



SOGIE Member Biographies 2021

1. Ace Amundson	2	6. A Member Who Does Not Wish to be Identified.....	5
2. Ceci Perry	3	7. Rob Wells	5
3. Clay Hitchcock	3	8. Shawna Hohendorff.....	5
4. Corey Wyness.....	4	9. Todd Herron.....	6
5. Dave Gilbert	4		

1. Ace Amundson



Hi, my name is Ace Amundson. I decided to sign to introduce myself and then I stopped before I frustrated too many people. But my life is frustrating every day more from Ableism than my disorders. I am not Deaf. I am hard of hearing, as in without my hearing aides, I can't hear my own voice. Can't lipread with all the masks and I have autism and PTSD. Also, anxiety and depression get in my way in socializing. I have physical disabilities so accessible issues arise.

I have central auditory processing disorder as my hearing is incorrect as I can't sort sounds my hearing aides Amplify everything equally. I don't use the resources of the Deaf as interrupting isn't needed if I can lip read. Deaf people do not consider being Deaf a disability but a Culture and a language. I am not Deaf and not totally hearing. As an Autistic person I disassociate form reality but not as in hallucinations. It

is my PTSD that can happen if I am triggered.

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 and I was homeless, I was abused by the police and yet in other cases they helped me. I am an addict clean for 18years. 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 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 but 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 my 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. Ceci Perry



Cecily is an animal behaviourist, graphic designer, and dance teacher. Though her roots are in Newfoundland, she relocated to Edmonton to attend the University of Alberta. In her spare time, she enjoys playing video games, hanging out in nature, and indulging in sweet snacks. She believes every situation in life is an opportunity to gain knowledge and thus strives to learn something from everyone she meets.

She is looking forward to having important conversations with like-minded peers to generate change for Edmonton's future.

3. Clay Hitchcock



Clay Hitchcock (they/them, he/him) was born and raised in small town central Alberta. Coming from rural roots and coming out early in life, they learned from doing how to navigate their privilege and marginalization. After moving to Edmonton in 2011 it took a couple years for them to fall in love with the city but now they'd never leave. A life-long volunteer, Clay has found joy and learning in volunteering with queer organizations throughout the city such as HIV Edmonton, Edmonton Pride Festival Society, and Edmonton Men's Health Collective. Their passion for people and stories has recently led them back to school to study Human Resources and Labour Relations with a focus on how people living with marginalization navigate the workforce and ways to enhance their representation and wellbeing. Clay hopes that their voice on the SOGIE committee will be one that amplifies those who are not or cannot sit at the table and holds EPS as an organization to account for the promises it has made to the queer community.

4. Corey Wyness



Corey has been working with Queer youth for over 25 years. He currently is a youth outreach worker for the C.H.E.W. Project at iSMSS and runs another project that works with male identified individuals in the sex trade called Below the Belt Men's Project. His passion lies in creating resilience among Queer youth and in creating hope and comprehensive health care. He is currently pursuing a Master's in Counselling Psychology. He is often seen as an underdog in his frontline work with Queer communities and believes there are many stories that need to be shared and celebrated. Corey was recently honored with an Inspiration Award from the Alberta Government.

5. Dave Gilbert



In his two years 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 actual diversity of the 2SLGBTQ+ community.

Dave has worked for the Federal government since 2000. In his recent five years, Dave has worked for Indigenous Services Canada in several senior roles. He currently works on a National Policy Team working to reform Child and Family Services Programming for the Government of Canada.

He is also a board member of the Edmonton Seniors Pride Project for the past six years. In that time, 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 from the University of Victoria, and a Master's from the University of Alberta with a specialization in Urban History.

6. A Member Who Does Not Wish to be Identified

7. Rob Wells

Rob has a long history as a human rights activist working against hate propaganda, transphobia and homophobia. He received the Michael Phair award for long term service to the sexual minorities community, and in 2009, received a Man of Honour award from Chief Boyd. Rob believes in speaking truth to power while working together to build a safe and inclusive community.

8. Shawna Hohendorff



Shawna Hohendorff joined SOGIE in 2021. She thought that with some of her work experience and being a lesbian herself, that she may be able to be supportive to the SOGIE committee. Shawna's work for the past 20 years has been in Edmonton's inner city working for Boyle McCauley Health Centre as the Program Coordinator of Kindred House. Kindred House is a safe space for women and trans women who work in the street. Many of the participants have had interactions with Police. Shawna and one of the participants of Kindred House are involved in the communication day sharing with recruits from a community perspective about relationships with Police. She hopes to be able to add something to the community conversation.

9. Todd Herron



Todd is the Executive Director for Wellspring Edmonton, which provides support to people with cancer, their families and their caregivers. He has worked in a number of industries including airlines, government, health care, gaming, liquor, renewable energy, and housing. 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 was interim executive director for both the Edmonton Pride Festival Society and the Solar Energy Society of Alberta. He has sat on a number of non-profit boards and was vice-chair of the board for Homeward Trust Edmonton. In his spare time, he manages a recreational dragon boat team.