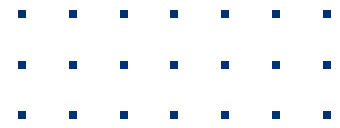


SOGIE Advisory Council Members



1

Ace Amundson

I am transgender, hard of hearing, neuro diverse with a degree from the university of life. A Diploma from Mount Royal University in Rehabilitation Services, and a Certificate in American Sign Language and Deaf Cultural Studies from Lakeland College. I am fluent in sign language but semi-illiterate in reading as I am dyslexic. I hope to bring a chance to increase sensitivity training to include Ableism. When I was homeless, I was a youth and an adult. As a gender fluid lesbian in the 70s and 80s here in Edmonton, Calgary, and Vancouver, I struggled with mental health issues and addiction. I was abused by the police and yet in other cases they helped me. I am an addict, clean for 18 years. I may be different, and my past is painful, but I hope I can be of help. I have worked in the field of humanities



when I was over 30 years old but for years prior to that I was homeless and involved in crime prior to finding my way off the streets in my late twenties. I found help. Warning I am a blunt person and may offend without intention. This is due to my autism and head injuries. I will use trigger warnings prior to talking and listen and learn from all of you. I may not understand your words neurologically or your meaning but I am a Disabled person with a chance to help the police in their approach to people like myself.

My experience may help to see the Ableism and able-bodied Privilege in society and how it wears away at the soul of a person who is struggling with mental health, transgender, a recovered addict, who is a neurologically diverse and physically disabled person, dealing with chronic pain. I am a cancer survivor, and I am here to fight Ableism. I am here to help.

2 Basel Abou Hamrah

Basel Abou Hamrah came to Canada in 2015 as a refugee from Syria. As a member of the LGBTQ+ newcomers' community, he found it hard to connect with others from the community and realized there were no resources available. In May 2017, he and two friends created the LGBTQ+ Newcomers Group, a social support group to help members build a community of their own and be a family to each other. Later that year, he led the creation of Rainbow Refuge, the first program of its kind in Alberta to support LGBTQ+ community members with immigration and settlement. Basel's combination of personal and professional experience provides him with unique insight that has contributed to shaping the creation of very specialized LGBTQ+ services in Edmonton.



He has served as a board member of the EMHC, currently, he is the co-chair of the Inland Protection working group with the Canadian Council for Refugees and is a member of the Rainbow Coalition for Refugees.

As the recipient of the Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Medal and the Stonewall 2021 Newcomers and Refugees Award, he is a strong advocate for the needs of the LGBTQ+ newcomer community. Helping others be their authentic selves and able to thrive in their new home.

3 Beverly (Bev) Clarke

As a member Bev hopes she will be able to transfer some of her past work and life wisdom within the SOGIE Advisory Council. Her small rural upbringing was very tumultuous but aided her in becoming a resilient individual when relocating to Edmonton decades ago. Bev and her spouse of 29 years raised two sons during a period of LGBTQ discrimination in their community. This was a time when Hate & Bias Crimes unit were not an available resource. She currently volunteers with Wellspring Alberta, AARCS and Little Bits Therapeutic Riding Association. Bev has continued to dedicate her time to other organizations such as Edmonton Pride Festival Society, HIV Edmonton, Southside Boxing Association, Women's Ball Hockey Edmonton, and Parkallen Community League (Civic Planning Committee).



Her experience includes working in Acute Care and Auxiliary Care facilities. She worked with iSMSS (Fyrefly Institute University of Alberta) during its inception for 9 years and then as a Human Resources and Finance Advisor in the Faculty of Education until her current retirement.

In her free time Bev is a cyclist, hiker, bibliophile, pickleball newbie, rescue dog mom and novice quilter.

4 Corey Wyness

Corey has been working with Queer and Trans youth and emerging adults for over 30 years. He is the founder of the CHEW Project YEG. Most recently he has become the Gay Yoda of the Pride Centre of Edmonton. He is heading up the Josh Brown Wellness Resource Centre which is helping Rainbow Folx find pathways to hope, healing, and joy. Corey is also a Healing Centered Engagement Practitioner. Corey's passion lies with supporting those in our community that face barriers of mental health, houselessness and substance use. He is an underdog and a radical weirdo.



5 Dave Gilbert

In his fourth year with SOGIE, Dave has helped the transformation of the committee from its previous form as the Sexual and Gender Minorities Community Liaison Committee to be more reflective of the diversity of the 2SLGBTQ+ community.

Dave has worked for the Federal government since 2000. In his recent eight years, Dave has worked for Indigenous Services Canada in several senior roles. He currently works on a National Team as a Senior Analyst and Negotiator, working with provinces and territories to reform Indigenous Child and Family Services

Programming in relation to Act C-92, An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families.

Dave also serves as a board member on the Edmonton Seniors Pride Project for the past six years to help educate organizations and to make life for 2SLGBTQ+ seniors a priority in the seniors care industry. He has had several roles with the organization including organizing and chairing the marginalized populations sub-committee and initializing the Intergenerational Conversations Project.

Dave holds a Bachelor's from the University of Victoria, and a Master's from the University of Alberta with a specialization in Urban History.



6

Jane Johnston

Hi, my name is Jane. I use she/they pronouns. I recently graduated from the University of Alberta with a degree in Psychology and minor in Women's and Gender Studies. I hope to pursue medicine and am currently studying for the MCAT.

I am passionate about fighting for equality and equity for all. I am proud to do so at U of A and in the community. At the University of Alberta, I volunteer at the Landing which seeks to provide a safe and supportive space on campus for LGBTQ+ Students. Currently, I am on the University's LGBTQ+ Advisory Committee, which works to create actionable changes to make Campus a safer and more inclusive space for Queer Students.

Outside of the University I am the Head of Intake and Outreach at The CAPE Clinic. The CAPE Clinic provides Sexual Health Care, and free Long Term Reversible Birth Control for low income and marginalized people with uteruses. CAPE's goal is to provide inclusive and barrier free sexual healthcare.

I am excited to be a part of SOGIE to help make Edmonton more inclusive.



7

Shawna Hohendorff

Shawna Hohendorff joined SOGIE in 2021. Shawna joined to lend some of her experience as a part of the lesbian community and the work she has done in the Inner City of Edmonton for the past 20 plus years. Shawna has worked in the inner city of Edmonton for Radius Community Health and Healing formerly known as Boyle McCauley Health Centre as the Program Coordinator /Counsellor. Kindred House is a provider of trauma informed supports for women and trans women who work in street sex work. Many of the participants have had or continue to have Police Interaction. Kindred House also is involved in the Community Communication Day for the new Recruits for EPS.



8

Todd Herron

Todd is the former Executive Director for the Wellspring Edmonton charity, which provides support to people with cancer, their families, and their caregivers. He has worked as an executive in several industries including airlines, government, health care, gaming, liquor, and renewable energy. He is a former Assistant Deputy Minister for both the Alberta and Manitoba Governments. Among his accomplishments, he implemented the Health Quality Council of Alberta and the Alberta Electronic Health Record. He has consulted to many private and public sector boards providing operational and strategic advice. He has sat on several non-profit boards, including the Edmonton Pride Festival Society, the Solar Energy Society of Alberta, and Homeward Trust Edmonton. He is passionate about community building and runs a monthly 2SLGBTQ+ happy hour mixer and is manager of the 2SLGBTQ+ recreational dragon boat team, The Flaming Dragons.

