

Catherine Donnelly Foundation

Board of Directors 2020/2021

The Board of Directors is entrusted with Stewardship of the Foundation, which includes honouring the principles, values and vision of the Sisters of Service and their foundress, Catherine Donnelly. The Board is currently comprised of the following members:

Anne-Marie Jackson, Toronto, ON
Ayon Shahed, St. John's, NL
Bob McKeon, Edmonton, AB
Devika Shah, Toronto, ON
Georgette Gregory CSJ, Toronto, ON
Gladys Yam, North York, ON
Jean Gove, CSJ, Toronto, ON
Kelly Holmes, Winnipeg, MB

Larry Murray, Toronto, ON
Sr. Mary Halder, SOS, Toronto, ON
Michael Murphy, Saskatoon, SK
Peter Hough, Kentville, NS
Richard Morgan, Peterborough, ON
Sara Mainville, Toronto, ON
Sherry Yano, Vancouver, BC
Sucheta Rajagopal, Toronto, ON

Executive Director:
Director of Finance and Investment:
Director of Programs:
Financial Administrator:
Communications & Policy Officer
Grants & Office Coordinator:

Claire Barcik, Toronto, ON
Mritunjay (MJ) Sinha, Toronto, ON
Anne Mark, Toronto, ON
Cindy Alexander, Toronto, ON
Steve Brearton, Toronto, ON
Shanjitha Rajasingam, Toronto, ON

Biographies:

Anne-Marie Jackson was born and raised in England. She studied languages and worked in the arts. She gained extensive experience as a leader of global justice education and action, working with the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace as regional facilitator, program coordinator and then director. She led numerous groups on visits and delegations to partners in the Global South. Anne-Marie is currently the executive director of the Jesuit Forum for Social Faith and Justice, based in Toronto.

Ayon Shahed, is a strategic leader experienced in the health care, housing, social enterprise, homelessness, and public policy arenas. He is currently the Director of Strategy and Business Development at Seafair Capital in St. John's, NL. Having negotiated numerous innovative partnerships with diverse private, public and non-profit proponents, Ayon understands complex systems and utilizes his expertise to drive ambition, collaboration, and people-centered solutions in all of his work. He has served on a range of local and national boards and committees, including the Canadian Housing and Renewal Association, the St. John's Tool Library and the City of St. John's Affordable Housing Committee. Ayon holds a Masters in Engineering from Queen's University, and in 2015 was named one of Atlantic Canada's Top 50 Under 40. He has previously held leadership positions at Choices for Youth and at Engineers Without Borders Canada.

Bob McKeon has recently retired from the Office for Social Justice of the Catholic Archdiocese of Edmonton. Bob has a Ph.D. in theology from St. Michael's College at the University of Toronto. He has taught courses in theology and social ethics for many years at Newman Theological College and St. Joseph's College, University of Alberta. He has been involved for over 30 years in board leadership positions with several community and church organizations. In inner city Edmonton addressing issues of poverty, health, hunger, housing, and community and economic development.

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Devika Shah, is passionate about building a civic society that is grounded in diversity, equity, social and economic justice, and active democratic engagement. Her interdisciplinary background and experience in the non-profit sector have strengthened her commitment to advancing grassroots, community-led, multi-stakeholder solutions, which she views as the most powerful lever for achieving systems change. She currently serves as the Executive Director of Environment Funders Canada and has previously held positions with Social Planning Toronto, World Wildlife Fund Canada, Pembina Institute, York University and KCI Philanthropy. In these roles, she has strengthened organizational capacity in the areas of civic engagement, strategic integration and planning, fundraising and operations management.

Sr. Georgette Gregory, CSJ, as a sister of St Joseph became a registered nurse and nurse practitioner, then developed a healing ministry over thirty years. "My work with the homeless and under-housed in the last twenty years has called me" she has said, "to a deeper spirit of poverty than I ever imagined." She advocated for dental clinics for people who cannot afford dental care (the economically poor as well as the homeless.) As well, she developed and ran a visiting program for people isolated in their homes while working at Mustard Seed. The Fred Victor Mission, (which works for health, income and housing for impoverished and homeless people), has awarded Sr. Georgette its Women with Purpose-Mary Sheffield Award, for a lifetime of leadership in addressing poverty and homelessness in Toronto. Among her many roles, Sr. Georgette has worked to fight human trafficking. As Director of In Good Company, a project of the Toronto Sisters of St. Joseph, she was lauded for her passionate commitment to justice for marginalized people.

Gladys Yam is the Director of Finance with The Institute for College Access and Success (TICAS). She is a Chartered Professional Accountant (CPA, CA) with nearly 20 years of experience in the accounting and finance fields, having spent 10 years with Ernst & Young and then nine years in the higher education and non-profit industries at the University of North Carolina, Jobs for the Future, and TICAS. She earned a BMath and a Master of Accounting (MAcc) from University of Waterloo and an EdM from Harvard Graduate School of Education. She has also earned a Diploma of Christian Studies from the Tyndale Seminary in Toronto.

Sr. Jean Gove, CSJ, is a resident of Toronto whose background includes high school teaching and campus ministry. She has a doctorate in English, specializing in Canadian literature. She served on the Sisters of St. Joseph Leadership Team with various administrative responsibilities for two successive four-year terms, then in financial management for nine years with the Pontifical Mission Societies. She has served on several hospital boards and most recently that of Fontbonne Ministries. One area that has been of particular interest and continues to be a focus is that of socially responsible investing.

Kelly Holmes is a long-time advocate and youth homelessness change-maker. As Executive Director at the Winnipeg street-level, non-profit agency, Resource Assistance for Youth, Inc., Kelly's focus is on the design and delivery of innovative youth-centered programming that meets the needs of Winnipeg youth, on their terms. Nationally, Kelly is a well-known thought leader on the subject of youth homelessness, sitting on numerous advisory boards and has contributed to improved social policy that better supports young people. In 2014, Kelly was the catalyst behind Here and Now: The Winnipeg Plan to End Youth Homelessness, rallying immense local and national support for the Plan. Kelly is committed to holding space for young people to find their own power.

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Larry Murray is a retired partner of KPMG and spent his entire professional career in the public accountancy field, specializing in income tax, including the tax treatment of registered charities and other not-for-profit entities. In addition to being a professional advisor to registered charities, he has been a volunteer in the sector throughout his career. Larry holds a Bachelor of Commerce degree from the University of Toronto and is a Fellow of Chartered Professional Accountants (FCPA), a designation recognizing members who have rendered exceptional service to the profession or whose career achievements have earned them distinction. Currently, Larry is Board Treasurer of the Catholic Health Sponsors of Ontario (CHSO). He is Director and Chair of the Catholic Congregational Legacy Charity; Director and Past Chair of The Lillian Meighen and Don Wright Foundation; and Governor and Treasurer of Catholic Missions in Canada. Previously, he served as a Director of the Ontario Trillium Foundation, Breakfast for Learning, The Writers' Trust of Canada, The Hearing Foundation of Canada and Tafelmusik.

Mary Halder, SOS, is a retired public health nurse. She spent most of her career in Alberta and the Yukon Territory. During her time in Smoky Lake, AB, Mary initiated Family and Community Services and was chairperson of the board. She was also a board member for the Regional Children's Services program.

Michael Murphy spent his work career almost entirely with international NGOs – eight years with CUSO in East and Central Africa, fifteen years with OXFAM-Canada in Saskatoon and sixteen years as Saskatchewan Animator for Development and Peace. Michael was on the Board of the Saskatoon Public Library from 2005-2011. He is an Executive member and Past President of City Park Community Association and is Chair of the Saskatoon Peace Coalition. He was awarded the Joanna Miller Peace Award in 2016. He is on the board of the Saskatoon Community Clinic Foundation and is a former member of Saskatoon Diocese's Justice and Peace Commission. He is married with four children of diverse ages. He has a Diploma in Public Administration from University College Dublin, and a B.A. and M.A. (Political Studies) from the University of Saskatchewan. Michael resides in Saskatoon, SK.

Peter Hough has 30 years of experience as a member, manager, and/or director of worker and consumer co-operatives. In his work as a co-operative developer he has assisted many co-operative start-ups, developing bylaws, conducting training programs, completing feasibility studies and business plans and providing post start-up mentoring. He is currently the Chair of the Board of Directors of Tatamagouche Centre in Nova Scotia. He is also a director of the Canadian Co-operative Investment Fund which invests in co-operatives in all regions of Canada and of Sustainability Solutions Group Worker Co-op which works in the field of environmental consulting. Peter has an MBA from Saint Mary's University, Halifax, and has recently completed studies for a MA Systematic and Philosophical Theology at the University of Nottingham, UK. Peter resides in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Richard Morgan is the Executive Director of the Humanitarian Coalition, an Ottawa-based organization that brings together 12 of Canada's leading international humanitarian agencies. Previously he served as Associate Vice President for Advancement at Trent University in Peterborough, and as Coordinator of Financial Resources for Development and Peace in Toronto. He has a MA in Sustainability from Trent University and a BA in International Relations from Glendon College of York University.

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Sara Mainville, is a Partner at OKT and works with First Nations as legal counsel, strategic advisor and negotiator. Sara has a particular strength in engaging provincial and Federal governments in bilateral/trilateral negotiations around difficult issues. Sara has a law degree from Queen's University and a LL.M from the University of Toronto. Throughout her legal career, Sara has been committed to giving back to her community of Couchiching First Nation. In 2014, Sara was elected Chief of Couchiching First Nation and during that term she ensured that the First Nation had strong policy, a good social media presence to engage the many off-reserve members in community affairs, and started the Wasaw group of companies. Sara is recognized to be a leading thinker around Indigenous jurisdiction and its role in Nation-to-Nation reconciliation.

Sherry Yano is Associate Director, Sustainable Communities with the David Suzuki Foundation in Vancouver, where her work includes serving in mentorship programs for women and Indigenous youth. She worked with Pembina Institute and as a communications, media, marketing and research consultant. Sherry enjoys expertise in engineering, stakeholder and community engagement, program development and delivery, communications, revenue development and governance. She earned a B.A.Sc. in chemical engineering from the University of Waterloo, an M.Sc. in international planning and development from the University of Guelph and research awards from CIDA, IDRC and the University of Guelph. Her work has been published in the Vancouver Sun, Western Living and the National Observer, among other media outlets, delivered several short docs on CBC Radio and authored a children's book and three plays. Sherry is passionate about conversations on climate and clean energy, great meals with wonderful people, any kind of writing and going to events with inspiring speakers that change the way she sees the world. Sherry lives in Vancouver, BC.

Sucheta Rajagopal works as an Investment Advisor and Portfolio Manager with Mackie Research Capital Corporation in Toronto. Sucheta has an LL.B. from Osgoode Hall Law School, is a graduate of the Canadian Securities Institute's Professional Financial Planning Program, a Certified Investment Manager (CIM), a Fellow of the Canadian Securities Institute (FCSI) and a Certified Financial Planner (CFP). Sucheta has also earned Canada's Responsible Investment Advisor Certification (RIAC). She is a past President of the Board of the Responsible Investment Association's predecessor, the Social Investment Organization, and has also volunteered on the Boards of East End Community Health Centre, Straight Goods and Planet in Focus - a ground breaking environment education film festival.

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Staff:

Claire Barcik, Executive Director, trained as a lawyer and has spent nearly two decades in the non-profit and public sector, working alongside partners to build stronger, more diverse and more equitable communities. Claire previously worked as Executive Director of the CRC | Regent Park Community Food Centre, Executive Director at the Neighbourhood Centre in Toronto's Crescent Town and Director of Community Services at Yonge Street Mission. Claire has led skilled teams in innovative work in food security and urban agriculture, community development, a unique community hub-housing model (Housing First), child and youth leadership programs, computer literacy labs, and work with newcomer women and their families and seniors. In these roles, she has strengthened organizational capacity through impactful partnerships, community engagement, innovative program design, way too much fundraising and strategy and leadership development. Claire holds an LL.B. from the University of Ottawa and a Master's in Theology and Social Justice from the University of Toronto.

Mritunjay (MJ) Sinha, Director of Finance & Investment, a social entrepreneur-operator and an investor, MJ helped build a two-million dollar micro-loan portfolio in rural India and worked with women entrepreneurs helping create a co-operative of over 200 members. For the last few years, MJ has been working with impact investors. He supported the team at Grand Challenges Canada – Canada's leading impact investor. Thereafter, he has been working with asset owners and asset managers helping them understand the difference they can make with their endowments. MJ's passion for social change is complemented by his experience in Capital Markets and Corporate Strategy, and his degrees in Engineering and M.B.A.

Anne Mark, Director of Programs, is passionate about social and environmental change. She arrived at The Catherine Donnelly Foundation with 15 years of progressive experience working in the non-profit sector, much of which was with Planet in Focus - an environmental media arts organization that uses film as a catalyst for public engagement, discussion and action through an annual film festival, touring, and educational programs. She understands the many challenges and opportunities facing non-profit organizations and being on the "other side" of the grantmaking sector has offered important insight into her work.

Steve Brearton, Communication & Policy Officer, began his journalism career at Maclean's magazine in 1990 and five years later chose to pursue a career as a freelance writer. Since then, he has been a contributing writer for Toronto Life, Canadian Business, Maclean's, Spacing and Report on Business magazine, among others, and has written columns, features and shorter items for many more consumer publications. During that time, he prioritized work with organizations involved in environmental education, food security, community health and sustainable transportation. He won his first Canadian National Magazine Award in 1996 – a Silver award of excellence for a Toronto Life feature on bike couriers - and has since been nominated on 14 more occasions, winning Gold awards in 2003, 2007 and 2015. His work has also won the White Medal for Writing from the U.S. City and Regional Magazine Competition.

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Cindy Alexander, Financial Administrator, brings 25+ years' experience in the not-for-profit sector. She has Level 4 of the former Certified General Accountants Association and a diploma from Durham College In Sport Administration and has worked with organizations supporting life sciences, the environment, seniors, education, those who are differently abled and sport associations, including The Branscombe Family Foundation, The Stop Community Food Centre, Easter Seal Society, Registered Nurses' Foundation of Ontario, and Sport Alliance of Ontario (formerly Ontario Sport and Recreation Centre). Cindy hopes to share her knowledge of finance and accounting to support the work of those pursuing their passions. Social finance and social enterprise are of special interest. Family is her main priority. She is always pursuing further education in life. Her life ideal is to live by the motto, "In a world where you can be anything, be kind".

Shanjitha Rajasingam, Grants & Office Coordinator, is very passionate about social change, equity and inclusion. She is very excited to be working with the Catherine Donnelly Foundation. She has previously worked for the Canadian Alternative Investment Cooperative as an Administrative Assistant. She has completed her Honours Bachelors of Arts in Sociology and Women & Gender Studies at the University of Toronto and a postgraduate certificate program at George Brown College in Digital Media Marketing.