

Community Leadership Council

Karen McDonald – CLC Chair and Executive Director, Sage Seniors Association



Karen McDonald's career has focused almost exclusively in the field of gerontology, including a decade in seniors' supportive housing and over a decade with the Sage Seniors Association, most recently as Executive Director. Sage is an Edmonton-based community-based seniors serving organization that provides social services, community development, and life enrichment programming, primarily serving seniors who experience barriers to service delivery.

In 2015, Karen co-founded MatchWork, an interactive employment assessment tool used by employment support organizations to more effectively guide and support those who face barriers to employment. Karen completed both her BA and MBA at the University of Alberta and is currently a member of the Board of the Muttart Foundation.

Rob Miyashiro – Executive Director, Lethbridge Senior Citizens Organization



Rob Miyashiro is the Executive Director of Lethbridge Senior Citizens Organization (LSCO) and an elected member of Lethbridge City Council since 2013. Since 1989, Rob has been in management positions with organizations including nonprofit groups, Blood Tribe First Nation, and the Government of Alberta. Rob was instrumental in the creation of Lethbridge Elder Abuse Response Network (LEARN), which is housed out of LSCO.

Rob is the chair of Age Friendly Lethbridge and is a Founding Board Member of the Alberta Association of Seniors Centres. He represents Lethbridge on Alberta Age Friendly Communities of Practice and is one of three Alberta representatives on the Pan-Canadian Age Friendly Reference Group. In his role as city councillor, Rob sits on several committees which have a direct impact on seniors including the Board of the Green Acres Foundation (Seniors Managed Housing Body) and Community Design Committee.

Sian Jones – Issue Strategist, Age-Friendly Calgary



Sian Jones is currently an Issue Strategist supporting Age-Friendly Calgary at the City of Calgary. She works with community service providers, health care providers, Calgary citizens and other stakeholders to implement the Seniors Age-Friendly Strategy. Before starting as an Issue Strategist at the end of 2019 she worked as a Research Social Planner at the City of Calgary to support the research and evaluation needs of Calgary Neighbourhoods, which included implementing the evaluation of the Seniors Age-Friendly Strategy.

Sian previously worked in social research and evaluation in the UK and Canada for 11 years focusing on adult social care, youth justice and international security issues. She has Masters degrees from the University of Wales, Aberystwyth and from the University of Calgary.



Lisa Stebbins – Chief Program Officer, carya



Lisa is currently the Chief Program Officer with carya Society of Calgary. Since beginning her work with carya (formerly Calgary Family Services) in 2000, Lisa has held the positions of Human Resources Manager and Director of Homecare Operations. From 2013 – 2015, Lisa worked as an independent consultant providing expertise in human resource management, policy development and organizational effectiveness to diverse clients ranging from start-up oil and gas service companies to First Nations communities. In 2015, Lisa returned to carya to provide operational leadership in the growing area of older adult programs/services and community development.

With a keen interest in policy development, community initiatives and non-profit leadership, Lisa is passionate about older adults and ensuring that the sector can adapt to the growing and emerging needs of Alberta's aging population. For this reason, Lisa serves on many steering committees and projects related to older adults. Lisa is a Reviewer for the Canadian Centre for Accreditation and has also been appointed as a Public Member to the Council of Licensed Practical Nurses of Alberta since 2017.

Sheila Hallett – Executive Director, Edmonton Seniors Coordinating Council (ESCC)



Sheila Hallett began working as the Executive Director of Edmonton Seniors Coordinating Council in 2006 after several years as director of a local senior centre. She works to support collective community action that engages older adults and supports their well-being. Collaborative approaches have resulted in initiatives such as Age Friendly Edmonton (partnering with the City of Edmonton since 2013), Seniors Home Supports Program and the Pan-Edmonton Group Addressing the Social Isolation of Seniors (PEGASIS).

Sheila completed her Bachelor of Arts in 1989 from the School of Journalism and Communication, University of Regina. Her interest in social justice led her to work for the Edmonton Social Planning Council as well as many volunteer positions including leading an Abundant Community Committee in her neighbourhood.

Monica Morrison – Former Executive Director, Golden Circle Seniors Resource Centre



Monica Morrison worked with seniors for 30 years. Her career started in downtown Toronto with the Second Mile Club of Toronto, and ended as the Executive Director of the Golden Circle Seniors Resource Centre from 2011 to her retirement in 2022. Monica's other roles included: President of the Alberta Association of Seniors Centres, Treasurer of the Board for the Alberta Elder Abuse Awareness Council, member of the Central Alberta Falls Coalition, and on the operations team of the Central Alberta Poverty Reduction Alliance. Monica remains a Continuing Education instructor with Red Deer College ASCHA certificate program in the area of aging and older adult fitness. Her experience covers a diverse client group including people with physical disabilities, dementia, and multicultural and

LGBTQ communities. Her mission is to ensure all seniors have fun and have a good quality of life for their entire lives.



Luana Bussieres – Executive Director, St. Aidan’s Society



Luana is the Executive Director of St. Aidan’s Society in the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo. Luana spent 10 years as a Child Welfare Investigator and held positions as a Parole and Probation Officer and Foster Care Program Coordinator. She has served as St. Aidan’s Executive Director since 2001. Luana holds a Bachelor of Social Work Degree from the University of Calgary.

Luana is passionate about supporting older adults and in 2014 led St. Aidan’s in an organizational shift from child and family services, to senior service delivery. Since that time, St. Aidan’s has been steadfast in their service to, and support of, seniors. Recognized as a leader in senior advocacy, St. Aidan’s has helped amplify the voice of older adults throughout the Region and promotes community awareness of and responses to the unique needs of seniors. This has been evidenced through agency responses to the 2016 wildfire and major flood in 2020 which occurred during the global pandemic.

Serving as Vice-Chair on the Council appointed Advisory Committee on Aging, Luana is devoted to establishing the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo as an Age Friendly Designated Community under the World Health Organization. With a deep commitment to data collection, outcome measurement and impact assessment, Luana works to ensure older adults have improved quality of life and the Region is more age friendly and supportive of seniors. Luana is deeply committed to collaboration, and this is evident throughout agency operations and practice.

Larry Mathieson – Chief Executive Officer, Veiner Centre



Larry Mathieson has been an organizational leader of charities and government departments for over 35 years. Larry was the CEO of Easter Seals Alberta. For over ten years he was the CEO for Ronald McDonald House Charities in Alberta. During this time, he built a new \$14 million House in Calgary and an \$11-million-dollar expansion to the House in Edmonton, the first new RMH built in a new Canadian city in Red Deer in over 20 years. His team brought Canada’s first and only two Ronald McDonald Care Mobiles to Canada. He was a member of the Ronald McDonald House Charities national board in Canada and the Easter Seals Canada national board.

Larry was a founding staff member of Closer To Home Community Services, he worked for the Alberta Government as a CEO of one of the Child and Family Service Authorities. Larry has a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from the University of Calgary, a Master of Business Administration from California Southern University and a Master of Science in Strategic Fundraising from BayPath University. Larry and his wife Cathy live in High River, Alberta and are the proud parents of five children and five grandchildren.



Randy Smith (on leave) – Coordinator, FCSS Hinton



Randy has been a resident of Hinton for the past 29 years. Before arriving in Hinton, he lived in a small community in the interior of British Columbia. Randy and his wife have been active volunteers in many capacities in Hinton and still volunteer but at a much lower pace.

From 2000 until 2014, Randy worked as a social worker in the Catholic school system in Hinton and then decided to work with the older and taller kids (seniors). He has worked with FCSS in Hinton for the past eight years as the individual supports coordinator with the town of Hinton mostly with seniors.

Some of the programs he oversees include home supports, Linkages, Lifeline, the friendly visitor/caller program, Seniors' Week, the Endless Potentials Seniors program, community volunteer income tax program, and helping individuals navigate government with paperwork such as pensions and more.

Randy is looking forward to working with the community leadership council in regards to providing the rural perspective.



Healthy Aging Alberta is a for community, by community provincial initiative.

*Healthy Aging Alberta expresses their gratitude to the **Community Leadership Council** members for their time, expertise, and dedication to the Community-Based Senior Serving sector.*

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**A network of
community allies
for older adults.**