

# Annual Report

2020-2021

---

Premier's Council on Charities and Civil Society

Community and Social Services, Government of Alberta

The Premier's Council on Charities and Civil Society

November 2021

**Premier's Council on Charities and Civil Society — Annual Report 2020-2021**

**ISBN 978-1-4601-5286-7**

Copyright © 2021 Ministry of Community and Social Services

This publication is issued under the Open Government Licence – Alberta (<http://open.alberta.ca/licence>).

# Table of Contents

<b>1. Executive Summary</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>2. Letter of Transmittal</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>3. Reflections from the Chair</b> .....	<b>6</b>
<b>4. About the Council</b> .....	<b>7</b>
Overview .....	7
Mandate .....	7
Vision and Mission .....	8
Vision.....	8
Mission .....	8
Membership .....	8
<b>5. Highlights of Council Activities</b> .....	<b>9</b>
<b>6. Activities and Accomplishments</b> .....	<b>10</b>
Introduction .....	10
Advice to the Government of Alberta .....	10
COVID-19 Impacts and Immediate Response .....	10
Civil Society Recovery.....	10
Stakeholder Relations and Learning.....	12
Effective Governance.....	13
<b>7. Outlook for the Future</b> .....	<b>14</b>
<b>8. Council Biographies (Alphabetical)</b> .....	<b>14</b>
<b>9. Financial Accountability</b> .....	<b>18</b>
<b>10. Contact the Council</b> .....	<b>18</b>

# 1. 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 addressing pressing social issues. The Council is accountable to the Premier, through the Minister of Community and Social Services.

The Council is mandated to prepare and provide for 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: an overview of the Council, its mandate, vision and mission, and membership; the Council's key activities and accomplishments since its establishment in February 2020 through the fiscal year ending March 31, 2021; and 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.

There are three major themes to the work completed by the Council in its inaugural year: advice to the government, stakeholder relations and learning, and effective governance.

Shortly after the Council's establishment in February 2020, COVID-19 forced the Council to shift its priorities and adapt. In support of the government's response, the Council provided its insights on the pandemic's immediate impacts on civil society. The Council was then asked by the Minister to develop advice on how the lessons of the pandemic can be used to support an effective recovery, one that builds civil society capacity for the future. To that end, the Council launched a targeted engagement with over 60 civil society organizations and experts across Alberta in July 2020. The results of this engagement informed the [Moving Forward: Charting a Path to Civil Society Recovery report](#), which was published in October 2020.

Finally, the Council established and carried out procedures to ensure its own effective governance. A Mandate and Roles document (MRD) was jointly prepared, and Council members participated in orientation and training to ensure they are familiar with the Code of Conduct and the oath they were required to sign as a condition of appointment.

A Planning and Reporting subcommittee was developed to ensure the Council fulfills its accountability requirements. This subcommittee led the development of the Council's three-year Strategic Plan, which was completed with input from the Minister in May 2021. It has also supported the Council's preparation of this report.

The Council has demonstrated agility in a complex and challenging first year focused on responding to the COVID-19 crisis. Looking ahead, the Council hopes to focus on the priorities identified in its Strategic Plan. It will also continue to support an inclusive economic recovery, recognizing that the COVID-19 pandemic has had a disproportionate impact on women. Providing advice on civil society's role in supporting women's economic recovery is expected to be a key focus for the Council in 2021-22.

## 2. Letter of Transmittal

October 21, 2021

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

Dear Minister Luan,

On behalf of my fellow Council members, I am pleased to present the first Annual Report of the Premier's Council on Charities and Civil Society. This report covers the activities undertaken by the Council from its establishment in February 2020 through the fiscal year ending March 31, 2021. It is submitted in accordance with my responsibilities as Chair under s. 4 of the Council's Mandate and Roles document.

In accordance with this section, 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

### 3. Reflections from the Chair

I would like to thank Premier Kenney for envisioning a Council that would advise government on supporting the formal and informal organizations and dynamics which occur every day, in every community, as local citizens identify and address local needs and issues.

This occurs through local civil society groups, including charities, coming together to use their own unique local resources and people. Through this process, individual needs are identified and turned into community issues. These issues are addressed by local informal and formal groups and organizations—including both the non-profit and private sectors. This is civil society at work.

The COVID-19 pandemic has provided a common community focus. Despite the profound impacts on their operations and resources, civil society organizations continue to adapt, innovate, and find new ways of working together to address the needs of Albertans. In light of this experience, The Minister of Community and Social Services, asked the Council to examine how we might move forward, building on the lessons that emerged as organizations came together to help local citizens.

It was a challenging and complex first year for the Council, with the pandemic requiring a shift in our priorities as we launched targeted engagement almost immediately in order to understand the emerging challenges and opportunities for civil society. This shift often involved more time and more intensive activity than was originally expected of our members. I would like to thank the other 14 members of the Council for their dedication and open-mindedness as we participated in meetings with community leaders and organizations, and reviewed written submissions from over 65 individuals and organizations.

The generous input of civil society organizations and experts and the Council's deliberations resulted in our first report: "[Moving Forward: Charting a Path to Civil Society Recovery](#)." In this report we identified broad priorities that could support an effective recovery for civil society, and were pleased these priorities were reflected in government's new Civil Society Fund.

It is a real privilege to work with such committed and experienced persons on the Council. I look forward to completing our next engagement report, which is focused on the impact of the pandemic on women, and ways civil society and the provincial government can work together to support women's role in developing strong communities and a strong economy.

Moving forward, the Council's Three Year Strategic Plan will provide a strong foundation for continuing our efforts to help harness the power of civil society in Alberta



Dr. Joel R. Christie  
Chair, Premier's Council on Charities and Civil Society

## 4. 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 pressing social issues. The Council is accountable to the Premier, through the Minister of Community and Social Services.



### 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 other areas.

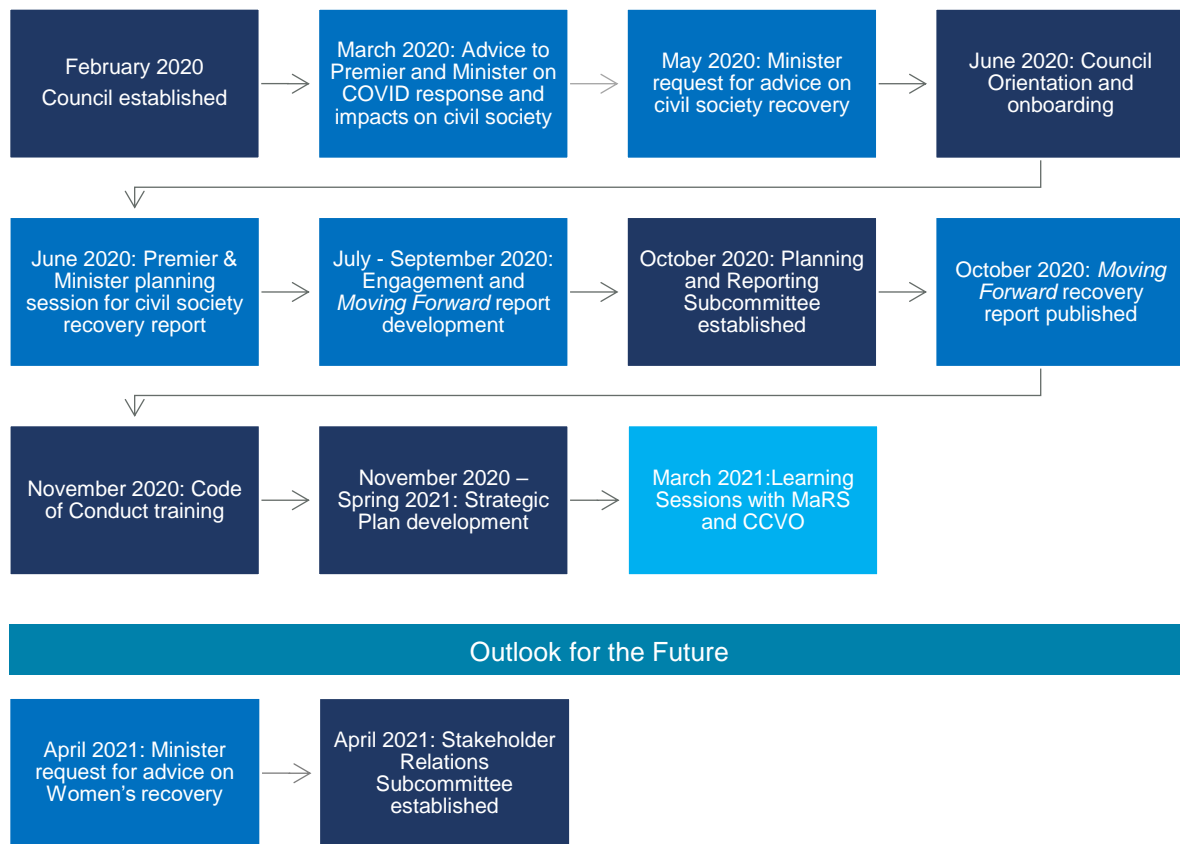
*Read more about the Council members below under [Council Biographies](#).*



# 5. Highlights of Council Activities

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

- Advice to Government
- Stakeholder Relations and Learning
- Effective Governance



# 6. Activities and Accomplishments

## Introduction

The Council was established in late February 2020, just as the COVID-19 pandemic was emerging. The rapidly evolving challenges and impacts of the pandemic fundamentally disrupted the working environment for civil society organizations and the Council's own plans to begin its mandate.

Overall, the Council met 13 times in 2020-21 year, in addition to numerous engagement sessions with civil society organizations and experts. In accordance with public health measures, Council meetings were adjusted to meet capacity and social distancing requirements, and eventually all meetings and engagement sessions were held by videoconference. The Council invested significant amounts of time in its first year connecting with civil society voices to understand the on-going challenges and emerging opportunities arising from the pandemic.

This report is organized to reflect three key themes of the Council's activities for the year:

1. Advice to the Government of Alberta (GoA)
2. Stakeholder Relations and Learning
3. Effective Governance

## 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. The Council engaged with civil society stakeholders and provided advice to the government on how the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted civil society and what civil society will need to recover and flourish in the future.

### COVID-19 Impacts and Immediate Response

**March 2020:** The Premier and Minister of Community and Social Services convened the Council three times in March 2020 to gather information on the impacts of the pandemic on civil society organizations and how these organizations were adapting to the evolving needs of Albertans. This initial advice helped inform the government's initial response to the pandemic and laid a foundation for a strong working relationship to support Albertans as the pandemic evolved.

### Civil Society Recovery

**May 2020:** As the nature and scale of the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on civil society were becoming clearer, the Minister asked the Council to engage with civil society organizations and

provide early advice on future opportunities to support a strong and sustainable recovery for civil society. The COVID-19 pandemic has reinforced the vital role that civil society plays in strengthening communities and supporting Albertans in need. It also offers a unique perspective on civil society's current strengths – e.g., its ability to understand emerging community needs and rapidly adapt – as well as its vulnerabilities and opportunities for future capacity building and innovation. The Minister affirmed the government's commitment to support civil society on this journey.

**June 2020:** The Council met with the Minister and Premier for a planning session to lay the foundation for the Council's work on civil society's recovery. This session provided a critical opportunity to hear the government's vision for civil society and their commitment to a strong partnership. Based on this session, the Council launched its targeted engagement with civil society organizations and experts, with a goal of providing a report to the Minister in early fall.

**July – September 2020:** To inform its advice, the Council held nine structured conversations with leading civil society organizations and experts and invited submissions from over 60 additional organizations from across Alberta. The engagement process included three components:

- Conversations with civil society organizations and experts, specifically those with province-wide mandates or broad, system-level perspectives;
- Invitations to civil society actors to provide written input through a qualitative questionnaire; and
- Opportunities for Council members to seek input from organizations or individuals in their own networks.

The engagement focused on three key issues:

- Lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic (including challenges and opportunities for recovery);
- Roles and responsibilities in supporting recovery; and
- Potential funding priorities for the government's new Civil Society Fund.

This Council used the insights from this engagement process to develop its advice to government.

**October 2020:** The Council's report - *Moving Forward: Charting a Path to Civil Society Recovery* - was published in October 2020. It included findings from the targeted engagement process and identified a number of key opportunities to help civil society recover, with the goal of building an even stronger and more resilient civil society in the future. A key focus of the Council's advice was to identify opportunities to support the process of recovery with funding from the government's new [Civil Society Fund](#) (the Fund). Established as part of the government's commitment to harness the power of civil society, the Fund aims to improve civil society's capacity to address social issues

impacting Albertans. Based on the Council's targeted engagement, the Council's report proposed the following funding priorities for consideration:

- System infrastructure – supporting increased collaboration and collective impact.
- Civil Society research and data – supporting the capacity to collect and share data and information to address social issues.
- Organizational transformation - exploring improved, innovative ways to operate.
- Financial sustainability and resilience – increasing financial resiliency through new fundraising approaches, social enterprises, or new sources of social finance.

Based on the Council's advice, the government launched its Civil Society Fund using these 4 priorities. The first round of funding applications closed on January 20, 2021, and the Ministry of Community and Social Services ultimately distributed \$7 million to 21 innovative projects led by community organizations throughout Alberta. As an advisory body, the Council had no role in the review of applications or the selection of funded projects.

## Stakeholder Relations and Learning

The second key area of Council activities involved the Council engaging with stakeholders and the community to build relationships and learn about emerging trends and perspectives within civil society. In its first year, the Council engaged civil society organizations and experts on a number of occasions to understand the challenges they face and learn about ongoing efforts to build a stronger, more resilient civil society. This reflects the Council's recognition of the depth and breadth of expertise in Alberta's civil society, and the need to leverage this knowledge to inform its work.

The Council Chair in particular appreciated the opportunity to meet periodically throughout the first year for informal discussions with the leaders of the Alberta Nonprofit Network (ABNN). The ABNN is a leading example of civil society organizations coming together to advance the work of the nonprofit sector in Alberta. As outlined in our *Moving Forward* report, there is an opportunity to move from "siloes to systems," and the ABNN, along with other organizations, is helping to lead this shift in how civil society thinks of its role in supporting Albertans and strengthening communities. Importantly, the ABNN's work is supported by funding from the Suncor Energy Foundation – an example of how private sector organizations can contribute to the work of civil society and strengthen our communities.

**March 2021:** The Council held separate engagement sessions with representatives of MaRS, known as North America's largest urban innovation hub, and the Calgary Chamber of Voluntary Organizations (CCVO).

- MaRS shared learnings from the Creative Partnerships Alberta project, led by the Ministry of Culture, Multiculturalism and Status of Women. This project is exploring opportunities to grow Alberta's social finance ecosystem and enhance the financial resiliency of the non-profit organizations, with an initial focus on the creative sector. MaRS provided the Council with an overview of leading social finance approaches, outlined the potential contribution of social finance, and led a discussion on social finance opportunities in Alberta's social service sector, and possible roles for government.
- The Council also appreciated the opportunity for dialogue with another leading civil society organization, the Calgary Chamber of Voluntary Organizations (CCVO). The CCVO aims to strengthen Calgary's non-profit sector and address related public policy issues in Alberta. This session provided an opportunity to discuss CCVO's proposed Community Prosperity Strategy for Alberta. The Council was encouraged by CCVO's efforts to initiate a dialogue on the building blocks of community prosperity. The meeting focused on the strategy's draft recommendations for the non-profit sector, the Government of Alberta, funders, the private sector, and other stakeholders. The Council reinforced the need for sustainable financing models, and the importance of capacity building and collaboration in civil society, so that existing efforts and funding can have maximum impact for Albertans.

The Council also appreciated the opportunity for dialogue with another leading civil society organization, the Calgary Chamber of Voluntary Organizations (CCVO). The CCVO aims to strengthen Calgary's non-profit sector and address related public policy issues in Alberta. This session provided an opportunity to discuss CCVO's proposed Community Prosperity Strategy for Alberta. The Council was encouraged by CCVO's efforts to initiate a dialogue on the building blocks of community prosperity. The meeting focused on the strategy's draft recommendations for the non-profit sector, the Government of Alberta, funders, the private sector, and other stakeholders. The Council reinforced the need for sustainable financing models, and the importance of capacity building and collaboration in civil society, so that existing efforts and funding can have maximum impact for Albertans.

## 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 support compliance with these requirements, the Council participated in a number of activities, including jointly developing with the Minister of Community and Social Services a formal [Mandate and Roles document](#) that guides its work.

**June 2020:** Following its establishment in late February 2020 and the development of its Mandate and Roles document, Council members participated in a facilitated orientation and onboarding session, led by the Council's secretariat staff, to ensure the Council had consistent operational and administrative procedures, and a strong foundation for effective governance.

**October 2020:** In the fall of 2020, The Council established a Planning and Reporting Subcommittee to lead the Council's planning and reporting activities such as the development of its three-year Strategic Plan and this Annual Report. The Council's engagement in the summer of 2020 provided a strong foundation for the strategic planning work. After receiving input from the Minister, the Council completed its Strategic Plan in May 2021. The Strategic Plan will guide the Council's work next year.

The following members serve on the Planning and Reporting and Subcommittee and the Council appreciates their commitment and leadership:

- Mr. Hyder Hassan (Chair)
- Ms. Chris Christie (Member)
- Mr. John Lilley (Member)
- Mr. Ashif Mawji (Member)
- Mr. David Mitchell (Member)

**November 2020:** Later in its first year, the Council completed mandatory training on its Code of Conduct. The Code reflects guidance from the Office of the Ethics Commissioner, and reinforces the commitment of Council members to avoid of conflicts of interest. It also reflects the Council's commitment to behavioural standards such as impartiality, diligence, integrity, respect and collegiality, and wise stewardship of public resources. Council members appreciated the opportunity to explore these obligations and are committed to adhering to them. The Council appreciates the expert support of the Governance Services unit in the Ministry of Community and Social Services for guiding it through this process.

## 7. Outlook for the Future

At the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, civil society found innovative and creative ways to respond to the increased demand for services as a rising number of Albertans found themselves in need of support. Despite revenue losses, disrupted operations, and impacts on staff and volunteers, civil society organizations are playing a critical role in supporting Alberta's diverse communities through an unprecedented time. Civil society's ability and willingness to adapt and innovate in service delivery and to

strengthen collaborations and partnerships has been inspiring, and is shedding a light on future opportunities to build civil society capacity.

While the pandemic has posed significant challenges, civil society leaders in our communities—including informal community networks, committed individuals and businesses, service agencies and funders (both public and private)—remained committed to supporting those in need. To enable civil society to continue its mission of addressing pressing social issues, a solid foundation for an effective, sustainable recovery from COVID-19 must be built. Building that foundation is necessarily a collective, collaborative effort, one that includes the 21 projects funded by the government in the first year of the Civil Society Fund. The Council looks forward to learning more about those projects as we continue our mission to strengthen government’s partnership with civil society.

More work will be required to build on this foundation and achieve an inclusive social and economic recovery for Albertans. While the pandemic has created hardships for all Albertans, it has had disproportionate impacts on women from diverse backgrounds and experiences – including youth, seniors, racialized women, Indigenous women, single women, immigrant and newcomers, women with disabilities and women experiencing low-income. As a follow-up to its *Moving Forward* report, the Council will focus its attention in 2021 on how civil society and government can work together to support a robust economic recovery for women in Alberta.

As Albertans continue working together to move past the pandemic, the Council will be guided by its Three-Year Strategic Plan (found here: <https://open.alberta.ca/publications/premiers-council-on-charities-and-civil-society-strategic-plan>). The Strategic Plan is designed to help the Council achieve its vision of government and civil society to working in partnership to build strong, resilient, and caring communities where all Albertans can thrive. The Council’s priorities over the next three years are to:

1. Support efforts to improve the sustainability and financial resilience of civil society organizations;
2. Champion the development of innovative, system-level collaborations to address social issues impacting communities across the province; and
3. Build strong relationships with civil society actors, relevant experts and government partners addressing social issues.

To help advance these priorities, the Council established a Stakeholder Relations Subcommittee in April 2021. In the coming years, the Council looks forward to engaging civil society leaders to learn and share ideas on government’s partnership with civil society, and how civil society can be strengthened to help address the social challenges in Alberta’s diverse communities.

## 8. Council Biographies (Alphabetical)

### **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 also 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 direct senior and executive management experience and specializes in the management of strategic change in complex organizations. Dr. Christie has co-authored two books, "The Nurturing Leader: A Toolkit for Every Season of Organizational Growth" and "A Guide to Collaboration: Working Models of Comprehensive Community Projects."

### **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. He is known as one of Alberta's most versatile serial entrepreneurs and IT innovators. Mr. Mawji is the director of the Hockey Canada Foundation, Chair of the Board of Directors of the Edmonton Police Foundation 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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

## 9. 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:

- <https://open.alberta.ca/dataset/20f7bf5e-3b69-4400-8785-5b195e1491f1/resource/1caf2450-ab54-4378-a5c7-af047c27e759/download/css-annual-report-2020-2021.pdf>

## 10. 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)