



BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2025-26

John Ferguson - President

John Ferguson is currently the Manager of Municipal Police Services for The City of Red Deer. In this role John is responsible for leading the staff that support the RCMP in Red Deer, and The City's Community Peace Officer Program. Prior to joining The City of Red Deer, John was a 35-year veteran of the RCMP, having retired as the Assistant Commissioner in charge of Criminal Operations for the Province of Alberta. John has an extensive policing background having worked in numerous detachments and specialized units throughout Manitoba, Nova Scotia and Alberta. His policing experiences are very broad as he has worked in small isolated communities with significant geographical areas of responsibility, to managing investigations that were national and international in scope.

John is dedicated to building trust and confidence in all the positions he has held, and focuses his efforts on community engagement and collaborative partnerships with community groups, and stakeholders. As the Criminal Operations Officer, John also established a dedicated Sexual Assault Review Unit to provide oversight and support to RCMP investigators, and to develop and implement initiatives that led to better quality police investigations and more compassionate and respectful care for victims.

John holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario and he is a member of the Police Order of Merit. John is a member of the Order of Merit of the Police Forces and has also been awarded the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond and Platinum Jubilee Medals, and the RCMP Long Service medal. John and his wife Debra have three children and four grandchildren.

Dr. Gabrielle Betts - Vice President

Dr. Gabrielle Betts holds a PhD in Political Science from Carleton University, an MA and BA from the University of Alberta, and is a certified Project Management Professional (PMP) with additional credentials in Financial Management and Executive Coaching.

With over 15 years of executive leadership experience, she has led high-performing teams across the Government of Alberta and the City of Edmonton in areas such as Health, Education, Community Services, Status of Women, and City Operations. She currently serves as Vice President of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) at the Alberta Recycling Management Authority, where she successfully led the launch of Alberta's first regulated EPR system—shifting the cost and responsibility for recycling from municipalities to producers. A career highlight includes leading Alberta's Commitment to Preventing and Addressing Sexual Violence at Alberta Status of Women, bringing together ten ministries and community partners to strengthen supports for survivors and advance a culture of consent. Gabrielle is also an active community leader, having served on the boards of Sage Seniors Association, and REACH Edmonton.

Kurt Marko - Treasurer

Kurt Marko is a dedicated Chartered Professional Accountant (CPA) with over a decade of experience in public practice, specializing in tax, assurance, and financial reporting. Born and raised in Edmonton, Kurt has deep-rooted ties to the community and a strong commitment to public service. He holds a Bachelor of Commerce degree from MacEwan University and currently serves as a Strategic Business Program Officer with the City of Edmonton's Transit sector.

In his role, Kurt brings a strategic approach to financial management and program development, demonstrating his capability in overseeing complex financial operations and contributing to organizational growth. His extensive background in accounting and finance, coupled with his experience in municipal transit, equips him with a unique perspective on fiscal responsibility and strategic planning.

Kurt's professional journey has been marked by a commitment to excellence and a passion for supporting community-focused initiatives. Kurt looks forward to leveraging his skills and experience to support AASAS's mission of providing leadership, coordination, collaboration and a unified voice on issues of sexual abuse and sexual assault.

Kimberly Armstrong - Secretary

Kim Armstrong currently works as the Chief People Officer at the Calgary Police Service where a primary area of focus and attention is ensuring a respectful and inclusive workplace that is psychologically and physically safe for their members. Kim is also a lawyer and previously served as the Deputy Attorney General for the Province of Alberta.

Kim has been involved in advancing gender equity for many years and was specifically connected to the development of the provincial strategy to end sexual violence in her role as Deputy Minister, Status of Women, for the Government of Alberta in 2015-2016.

Kim has served on several not for profit and Advisory Boards over her career and thus has significant governance experience. Kim has also reported to Commissions and Councils and therefore have lived experience on both sides of the governance table in the public sector.

Brad Cunningham

Brad Cunningham is from Peavine Metis Settlement. Brad is married has 5 children and 4 grandchildren. Brad, his brother and a few cousins spoke up about Sexual Violence in 2009. Brad and the guys started a men's healing group with the help and assistance from the High Prairie RCMP and Sexual Assault Center based out of Grande Prairie. (PACE).

Brad became a board member with the Association of Alberta Sexual Assault Services (AASAS) in 2012. Brad has travelled across Alberta to share his past as a victim and how he has learned to speak up, educate and build awareness about Sexual Violence. With the love and support from his wife and children Brad hopes to empower victims to seek the supports and services that are offered throughout Alberta.

"This is all about the babies, what are we doing today, tomorrow to know that all our babies will live free from harm and violence."

Chris Beasley

Chris Beasley (He/Him) is a government relations and public affairs professional who cares deeply about supporting the critical work of Alberta's network of sexual assault service organizations.

Originally from Montreal, Chris moved to Alberta in high school and made the province his home. Working at the Alberta Legislature as a teen, he fell in love with Alberta's unpretentious attitude to politics and problem solving.

Chris holds significant experience in supporting the work of province-wide organizations. Chris currently serves as the advisor for stakeholder and member relations at the Alberta Post-Secondary Network (APSN). In this role, he handles government relations on behalf of the presidents of Alberta's colleges, polytechnics, and universities. Prior to this, Chris worked for Alberta's 2SLGBTQI+ Chamber of Commerce developing programming to support inclusive entrepreneurship.

While at the University of Alberta, Chris was involved heavily in student governance. A former Chair of the Council of Alberta University Students (CAUS), Chris supported the development of and led the province-wide media campaign by post-secondary students following the release of the report on Sexual and Gender Based Violence in Alberta Post-Secondary Education. Thanks to the work done by all members of CAUS, the organization ultimately received the Courage to Act: Student Group or Initiative Award (2024).

In his spare time, Chris also serves as a board member at the Landing Society for 2SLGBTQ Community Supports and Services.

Harlene Mann

Harlene Mann is a committed advocate for equity, fairness, and safety, dedicated to advancing the mission of AASAS: to provide leadership and collaboration in response to sexual violence and to help create a society free from it. She is passionate about ensuring that all survivors - of every age, gender, and background - are supported, respected, and empowered in their healing journey.

Harlene holds a Bachelor of Arts in Women's Studies and Political Science from McMaster University and a Bachelor of Arts in Communications from Royal Roads University. Her academic foundation has given her a deep understanding of the systemic barriers that contribute to inequality, stigma, and silence surrounding sexual violence. Professionally, she is a Certified Change Management Professional (CCMP) and Prosci Certified Change Practitioner, reflecting her dedication to continuous growth and her ability to guide meaningful change for communities and organizations.

Beyond her professional work, Harlene has dedicated her time and skills to volunteer initiatives that promote gender equity, inclusion, and advocacy. She is passionate about creating opportunities that empower individuals, challenge systemic barriers, and foster safe spaces for dialogue and support.

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Nicole Whitaker

Nicole Whitaker is an experienced health leader and governance professional with a strong commitment to advancing equity, community engagement, and trauma-informed care.

As Executive Director of the WestView Primary Care Network, Nicole leads a multidisciplinary team providing health services across diverse communities west of Edmonton. She is responsible for strategic planning, organizational leadership, and financial oversight, and works closely with physicians, government partners, and local agencies to support integrated, patient-centred care, anchored in the patient medical home.

Nicole holds an MBA with a focus in corporate governance and accountability and brings over 19 years of progressive leadership experience in the healthcare and non-profit sectors. She has served in senior roles in both operational and strategic capacities and currently sits on the Board of Directors for e4c, a non-profit supporting people in Edmonton who are experiencing poverty and systemic barriers.

She is deeply committed to creating safe, inclusive systems that meet people where they are. She has supported the development of mental health programming for youth and adults, expanded Indigenous health initiatives in partnership with Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation and Paul First Nation, and led efforts to improve access to care for equity-deserving populations.

Nicole believes in the critical importance of AASAS's work to prevent sexual violence, support survivors, and strengthen communities through education, collaboration, and advocacy. She is inspired by the organization's leadership in advancing a coordinated provincial response to sexual violence and would be honoured to support that work as a Board member. She brings a deep sense of accountability, empathy, and strategic insight to her work and is passionate about contributing to systems-level change across Alberta.