The Council is accountable to the Premier, through the Minister of Community and Social Services (the Minister).

The Council is mandated to provide the Minister an Annual Report outlining the Council's major activities, accomplishments and annual expenditures. This report fulfills that requirement.

This Annual Report includes three key parts: (1) an overview of the Council, its mandate, vision and mission; (2) an account of the Council's key activities and accomplishments for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2022; and (3) a brief section on the Council's outlook for the future. Additionally, this report meets financial reporting requirements and includes member biographies and contact information for the Council Secretariat.

The Council's activities and accomplishments for 2021-22 are further organized into three sections: (A) advice to the government, (B) relationship-building and learning and (C) effective governance.

Building on its work from 2020-21, the Council's advice in 2021-22 was again focused on understanding the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on civil society organizations and the Albertans they support. Specifically, after advising government on strategies for an effective and sustainable recovery for civil society organizations in its 2020 [Moving Forward: Charting a Path to Civil Society Recovery](#) report, the Council was asked to provide advice on how civil society could in turn support a strong, sustainable recovery for women in Alberta. Noting that women were often disproportionately and uniquely impacted by the pandemic, the Council was asked to assess gaps in existing civil society supports, and identify strategies that can improve women's lives, livelihoods and economic prospects. Based on its engagement with approximately 70 civil society organizations and community leaders, the Council's [Supporting Women's Economic Recovery](#) report was submitted to the Minister in the fall of 2021, and publicly released early in 2022.

Building relationships with and learning from diverse civil society organizations and community leaders is central to the Council's mandate. In the spring of 2021, the Council established a new Stakeholder Relations Subcommittee to help guide the Council's efforts to build relationships and effectively engage its civil society partners. This subcommittee provided critical support for the Council's engagement on women's economic recovery, and began exploring principles and best practices for future engagements, including with Indigenous-serving organizations and leaders.

In addition to the focused engagement with civil society on women's economic recovery, the Council benefited from ongoing dialogue with the Alberta Nonprofit Network (ABNN), including a session in May 2021 where it was able to share priorities for the upcoming year and explore opportunities for collaboration. The Council also benefited from dialogue with the other agencies and offices in the Ministry of Community and Social Services, including the Premier's Council on the Status of Persons with Disabilities, the Provincial Parent Advisory Committee for families receiving support from the Family Support for Children with Disabilities (FSCD) program, and the Advocate for Persons with Disabilities. Finally, the Council was pleased to begin a discussion with the Calgary Chamber of Voluntary Organizations (CCVO) in early 2022, regarding their plans for a summit related to the non-profit sector.

The Council continually strives for effective governance, in accordance with the requirements of the *Alberta Public Agencies Governance Act* (APAGA) and its [Mandate and Roles document](#). The Council developed its first three-year [Strategic Plan](#) in the spring of 2021, and its first Annual Report (for fiscal year 2020-21) later that summer, each of which was led by the Council's Planning and Reporting Subcommittee. Additionally, the Council's MRD requires that it complete an annual assessment of both its Members and the Council overall. This process, completed in the fall of 2021, allowed Council members to reaffirm their commitment to their Code of Conduct, reflect on their mandate, and to communicate any challenges and opportunities to the Minister. Finally, effective governance ultimately depends on the commitment of the members, and the Council was pleased to welcome and orient three new members in March 2022.

In 2021-22, the Council reinforced its core mission of providing timely, independent advice to the government on its relationship with civil society, and civil society's role in addressing social challenges. Given the ongoing impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on civil society, the Council looks forward in the coming year to listening, learning, and providing further advice on how civil society can be supported to achieve an effective and sustainable recovery, and continue its work to strengthen communities across Alberta.

# Letter of Transmittal

October 27, 2022

Honourable Jeremy Nixon, Minister of Seniors, Community and Social Services  
227 Legislature Building  
10800 – 97 Avenue NW  
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

Dear Minister Nixon,

On behalf of the Council, I am pleased to present the Annual Report of the Premier's Council on Charities and Civil Society for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2022. It is submitted in accordance with my responsibilities as Chair under s. 4 of the Council's Mandate and Roles document.

Please provide a copy of this Report to the Premier at your earliest convenience.

Respectfully submitted,



Dr. Joel Christie, Chair

**Premier's Council on Charities and Civil Society**

## Reflections from the Chair

The Council's second full year was an important one and exciting one, as we looked to build on our successes and address new challenges. The Council's mandate to provide advice on how civil society can address social challenges facing Albertans – in partnership with government – remained as critical as ever, and I thank the Premier and the Minister of Community and Social Services for their ongoing support of our mandate and our work.

The COVID-19 pandemic continued to shape the Council's environment and priorities in 2021-22. Civil society organizations across the province, in communities large and small, continued to respond to the challenges posed -- sometimes struggling, but also adapting and innovating. Taken as a whole, civil society organizations continue to demonstrate their commitment to Alberta's recovery by building strong, caring communities and enriching the lives of countless Albertans.

In particular, the Council appreciated the opportunity to learn more about the unique challenges faced by women in the wake of the pandemic, and to meet with just some of the civil society organizations and community leaders dedicated to recognizing women's contributions, breaking down barriers, and supporting women's well-being and advancement. Our research and targeted engagement resulted in our [Supporting Women's Economic Recovery](#) report. This report reinforces that meaningful recovery, meaningful progress on complex, interrelated social challenges, requires a sustained partnership between civil society organizations and government. The Council is very grateful for the commitment of time and expertise of those who participated in our engagement, and hopeful that our advice contributes to a strong recovery for women, and ultimately for all Albertans. Strong women help build strong communities.

As Chair, I'm also very grateful for the commitment of my fellow Council members. In particular, I'd like to thank the Council's Vice-Chair, Liz O'Neill, for her support and leadership. Our second year reinforced how important it is to have individuals with diverse backgrounds and expertise on the Council, and I'm honored to lead and learn from this incredible group.

Looking forward, the Council is eager to strengthen relationships with our civil society partners and work together to ensure a strong, sustainable recovery for civil society organizations and the Albertans they support.



Dr. Joel R. Christie

Chair, Premier's Council on Charities and Civil Society

# About the Council

## Overview

Established in February 2020 under the authority of section 7 of the *Government Organization Act*, the Premier's Council on Charities and Civil Society (the Council) is a public advisory agency that provides independent advice to government on its relationship with civil society organizations addressing a wide range of social issues. The Council is accountable to the Premier, through the Minister of Community and Social Services (the Minister).

## Mandate

Civil society includes a diverse and evolving array of organizations and individuals: the thousands of formally established non-profit/voluntary organizations (including registered charities), a range of informal groups or movements pursuing shared interests or values and, increasingly, a range of private-sector organizations and individuals pursuing social good.

The Council is subject to the *Alberta Public Agencies Governance Act*, which requires agencies to have an approved Mandate and Roles document, which is available here: [Mandate and Roles document](#).

## Vision and Mission

Based on its mandate and its early engagement with civil society, the Council developed the following Vision and Mission to further guide its work.

**Vision:** Government and civil society work in partnership to build strong, resilient and caring communities where all Albertans can thrive.

**Mission:** To engage with civil society and provide bold, informed and strategic advice to the Government of Alberta on its relationship with civil society, and how civil society can flourish in addressing pressing social issues.

## Membership

The Council comprises 15 individuals representing diverse perspectives and regions across Alberta. Appointed by the Minister of Community and Social Services, Council members must have experience and expertise in specific areas, including delivery of social services, social entrepreneurship, fundraising, philanthropy, and community development, among others.

Read more about the Council members below under [Council Biographies](#).

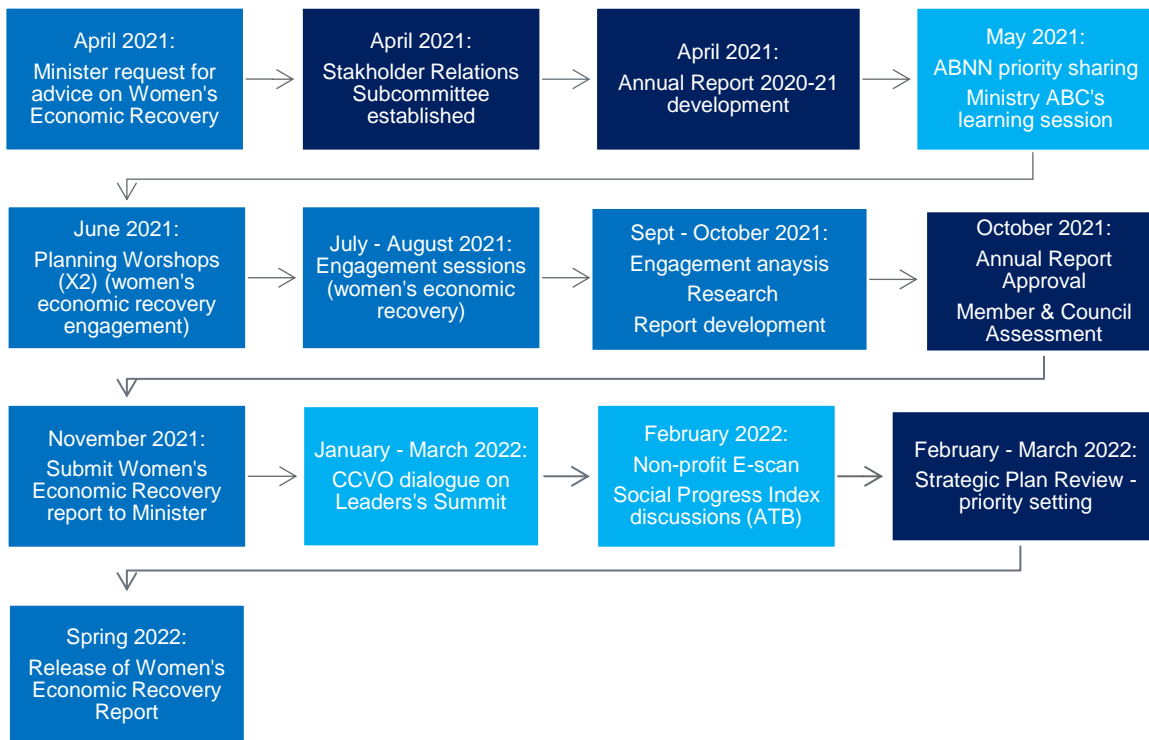


# Highlights of Council Activities – 2021/22

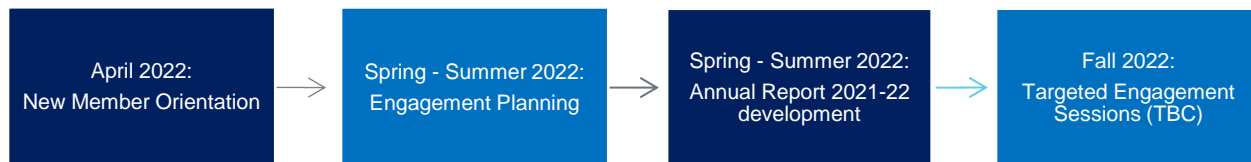
The Council's activities and accomplishments are organized into the following three categories:

- Advice to Government
- Relationship Building and Learning
- Effective Governance

## Key Activities – 2021/22



## Outlook for the Future



# Activities and Accomplishments

## Introduction

The Council met 11 times in 2021-22 year, in addition to numerous engagement sessions with civil society organizations, community leaders, and colleagues from other government agencies. To accommodate the schedules and preferences of members and the Council's civil society partners, the Council conducted all of its business in 2021-22 by videoconference.

The Council's activities and accomplishments for 2021-22 are organized into three main categories:

- A. Advice to the Government of Alberta (GoA)
- B. Relationship Building and Learning
- C. Effective Governance

## A. Advice to the Government of Alberta

The first major area of activity is providing informed, independent advice to government on how civil society can be empowered to address pressing social issues.

### Supporting Women's Economic Recovery

**April – June 2021:** In April 2021, the Minister of Community and Social Services asked the Council to engage civil society organizations and relevant experts, and provide advice on how civil society can help address challenges facing women in Alberta, in the wake of the pandemic. This request reflected the growing recognition that the pandemic was disproportionately impacting women, often worsening pre-existing challenges women faced. It also built on the findings of the Council's 2020 report, [Moving Forward: Charting a Path to Civil Society Recovery](#).

The government's vision for civil society reflects a conviction that civil society organizations embedded in communities are most often best positioned to identify and understand these issues, develop creative, innovative responses and identify how government can support these efforts. Accordingly, the Council's task was to understand the impacts on women, assess the gaps in existing supports, and then provide strategic advice to improve women's circumstances and economic prospects. Civil society had a critical role to play in ensuring a strong and inclusive recovery in Alberta, and the Minister was seeking the Council's advice on how to support these efforts.

To help guide the Council's upcoming engagement, the Council established a new Stakeholder Relations Subcommittee, led by the Council Vice-Chair. As a starting point, all Council members were solicited for their preliminary input on the several key questions that helped better define the challenges and opportunities. The following members agreed to serve on this subcommittee in 2021-22: Liz O'Neill (Chair), Chris Christie, David Mitchell, James McAra, Joanne Mason and Michele Taylor.

The Council convened twice in June 2021, first to discuss members' input and better define the focus and scope of its work and, second, to finalize the engagement plan and approach.

**July – October 2021:** The Council's tight timelines to deliver its report required a targeted and focused engagement approach. In July and August 2021, the Council convened 10 structured conversations with leading civil society organizations that serve women or were well positioned to advise the Council on related challenges and opportunities. Not all invited organizations were able to attend. These conversations were based on a discussion guide that was also distributed to additional organizations and experts for their written input. Overall the Council received almost 60 written submissions that provided input on the following key issues:

- The nature and impact of a range of challenges facing women (e.g. domestic or gender-based violence; under- or unemployment; over-representation in low-paid work; lack of career or entrepreneurship opportunities; unpaid domestic labour and caregiving roles; and lack of diversity and inclusion considerations in services, supports and opportunities).
- How these challenges manifest for diverse women, living in diverse communities across Alberta.
- Current strengths, gaps and opportunities for improvement in civil society supports, and how the government can support civil society efforts.

To complement these conversations, the Council also organized three virtual focus group sessions that allowed Council members to hear directly from women receiving supports from civil society organizations, and better understand their lived experience. Finally, with the support of the United Way Calgary and Area, the Council was able to speak with a group of

Indigenous Elders about how some of these challenges are experienced in their communities. The Council is grateful for the time and wisdom shared by these women and the Elders. Acknowledging the oral traditions of Indigenous peoples, two elders generously agreed to record a video summary of their insights, and a link to this video was embedded in the Council's report to the Minister. This video can also be viewed on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9rO4pe-tmw>.

The Council's mandate requires that its advice be evidence-based and reflect current trends and research. To complement the input received through its engagement, the Council also commissioned targeted research on the issues within the scope of the report. A summary of the research consulted by the Council is included as an appendix to its report.

With the support of the department, the Council analyzed the input and developed its report for the Minister's consideration. The report presents the key findings on the challenges facing women and provides focused advice to the Minister, including areas where government can create the right operating environment or enabling conditions for success. The advice covers areas such as caregiving; safety, health and wellness; employment and entrepreneurship; diversity and inclusion; digital equity; and planning and alignment of supports, and reinforces that collaborative efforts by both civil society and government are required for meaningful and lasting impacts for women.

**November 2021 – Spring 2022:** The Council submitted its final report, [Supporting Women's Economic Recovery](#), to the Minister of Community and Social Services in November 2021 and provided input as government assessed its implications. Based on the Minister's dialogue with his colleagues, the Council was advised that the Associate Minister of Status of Women would lead further efforts related to the Council's report on behalf of the government. The Chair was pleased to receive an invitation from the Associate Minister to provide remarks at the event formally announcing the report's release in the spring of 2022. The Council greatly appreciates the time, commitment and expertise of all the civil society organizations and leaders who participated in the engagement, and trust that you can hear these voices in the final report. The Council extends its thanks to staff in the Ministry of Community and Social Services for their support in analyzing engagement input and developing the report, and to staff in the Ministry of Culture and Status of Women for supporting the Council's engagement.

## B. Relationship Building and Learning

The second area of Council activities involved building relationships with civil society organizations and leaders and learning about emerging trends and perspectives within civil society. These efforts reflect the Council's recognition of the depth and breadth of expertise in civil society, and the need to ensure that its advice reflects this knowledge and other relevant evidence.

This commitment to *relationships* goes beyond just gathering information for Council reports. The Council believes that its mandate includes reaching out to diverse groups within civil society, convening them for novel conversations, and, in the process, creating new energy, excitement and optimism for change.

As noted in the previous section, the Council devoted a significant amount of its time and energy in 2021-22 to its *Supporting Women's Economic Recovery* report. The demands of this project prevented the Council from engaging with civil society partners as broadly as planned, something it looks forward to returning to in the coming year, guided by the Council's Stakeholder Relations Subcommittee. Despite the pressures and constraints of this work, the Council had the opportunity to build relationships and learn from a number of leading organizations in 2021-22.

**February 2021:** The Council engaged with experts in the Ministry of Culture and Status of Women for an environmental scan of the non-profit sector. This presentation provided the Council with updated information on the size, shape and growth of the sector, and a framework for understanding the sector's varied relationships government.

**February 2021:** The Council identified timely access to relevant research and data to be critical in building capacity in civil society to address social challenges. The Council was able to begin discussions with the Social Progress Imperative regarding their Social Progress Index (SPI), which benchmarks jurisdictions' progress towards the United Nations' Social Development Goals. The Alberta Treasury Branches (ATB) was a host partner for the "What Works 2022" summit in Banff (May 31 - June 2, 2022) that explored opportunities to drive change by using the SPI, and the Council looks forward to further dialogue with the Social Progress Imperative and ATB to explore the potential of the this index.

**May 2021:** In May 2021, the Council welcomed the opportunity to meet with leaders of the Alberta Nonprofit Network (ABNN) to share the Council's priorities for the coming year, and discuss opportunities to collaborate and share information. The ABNN brings together a number of organizations, some of which have extensive memberships, to address issues impacting the non-profit sector at a provincial level and "co-create a strong and resilient non-profit sector." The Council is committed to listening and learning from leading civil society organizations like the ABNN and appreciates the value they bring to the non-profit

sector in Alberta. As the Council noted in its *Moving Forward* report, the ongoing efforts of organizations like the ABNN are critical to building capacity in the non-profit sector and to the shift from “silos to system”. Finally, as noted above (s. 3), “civil society” includes private-sector actors pursuing social good, and so the Council is encouraged by the ongoing support the ABNN receives from the Suncor Energy Foundation.

**May 2021:** Also in May, the Council Chair and Vice-Chair appreciated the opportunity to meet with other agencies or offices in the Ministry of Community and Social Services, including the Premier’s Council on the Status of Persons with Disabilities, the Provincial Parent Advisory Committee for families receiving support from the Family Support for Children with Disabilities (FSCD) program, and the Advocate for Persons with Disabilities. This session provided an important opportunity for the Council to learn about their mandates and priorities, and to explore opportunities to collaborate in the future.

**January – March 2022:** In January 2022, and continuing into the 2022-23 reporting year, the Council was privileged to begin a dialogue with the Calgary Chamber of Voluntary Organizations (CCVO) about a proposed CCVO-led summit on the non-profit sector, with invited leaders from the government, private and non-profit sectors. The Chair of the Council accepted an invitation from the CCVO to sit on a summit organizing committee, and the Council is looking forward to this opportunity to participate in vital dialogue about how leaders across these sectors can work more effectively together to build strong communities and support an inclusive recovery for Albertans.

## C. Effective Governance

The third area of Council activity is effective governance. The Council is established through section 7 of the *Government Organization Act*. As an advisory agency of government, the Council is governed by the *Alberta Public Agencies Governance Act*, *Financial Administration Act*, *Public Sector Compensation Transparency Act*, and the *Conflicts of Interest Act*. These legislative requirements ensure that Council is operating ethically and transparently.

To comply with these requirements and demonstrate effective, transparent governance, the Council undertook a number of activities, guided by its [Mandate and Roles document](#).

**April – June 2021:** Building on work begun in the fall of 2020, the Council finalized its [Strategic Plan](#) for 2021-23 in the first part of the 2021-22 fiscal year. The development of the Strategic Plan, which was led by the Council’s Planning and Reporting Subcommittee, benefited from an opportunity for dialogue and direction from the Minister in late April before it was approved in June 2021. The Strategic Plan reflects the Council’s core mandate, while also building on some of the timely priorities and opportunities for civil society recovery identified in the Council’s *Moving Forward* report. The Strategic Plan’s three “priorities” and supporting “key activities” provide the Council with a solid foundation for its future activities. The Planning and Reporting Subcommittee also leads an annual review of the Strategic Plan. This subcommittee included Hyder Hassan (Chair), Ashif Mawji, David Mitchell, Dr. John Lilley, and Chris Christie.

**April – October 2021:** As the Council was finalizing its Strategic Plan, and planning and executing its engagement related to women’s economic recovery (see section 1 above), the Planning and Reporting Subcommittee was also spearheading the development of the Council’s [Annual Report for 2020-21](#), which was published in the fall of 2021.

**September – October 2021:** The Council’s mandate also obligates the Chair to ensure the Council completes an annual assessment of its performance, as well as the individual performance of the Chair, Vice-Chair and members. Council members are recruited based on an established competency matrix that outlines the experience and expertise required of members (e.g., professional/volunteer experience, areas of specialized knowledge, personal effectiveness). Using this matrix as a foundation, the Chair led the assessment of Council members and invited feedback from members on his performance as Chair. The Council also held a facilitated session in October 2021 to complete the required overall assessment of the Council and its mandate, and to enable members to reaffirm their commitment to the Council’s Code of Conduct. This session also contributed to the Council’s priority-setting for the 2022-23 fiscal year.

**March 2022:** In keeping with best practice, the term lengths for members’ original appointments were staggered, with some member’s two-year terms ending in January 2022. As a result, the Council was pleased to welcome three new members in March 2022. The Council is grateful for the contributions and commitment of the outgoing members – Mr. David Mitchell, Mr. James McAra and Father Raymond Desouza – but also looks forward to the insight and expertise the three new members – Rabbi Menachem Matusof, Ms. Lori Paine, and Dr. Benny Xu – will bring.

## Outlook for the Future

The Council's first two years have been largely dominated by the COVID-19 pandemic – the first year focused on understanding its impacts on civil society organizations and identifying priorities for their recovery, and the second on identifying opportunities for civil society and government to ensure a strong, sustainable recovery for women in Alberta. The Council is proud of the efforts to engage civil society organizations and community leaders on these related issues, and believes its advice to government can make a difference.

As the Council noted in its 2020-21 Annual Report, an effective and sustainable recovery will take sustained, collaborative efforts by both civil society and government. The Council is excited to play its unique role in that effort, by fulfilling our mandate to connect and convene, listen and learn, and provide bold, informed advice on how Alberta can harness the power of civil society.

As noted above, the Council's three-year Strategic Plan was informed by its 2020 Moving Forward report, which recommended effort and investments in four key areas in order to support civil society recovery and build future capacity:

- “System” infrastructure (increasing collaboration and collective impact)
- Organizational transformation (developing innovative models or adapting to new opportunities)
- Research and data (advancing the collection, analysis and sharing of data)
- Financial sustainability and resilience (enhancing fundraising, social finance or social enterprise approaches).

In the fall of 2022-23, the Council anticipates following up on these priorities to assess progress, identify obstacles and develop solutions. The Council looks forward to engaging civil society partners in this critical work.

# Council Biographies

## **Jackie Armstrong-Homeniuk (MLA – Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville)\*\***

Jackie Armstrong-Homeniuk was elected MLA for Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville on April 16, 2019. She studied business and economic development at Grant MacEwan University and the University of Calgary, is a journeyman hairstylist, small business owner, and an active community volunteer and philanthropist. She is chair of the Advisory Council on Alberta-Ukraine Relations and the government's Skilled Trades Caucus, and serves on the Legislature's Standing Committees on Public Accounts, Alberta's Economic Future, and Privileges and Elections, Standing Orders and Printing.

## **Wayne Chiu**

Wayne Chiu is the founder and CEO of Trico Homes and Chairman of the Trico Charitable Foundation, which he founded with his wife to combine their passion for social entrepreneurship with their desire to make a social impact. His support and commitment to numerous community/charitable organizations is extensive and he has served on various community boards. Mr. Chiu has been recognized for his business and community accomplishments through various provincial and national honours, including being named a Member of the Order of Canada and a Member of the Alberta Order of Excellence.

## **Dr. Joel Christie (Chair)**

Dr. Joel Christie is the president of Advancing World Enterprises Ltd. and Particom Inc. He has over forty years of senior and executive experience and specializes in the management of strategic change in complex organizations. Dr. Christie has co-authored three books: *The Nurturing Leader: A Toolkit for Every Season of Organizational Growth*; *A Guide to Collaboration: Working Models of Comprehensive Community Projects*; and *Becoming Real Workbook: Further Along the Authentic Journey*. Dr. Christie received the Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee Medal (Alberta) for his work in the community and social service sector.

## **Chris Christie**

Ms. Christie recently retired from a 40-year career, most recently as Executive Director of the Community Foundation of Southeastern Alberta. Her work with the YMCA and McMan Community Services was with at-risk youth and vulnerable populations. Her board experience includes the Medicine Hat Hospice Committee, Southeast Alberta Service Providers Network and Community Council on Homelessness. She holds a degree in social development from the University of Waterloo and a diploma in recreational administration from Lethbridge Community College.

## **Fr. Raymond De Souza\***

Father Raymond J. de Souza, a Roman Catholic priest of the Archdiocese of Kingston, Ontario, serves as chaplain for Newman House Catholic Chaplaincy at Queen's University and is the pastor of Sacred Heart of Mary parish on Wolfe Island. He grew up in Calgary and is a Senior Fellow at Cardus, where he is the founding editor of *Convivium*, a digital magazine of faith in our common life. A columnist for the *National Post* since 2004, he teaches in the economics department and is a Senior Fellow at Massey College, University of Toronto.

## **Hyder Hassan**

Mr. Hassan is the CEO of Immigrant Services Calgary, which provides a wide range of settlement services to immigrants and refugees looking to begin their lives in Canada. He is co-founder of Fullsoul Canada, a not-for-profit equipping hospitals in Uganda with medical supplies. Mr. Hassan is a member of the Rotary Club of Calgary Fish Creek and Chair of their vocational committee. He holds a Bachelor of Arts, Management Services from the University of Waterloo, a certificate in project management from York University, and a certificate in financial markets from Yale School of Management.

## **Saifa Koonar\*\***

Ms. Koonar is the president and CEO of Alberta Children's Hospital Foundation. She holds a Master of Business Administration and a Bachelor of Commerce, both from the University of Calgary, as well as her ICD.D designation from the Institute of Corporate Directors. She is a member of the operating board for the Aga Khan Foundation Canada, an international development agency, and a director of the Woodmark Group, a consortium of leading Children's Hospital Foundations throughout North America.

## **Dr. John Lilley**

Dr. Lilley is Chair of the YMCA of Northern Alberta Foundation and the Misericordia Hospital Philanthropy Committee, as well as a Co-Chair of the Pregnancy Pathways Steering Committee for homeless pregnant women. He is active in the philanthropic and charitable sector in Edmonton and an advocate for transformative change in housing and homelessness. For over a decade, he has been a philanthropy volunteer for the health and social sectors.

## **Jackie Lovely (MLA – Camrose)**

Jackie Lovely was elected to the Legislative Assembly representing Camrose on April 16, 2019. She is a member of the Standing Committees on Public Accounts, Families and Communities, Legislative Offices, Privileges and Elections, and Standing Orders and Printing. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree (University of Saskatchewan), a diploma in hotel/restaurant administration (Saskatchewan Polytechnic) and an MBA (Cape Breton University). Her community involvement includes the Camrose and Leduc chambers of commerce.

## **Joanne Mason\*\*\***

Ms. Mason is executive director of the Alberta Native Friendship Centres Association, which has a strong understanding of the needs of Indigenous communities and has been implementing programs and services for over 50 years. She has extensive community, regional and provincial leadership skills and expertise in operations management, strategic planning and achieving desired organizational outcomes.

## **Ashif Mawji**

Mr. Mawji is the founder of Mawji Ventures and a venture partner with Rising Tide. A versatile serial entrepreneur and IT innovator, Mr. Mawji is the director of the Hockey Canada Foundation, Chair of the Board of Directors of the Edmonton Police Foundation, director of the Invest Alberta Corporation, and Chair of the Advisory Committee for the Mawji Centre for New Venture and Student Entrepreneurship at NAIT. He is an Honorary Colonel of the 20th Field Artillery Regiment of the Royal Canadian Artillery Association, Canadian Armed Forces.

## **David Mitchell\***

Mr. Mitchell is an award-winning writer and author. He is co-chair of the government's non-profit Red Tape Reduction Panel and serves on the Executive Council of the University of Ottawa's Professional Development Institute. Previously, he served as president/CEO of the Calgary Chamber of Voluntary Organizations; vice president at Bow Valley College; president/CEO of Canada's Public Policy Forum; and vice president at Queen's University, the University of Ottawa and Simon Fraser University. From 1991-96 he served as a Member of the Legislative Assembly in British Columbia.

## **James McAra\***

Mr. McAra is the CEO of the Calgary Food Bank (CFB), which provides food and community support to over 190,000 people and 230 community agencies annually. Under Mr. McAra's tenure, the CFB has been recognized as one of the 100 Great Places to Work in Canada, a four-star A+ charity with Charity Intelligence since 2007, and a 2011 Alberta's Best Workplace finalist for Health and Safety. Charity Intelligence awarded the CFB one of the 2019 Top 10 Canadian Impact Charities and Maclean's honoured the CFB as Canada's Best Charity for 2020.

## **Elizabeth (Liz) O'Neill (Vice-Chair)**

Ms. O'Neill is the executive director of Boys & Girls Clubs Big Brothers Big Sisters of Edmonton & Area. She is well-known in the non-profit community and recognized for her collaboration with other agencies to provide mentoring for youth. She has received the Government of Canada 125 Anniversary Medal, the Alberta Centennial Medal, the Excellence in Community Service Award from the Intercultural Dialogue Institute of Edmonton and was inducted into City of Edmonton's Community Service Hall of Fame.

## **Michele Taylor**

Ms. Taylor is the executive director of Waypoints Community Services Association, a social profit organization working to end domestic-family violence, sexual assault, abuse and homelessness. She is the Chair of the Family Violence Coordinating Council, a board member of the Alberta Council of Women's Shelters and a committee member on the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo's Homelessness Initiative Strategic Committee. Ms. Taylor holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Education, English Literature, History and Recreation from Trinity Western University in British Columbia.

\* Term ended March 2022

\*\* Resigned May 2022

\*\*\* Resigned August 2022



## Financial Accountability

In compliance with the *Public Sector Compensation and Transparency Act*, Council Members' compensation is disclosed annually on June 30. More information is available on the Council's webpage:

- <https://www.alberta.ca/premiers-council-on-charities-and-civil-society.aspx#compensation>

Council members' expenses are publicly disclosed quarterly and can be found here:

- <https://www.alberta.ca/travel-expense-disclosure.aspx>

Council funding falls under the Ministry of Community and Social Services. Other financial information is included in the Ministry's Annual Report for 2021-22:

- <https://open.alberta.ca/publications/2371-9184>

## Contact the Council

Connect with the Council Secretariat:

Hours: 8:15 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (open Monday to Friday, closed statutory holidays)

Email: [pcccs.secretariat@gov.ab.ca](mailto:pcccs.secretariat@gov.ab.ca)