

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2026-2027**

### John Ferguson - President

John Ferguson is currently the Manager of Municipal Policing Services for the City of Red Deer, where he leads the municipal staff supporting the RCMP in Red Deer as well as the City's Community Peace Officer Program.

Prior to joining the City of Red Deer, John enjoyed a distinguished 35-year career with the RCMP, retiring as Assistant Commissioner and Criminal Operations Officer for the Province of Alberta. His extensive policing career included assignments in numerous detachments and specialized units across Manitoba, Nova Scotia and Alberta. He brings a broad range of experience, from policing small, isolated communities with large geographic areas of responsibility to overseeing investigations that were national and international scope.

Throughout his career, John has been committed to building trust and confidence through meaningful community engagement and collaborative partnerships with community organizations and stakeholders. As Criminal Operations Officer in Alberta, he established a dedicated Sexual Assault Review Unit to provide oversight and support to investigators and to develop and implement initiatives focused on improving the quality of police investigations while ensuring victims received more compassionate and respectful care.

John brings a strong combination of operational policing experience, leadership, community engagement and partnership building to his current role.

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.

### Harlene Mann - Vice President

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.

Her commitment to AASAS's mission is rooted in her belief that survivors are never alone—that their voices matter, their healing matters, and that society has a collective responsibility to ensure they are met with dignity, compassion, and justice. Harlene is proud to contribute to a future where respect, safety, and equity form the foundation of how we live, work, and care for one another.

## 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.

## Kim Misfeldt - Secretary

Kim Misfeldt acknowledges her privilege as a third-generation Canadian whose grandparents settled in Saskatchewan from Scandinavia and the United Kingdom. Kim is a recently retired university professor who moved to Calgary in 2025.

Kim has been a leader for social change through her work in the wider community on sexual violence and child abuse. Kim has volunteered on various boards within the Camrose community and region, from the Camrose Women's Shelter to the Association of Communities Against Abuse. In addition to committee work, Kim has created change by telling her own story of childhood sexual abuse (CSA) in presentations and workshops for community groups.

In her work as a professor at the Augustana Campus of the University of Alberta, Kim was often asked to speak about various aspects of CSA in colleagues' courses (from psychology, sociology, gender studies, first year seminars etc.). Kim also served over many years as a Human Book in Augustana's Human Library. Kim's book was entitled "Healing from childhood sexual abuse". In this initiative, students and members of the community are able to 'take out' a human book and have a conversation about particular areas of interest within the topic of the book, for instance, psychology students would ask questions about different healing modalities she had experienced, gender studies and sociology students were often interested in issues of power within the justice system or family dynamics, etc.

Kim's teaching included gender studies, activism, intercultural understanding through German language, literature and culture. Kim has tremendous administrative and leadership experience from her work as Vice Dean, Department Chair and Director as well as on management and governing boards.

## Kimberly Armstrong

Kim Armstrong recently completed three years as the Chief People Officer of the Calgary Police Service where a primary area of focus and attention was 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.

# 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 Manager of Government and Stakeholder relations at the Alberta Post-Secondary Network (APSN). In this role, he handles external 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 volunteers in the community and is a member of his local Rotary club.

# 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."

# Dawn Janecke

Dawn Janecke is the Deputy Chief Crown Prosecutor in Lethbridge Crown Prosecutor's Office, a role she has held for nearly six years. She has served as a Crown prosecutor in the Lethbridge office since 2005 and has spent her career committed to public service, justice, and community well-being. Prior to joining the Alberta Crown Prosecution Service, Dawn practiced civil law in Lethbridge for seven years.

A graduate of the University of Lethbridge with a Bachelor of Arts in History and the University of Alberta with an LL.B., Dawn has been involved in a wide range of complex criminal prosecutions, including serial sexual offenders, dangerous offender hearings and homicide cases. She is particularly passionate about specialty courts, and initiatives that improve access to justice. She has been an assigned Crown in Lethbridge's Domestic Violence Court for multiple years, and was also actively involved in the creation and implementation of the newly formed Indigenous Court in Lethbridge.

Community involvement has always been important to Dawn. Over the years, she has served on several local boards and organizations, including the Interfaith Food Bank Society of Lethbridge, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Lethbridge, and the City of Lethbridge Subdivision and Development Appeal Board. She currently serves on the Leadership Advisory Committee for the Aurora Centre in Lethbridge.

Dawn believes that strong communities are built through service, collaboration, and a willingness to give back. Whether in her professional role or through volunteer work, she values opportunities to support and strengthen the community she calls home. Outside of work, Dawn enjoys spending time with her husband, three children and their two dogs, and takes every opportunity to enjoy the people and relationships that matter most to her.