



**Multicultural Council of Saskatchewan**

**2015 Board of Director  
Nominees and Biographies**

As of May 29, 2015

## 2015 MCoS BOARD OF DIRECTORS CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Name of Nominee: **Asit Sarkar**  
Candidate For: **Treasurer**. Incumbent.  
Residence: Saskatoon

### **EXPERIENCES AND ACHIEVEMENTS:**

Dr. Asit Sarkar is Professor Emeritus at the N. Murray Edwards School of Business of the University of Saskatchewan, having completed 37 years of active service at the University. From February 1993 to June 2002, Dr. Sarkar served as the first Director of University of Saskatchewan International and Special Adviser to the President of University of Saskatchewan. Prior to that, he was Associate Dean of the University's College of Commerce, first Director of the Centre for International Business Studies, and Head of the Department of Management and Marketing. He also held visiting faculty appointments in Japan, Singapore, Malaysia and Indonesia. From 2002 to 2008, he served as the Director of the International Centre for Governance and Development at the University of Saskatchewan. He has led the development of the ICT-based Governance Knowledge Network as a platform for mobilizing and sharing Canadian knowledge on different aspects of governance and international development.

He has experience serving as:

- Multicultural Council of Saskatchewan (Board member, 2012-15; Treasurer 2014-15)
- Saskatoon Folkfest - Honorary Ambassador, 2012
- Saskatoon Open Door Society (past Board member and Co-Chair of the Board)
- Saskatchewan Capacity for Internationally-trained Professionals (Past Chair, Vice Chair)
- Canada-Ukraine Centre Inc. (Board member and Treasurer)
- City of Saskatoon - Centennial Celebration Committee (Co-Chair, Fundraising), Board of Revision (member) and Development Appeals Board (member)
- Rotary Club of Saskatoon-Nutana (Past President; Chair of Rotary Foundation Committee)
- Saskatoon and District Chamber of Commerce (Past Board member, Committee Chair and Executive Committee)
- Chair of Volunteer Management, Bangladesh Pavilion, Folkfest Saskatoon 2011
- Chair, 150<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary Celebration of Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore, University of Saskatchewan
- Canada-Bangladesh Institute for Higher Education and Development (Board Chair)
- Member, Advisory Board, Saskatoon Bangla Heritage Language School
- Currently serving as a member of the consultative group to establish an intercultural institute in Saskatchewan.
- Bangladesh Community Association of Saskatchewan
- India-Canada Cultural Association
- Hindu Society of Saskatchewan

Name of Nominee: **Isabelle Nkapnang**  
Candidate For: **Treasurer or Member-At-Large**  
Residence: Regina

### **EXPERIENCES AND ACHIEVEMENTS:**

Isabelle is an Agronomist who holds a M.Sc. degree in Agricultural Economics from the University of Maiduguri, Nigeria and a PhD in rural Economics from the Catholic University of

Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium. She will soon be completing a Master degree in Public Administration. She is a professional with more than one decade experience in Economic Development, Agriculture extension and research, and communication. This broad education and professional background helped her to be more responsive to multiculturalism, which goes beyond racial, ethnic, and gender diversity.

Having studied, work and lived around the world spanning Africa, Europe and North America. Isabelle enjoys giving her time to her community, traveling, meeting new people and learning about cultures. She resides in Regina and work as a communication officer with the Assemblée Communautaire Fransaskois (ACF).

Since her arrival in February 2012, Isabelle Nkapnang has volunteered with many organizations including:

- The Association Canadienne Française de Regina (ACFR), the Agency in responsible for Francophone minorities in Regina. Since 2013, she has served as Treasurer of ACFR. She previously combined this position with that of Secretary. She is involved in projects that highlight bilingualism, multiculturalism, diversity, tolerance and anti-discrimination.
- Volunteered with the Communauté des Africains Francophones de la Saskatchewan, promoting the organisation, involvement and participation of this group in multicultural programming and activities.
- Director with the Regina Multicultural Council and helps to organise and promote RMC events.

Name of Nominee: **Neeraj Saroj**

Candidate For: **Secretary**. Incumbent

Residence: Regina

**EXPERIENCES AND ACHIEVEMENTS:**

- Currently working as a Sr. Engineer with the City of Regina.
- A professional engineer registered with APEGS (Association of Professional Engineers and Geo-Scientists of Saskatchewan)
- Completed Executive MBA from University of Regina in 2014.
- The Vice-President of the India Canada Association
- Worked very closely with Regina Multicultural Council, Multilingual Association of Regina, Saskatchewan Organization for Heritage languages.
- An ambassador at the India Canada Association of Regina for Mosaic
- Worked as City of Regina's United Way representative of their biggest division - City Operations (previously Public Works).
- Volunteered at City of Regina 'Festival of Lights' to mark the arrival of Xmas season, including coordinating the famous wagon ride and Santa parade.
- Volunteered at the "I love Regina Day' event

Name of Nominee: **Julio Torres-Recinos**

Candidate For: **Member-At-Large**.

Residence: Saskatoon

**EXPERIENCES AND ACHIEVEMENTS:**

Julio is a Professor of Spanish and literature at the University of Saskatchewan. I completed a B.A. at York University, and an M.A. and a Ph.D. at the University of Toronto. He has lived in Saskatoon since 1999 with his son Manrique.

He has been involved with several city, provincial and national multicultural organizations for many years and in different capacities:

- Hispanic Circle of Saskatoon (vice-president 1999-00; president 2000-04)

- The Saskatoon Spanish School (coordinator and principal, 2000-02)
- Saskatchewan Intercultural Association (board 1999-03; treasurer 2003-06)
- Folkfest Hispanic Pavilion (executive member 1999-05)
- Folkfest Saskatoon Inc. (board member 2005-08; vice-president 2007, 2012; president 2008-10). Highlights include the reinstatement of our Gala Preview and the creation of the Global Village Pavilion
- Director of MCoS (2005-08) and vice-president (2008-10). Participated actively through critical moments, such as the drafting of new governance principles.
- Canadian Association of Hispanists involved for many years, treasurer (2005-07)
- Cultural Celebration of the Spanish Language, a literary and scholar festival that takes place in Toronto every year and where I have given poetry readings

He is an active participant who attends meetings regularly and works hard both as a board member and as a leader on behalf on the organizations and their stakeholders.

As a poet and short story writer, as well as a cultural promoter of Hispanic literature in Canada, Julio has published several books of poetry in Canada and Europe, and one of short stories that was published in Spain. He has co-edited three anthologies of Hispanic Canadian literature and have given many poetry recitals since 1990 in many Canadian provinces, including Saskatchewan, as well as other countries such as Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Spain and Germany. He gave a poetry recital accompanied by guitarist Rodolfo Pino at the Fourth Discovery Festival, organized by the Francophone theatre group La Troupe du Jour in Saskatoon on March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

Name of Nominee: **Meka Okochi**

Candidate For: **Member-At-Large**. Incumbent.

Residence: Regina

**EXPERIENCES AND ACHIEVEMENTS:**

Meka is a professional engineer with work experience in business development, project management and technology research and innovation in the energy and urban infrastructure sectors. He is currently the Strategic Portfolio Manager at the Co-op Refinery Complex in Regina. Before that, he was Vice President, Business Development for Prairie Biogas Limited; Vice President, Economic Development for the Regina Regional Opportunities Commission; and Vice-President, Innovation and Business Development for Communities of Tomorrow. He has also been Leader, Business Development for SaskEnergy.

Meka has studied and lived around the world in countries spanning Africa, Asia, Europe, Australia and North America. He holds a Master's degree with Distinction in Environmentally Sustainable Process Technology from Chalmers University of Technology in Sweden, and a Ph.D. in Environmental Systems Engineering from the University of Regina. Meka has been named by CBC Saskatchewan as one of the top 40 under the age of 40 shaping the future of Saskatchewan.

Recently, Meka has served:

- Working with various African Canadian organizations in developing an enduring organization that helps build empowerment and a broad range of capacities within the African Canadian Community. The result is the newly incorporated African Canadian Resource Network Saskatchewan Inc., which he currently chairs.
- Co-founding of the Nigeria Canada Forum,
- On the boards of the

- Multicultural Council of Saskatchewan,
- Saskatchewan Economic Development Association,
- Igbo Cultural Association of Saskatchewan and
- AfricaNext Project Inc.

Name of Nominee: **Xiao Feng Zhang**

Candidate For: **Member-At-Large**. Incumbent.

Residence: Prince Albert

**EXPERIENCES AND ACHIEVEMENTS:**

Xiao Feng graduated from the Beifang University of Nationalities in 2004 with her Teaching Certificate and Bachelor of Arts, majoring in English Language Literature. She worked as an English teacher in 2005 in her home country, China. She also received a Governor General's Academic Medal from Saskatchewan Polytechnic ABE program. She is now an Engineering student at the University of Saskatchewan.

She has worked as the Assistant Executive Director at Prince Albert Multicultural Council (PAMC) giving her extensive experience assisting new immigrants to Canada and planning and organizing events, such as Tapestrama cultural festival and Canada Day Celebration in Prince Albert.

Xiao Feng values sharing and community involvement. She volunteers as:

- A board member of PAMC.
- Chinese teacher for Mini Language Lessons organized by SOHL (Saskatchewan Organization of Heritage Languages). She also promoted multicultural values and the benefits of cultural diversity.
- An active member of the local (Prince Albert and area) Chinese community, and cooperates with other organizations to enhance community services, interpretation, translation, counselling, cultural integration, and other needs.
- Prince Albert Tutor Learner Connections program
- Canadian Diabetes Association
- Prince Albert Catholic Family Service logo and website