



Multicultural
Council of
Saskatchewan

From Many Peoples Strength



2021 Board of Director Nominee Biographies & Videos

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Treasurer (2-year term)

Available positions: 1

Received nominations: 1

Name of Nominee: **Margot Hurlbert**

Candidate For: **Treasurer (2-year term)**

Residence: Regina

Prof. Margot Hurlbert, is a Canada Research Chair, Tier 1 - Climate Change, Energy, and Sustainability Policy, of Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy

After practicing law (1986-1998) in Regina, SK, Margot accepted a tenure track job at the University of Regina jointly appointed to Justice Studies and Sociology and Social Studies. In 2015 she accepted an appointment with Johnson-Shoyama and was awarded a Canada Research Chair in 2018.

Margot has a B. Admin. (Great Distinction) from the University of Regina (1985), an LL.B. (Osgoode) (1987), an LL.M. (Osgoode) (2005) in Constitutional Law with a focus on energy, natural resource, Indigenous and environmental issues, and a Ph.D. (University of Amsterdam) in Social and Behaviour Sciences with a thesis “Adaptive Governance of Disaster: Drought and Flood in Rural Areas” published by Springer.

Margot has authored and co-authored many journal articles, papers and presentations on rights to water, sanitation, and hygiene in a global context, diverse community energy futures, energy justice, gender and climate change, the gendered adaptation of Eritrean dryland farmers, resilience in Bangladesh, and Indigenous energy justice. Her research interests focus on energy, climate change, agriculture, and water and marginalized people. Margot focuses, particularly on sustainability and governance.

She is particularly interested in governance and social change - how individuals/actors negotiate formal and informal institutions, making decisions reinforcing enduring structures of society (path dependent technological, economic, social structures etc.), or creating new ones through an agency, social processes, and policy instruments.

This interest has resulted in her work in energy transitions (changes in energy production as well as public perceptions surrounding energy technology informed by risk perceptions and framing of discourse), adaptation to climate change (agricultural producers and their communities changing their practices, or adapting to extreme weather events). Her goal is to determine the participatory governance mechanisms and imaginaries that help us achieve our Paris goals - net zero carbon emissions by 2050.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

- Board member, Multicultural Council of Saskatchewan 2020-
- Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce, Water Council Member 2017-

- Treasurer, and Past-President of SCEP, a non-profit organization providing social, communication and education services to children under 6 who have developmental delays such as autism, ADHD, Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, etc. (1997-)
- Treasurer and Board Member of the Saskatchewan Legal Education Society, (1998 - 2003)
- President (1996-1997), Treasurer (1995-1996) and Board Member, 1997 Trade Show Chair, of the Regina Women's Network

To watch Margot's nomination video, [click here.](#)

Secretary (2-year term)

Available positions: 1

Received nominations: 1

Name of Nominee: **Ayesha Baig**

Candidate For: **Secretary (2-year term)**

Residence: Saskatoon

Ayesha Baig has been on the 2020 Multicultural Council of Saskatchewan board as Secretary and looks forward to continuing on the board for another term.

She feels she can contribute to MCoS with my experience of a career spent under the direction of boards and as a board member. In 2009, She was one of two people who set up the Newcomer Information Centre in Saskatoon, a brand-new initiative at the time. This meant planning its physical presence, setting it up, hiring staff, developing policy and a strategic plan.

After retiring from full-time work, she was contracted to coordinate a multicultural event known as Prairie Prism where over 20 Indigenous and ethnocultural groups participate. This event takes place every second year and has it coordinated since 2016. Unfortunately, during 2020 and 2021 it has been cancelled due to the pandemic.

She was a board member with the Saskatchewan Intercultural Association for four years and a member of the Saskatoon Anti-Racism Network since its inception and has attended many of the workshops offered by them. She worked for and had leadership roles with the Saskatchewan Brain Injury Association, Big Brothers of Saskatoon, CNIB and the Newcomer Information Centre. During her retirement, she indulges her interest as a writer and poet, with the draft of a novel and many poems completed.

She was born in India to a diplomatic family. Her early years were spent in India, Indonesia, the Philippines and Iran. Her schooling took place in India, Switzerland and the U.K.

She feels she has a lot to offer the Multicultural Council of Saskatchewan based on her personal interest and professional experience.

To watch Ayesha's nomination video, [click here.](#)

Director-at-Large (2-year term)

Available positions: 3

Received nominations: 4

Name of Nominee: **Susan Cambridge**

Candidate For: **Member at large (2-year term)**

Residence: Lloydminster

Susan Cambridge was born in Trinidad and Tobago and likes to be called a Caribbean girl. She is an entrepreneur, volunteer, and business owner.

She migrated to Canada in 2012 and has since made Lloydminster her home. Susan and her girls became Canadian Citizens in 2017. She is happily married and lives with her husband Dan, her three daughters and her step-daughter. A healthy family lifestyle is important to Susan as she thrives for balance whilst at work, volunteering, making a happy home, networking and keeping the sparks in her marriage.

Prior to arriving in Canada Susan's professional experience spans 10 years in the airline industry, over 15 in broadcasting, 5 in advertising, 14 as a Certified Event Manager, and 5 as manager of her own production company. Susan holds an LCCI diploma in Public Relations and Marketing. Susan's interest in the media led her to be passionate about women's social issues related to balancing professional development and family life and its impact on diverse cultures. Susan was the creator and producer of a TV program called "Family business is everyone's business".

In Lloydminster, Susan took the challenge of adjusting and seeking employment opportunities at Servus Credit Union, the then Source Newspaper, the Chamber of Commerce, and became a licensed Insurance Broker with Western Financial Group. Susan is the Business Owner/CEO of CAS Events Consultancy Ltd. Creative and Savvy is her motto offering event planning, consulting and hosting services.

Susan values personal development and making a difference for immigrants in Lloydminster. She volunteers at Catholic Services on the event planning committee, serving as MC, and offered tips to families for fun ways to study for the citizenship exam. She provides encouragement and hope as an English tutor at the Learning Resource Council sharing her experiences with newcomers. She is a committee member on the advisory council of the Lloydminster Immigration Partnership. She has networked with Africa Centre, Edmonton, and is currently a Board member on MCoS.

Multiculturalism, socializing in cultural events, being creative, and fashion are just a few things that Susan is passionate about so, she is now the founder and President of the International Festivals Lloydminster Society. "Lloydfest2019" was her new project under this non-profit umbrella and the 2-day event was held with resounding success, the first of its kind in the area. This huge undertaking seeks to showcase Lloydminster's richly diverse heritage through art, craft, food, poetry, music, traditional wear, cultural and local talent. Reviews in the Meridian Source newspaper read "Lloydfest bursts into colour" with over 15 different cultures. It was very

well attended by the members of the community giving high ratings with an encore for expectations of 2020. She has won two community awards for her efforts. She held a successful Lloydfest2020 amidst COVID-19, and now planning Lloydfest2021. Susan believes that Lloydminster is rich in diversity but inclusion through events like Lloydfest takes the richness to another level.

To watch Susan's nomination video, [click here](#).

Name of Nominee: **Manjula Nanjappa**

Candidate For: **Member at large (2-year term)**

Residence: Regina

Life is full of diversity and one can't step out their door without being affected by it. Everyone has their own history, their own traditions and understanding of the world around them. The bigger cities that I was born and raised taught me to embrace and be one amongst the multi ethnicity-based people and being graciously being accepted. Moving to comparatively smaller city like Regina, it further grew me up in as a place of sameness.

For the past 6 years in Regina, she served several cultural organizations like ICA, and on boards for smaller Indian communities. She served Sophia House, mentoring woman grooming and preparing them for industries. Volunteered often in Street Culture Project, that gives a shelter to drug addict kids & youth. This organization's motive is taking this youth who have lost their path to a beautiful life, take them through a chrysalis's phase, transform them, help them rediscover themselves, integrate them back into normal society. Served at Soul Harbor cook & feed the homeless.

Serving these diverse organizations helped her discover a new meaning to humanity, culture, and values of life. That opened up the doors of her heart. She wanted to find a bigger forum to contribute to the larger community. Which is why she has gravitated towards being part of MCoS team.

MCoS has made a commendable difference to our society, larger communities in addition to fostering the multiculturalism and advancing it to the province level. A strong advocate of anti-racism, which is one of the tough battles of our current society, MCoS has been creating this awareness and raising the consciousness, knowledge, skills. By partnering with many government and non-government organization, it has been mutually helping and has succeeded in contributing to larger communities. Their success stories, continuous impact to our society has been the most intriguing part for me.

Manjula life's mission is to support the underrepresented & visible minority populations, increase their participation in multi-faceted stages of life, and create avenues of leadership that will increase their representation among our society and at a provincial level. It would be an opportunity of her life to serve MCoS and to be part of this amazing team. She trusts that together they can make bigger strides, continue to create a history that would be remembered for generations to come.

Engineer by profession, artist by passion. Walked 20 years of corporate journey that made her travel around the world. Never let her passions die despite moving countries, provinces & cities. She adds several flavours to her life such as dancing, modelling and acting. Moved to Canada 11 years ago, initially in Calgary. As she continued to feel the warmth of people, her humble approach, simplicity - she found her forever home.

If she is considered for this opportunity, with all her honesty and fairness, she would respect the mission, aims, strategies of MCoS and also be mindful of the governance model, policies that are put in place, the boundaries, constraints that are defined as part of this organization. Also ensure to follow the rules, policies that are laid out to run the programs to harness the values of MCoS. With all her commitment, devotion, she would put everything into it, make a difference to her role as a Director being part of the board member.

To watch Manjula's nomination video, [click here.](#)

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

Candidate For: **Member at large (2-year term)**

Residence: Saskatoon

Dr. Julio Torres-Recinos has been involved with several city, provincial and national multicultural organizations for many years in different capacities. When he moved from Guelph, ON, to Saskatoon in 1999, he immediately got involved with the Hispanic Circle of Saskatoon (vice-president 1999-2000; president 2000-04), the Saskatoon Spanish School (coordinator and principal, 2000-02), and the Saskatchewan Intercultural Association (board member 1999-2003; treasurer 2003-06). He has also been involved with the Folkfest Hispanic Pavilion (executive member 1999-2005) and worked with Folkfest Saskatoon Inc., its parent institution, for many years (board member 2005-08; vice-president 2007, 2012; president 2008-10). He was a Regional Director of MCoS for several years (2005-08) and vice-president (2008-10).

Presently, he is finishing a two-year term as a Board Member at MCoS. He has worked hard both as a board member and as a leader on behalf of the organizations and their stakeholders. He attends meetings regularly and participates actively, include through several critical moments, such as the drafting of new governance principles, a key condition from SaskCulture to maintain its funding, among others.

At the national level, he was the treasurer of the Canadian Association of Hispanists (2005-07) and has been involved with the organization for many years. He is involved with the Cultural Celebration of the Spanish Language, a literary and scholar festival that takes place in Toronto every year; he has given poetry readings.

Julio is a poet and short-story writer, as well as a cultural promoter of Hispanic literature in Canada. He has published several books of poetry in Canada, El Salvador and, and one short story in Spain. He has co-edited three anthologies of Hispanic Canadian literature and has 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 is a Professor of Spanish and literature at the University of Saskatchewan. He completed a B.A. at York University, and an M.A. and a Ph.D. at the University of Toronto. He lives in Saskatoon with his son Manrique.

To watch Julio's nomination video, [click here](#).

Name of Nominee: **Jessica Walcott**

Candidate For: **Member at large (2-year term)**

Residence: Regina

At the local level Jessica Walcott supports local businesses, artists and performers by attending Mosaic yearly. She participated in and support the Bajan Caribbean Association by attending their annual independence events. Furthermore, she supported the BLM (Black Lives Matter) movement by attending their rally outside the legislative building in 2020.

She creates an annual mural for her school to further acknowledge, celebrate and teach students and faculty about black history and the important contributions of black Canadians to Canadian society. She also participated as a panel member in a discussion hosted by Black In Sask that highlighted current Black educators who have taught K-12 in the SK education system.

Her experience, skills and background would contribute to MCoS' vision and mission as she is a:

- Skilled presenter: presented information, speeches, performances, facilitated workshops.
- Skilled researcher: finding resources for educational purposes.
- Adept at prioritizing tasks
- She has a background in Canadian/Caribbean cultures
- Believer in the importance of diversity and inclusion as it pertains to all spectrums of society (work, community, economic, etc.)
- a lifetime member of Alpha Omicron Pi sorority that focuses on philanthropic outreach.
- As a teacher, she has worked with a diverse demographic of students including but not limited to First Nations, Filipino, Black, landed immigrants and refugees.
- She has created educational opportunities and resources that showcase and recognize student's cultures through school projects and presentations.
- She appreciates and has worked with students with special needs and disabilities and can appreciate that this area of diversity also deserves recognition.
- She possesses a high level of creativity.
- She can make difficult but timely decisions, taking into consideration all perspectives and options.
- She can collaborate easily with colleagues, co-workers or stakeholders etc.
- She is able to adapt easily to uncertain environments - i.e., online teaching during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Planning/organizing - she consistently plans and organizes multiple educational experiences per day for 27+ students.
- Conflict resolution

- She prides herself on her integrity and dependability in all areas of life.
- She strives to appreciate all the different dimensions of diversity that lead to her intercultural competency.
- She is an effective leader who recognizes the importance of team cohesiveness and the importance of a leader's influence and guidance.

She currently works as a French Immersion teacher for Regina Catholic Schools in Regina, currently teaching grade 6, but has taught high school and primary years. She was born and raised in Ontario and moved to Saskatchewan in 2010 with her younger sister to attend university. She has studied at Carleton University in Ottawa, Laval University in Québec as well as the University of Regina. She currently holds two degrees - a Bachelor of Arts French and a Bachelor of Education (Bac en education secondaire) and has plans to continue her post-secondary education in the next few years. She is currently engaged to be married in August of this year and has a 5-year-old daughter that she adores.

To watch Jessica's nomination video, [click here.](#)

Member at large (1-year term) position

Available positions: 2

Received nominations: 3

Name of Nominee: **Muna De Ciman**

Candidate For: **Member at large (1-year term)**

Residence: Regina

Muna De Ciman's involvement in multicultural activities/organizations at the local level started with being a member of the African Association in Regina. She helped organize Mosaic, Africa Day: which includes a workshop on Africa issues/cultural displays, and education.

At the regional level, she participated in educational sessions with schools on the multicultural week, worked with students in organizing the week that includes, educational, cultural displays, fashion shows and food displays.

On national levels, she thrives and continually gives education to the National Union on the importance of diversity/inclusion within the union/workplaces. She is a member of the Canadian Union of Public Employees' Anti-Racism Community, and the chair of the Saskatchewan Government and General Employees Union Human Rights and Equity Committee. She worked with youth to organize the Black Lives Matter rally in Regina.

Her major contributions/achievements to cultural development that benefits Saskatchewan residents are as follows:

Since her arrival in Regina, she got involved in many multicultural organizations and adopted the two of Multicultural Council of Saskatchewan streams of integration and cultural diversity. She believed that for newcomers/immigrants to fully reach their potentials, and be successful, integration must be the main focus to invest in resources that tailor to the individual needs. She believed that we all have a social responsibility and duty to make sure new immigrants/newcomers are fully integrated in the best possible way that not only benefits the individual families but the largest community as a whole.

Muna received the Bridges Builders leadership Award for Excellence in community service; featured in the CBC article “Everyone can do something: Black on the Prairies celebrating movers and shakers shaping the Region”. She also featured in the QC leader post article, “We all Need an Auntie Muna”. Received the Betty Szuchewycz Award for outstanding contributions in promoting multiculturalism in Saskatchewan.

Her experiences, skills and background contribute to MCoS’ vision and mission, by embracing diversity, social justice, build relationships to establish a broader community network, that is committed to improving the lives and dignity of our multicultural population.

She possesses skills which have helped her in her daily interactions: cross-cultural communications, teamwork, the ability to work in culturally diverse groups towards a common goal, cultural competence, self-awareness and awareness of others, cultural knowledge and skills. She had used and continues to use the skills to help create and engage in positive dialogue and civic action in a diverse, democratic society.

Muna currently works with the youth in custody, providing safety and security, with an intense case management component to reintegrate youth back into their communities.

She has lived in Regina with her family for 26 years. She has a Bachelor’s degree in Social Work, a Master’s degree in Social work, and Certificate in licensed practical nursing.

To watch Muna’s nomination video, [click here](#).

Name of Nominee: **Joel Fitzpatrick**

Candidate For: **Member at large (1-year term)**

Residence: Maple Creek

Growing up, Joel Fitzpatrick participated in many multicultural events coordinated through US Peace Corp in his country of Guyana, since his dad worked as the head security advisor. He learned a lot about leadership roles, planning, organizing and cultural development. He was the Vice President of the international club at the university where he developed organizational skills. The club helped integrate new refugees living in the area and provided information that helps adjust to a new country. He promoted multicultural activities with all the international students, which taught cultural appreciation.

When he moved to Saskatchewan, one of the key things he needed to do was to integrate into his new community and to understand the culture and people. He participated in local events such as the cultural day where different immigrants living in the town were able to showcase

their country and culture, also taste of Maple Creek where the locals and immigrants were able to showcase their countries' foods.

Joel has been living in Maple Creek for 8 years, where he worked 5 years running a local restaurant, where he received the business of the year award. He currently runs his restaurant in Cypress Hills. He was one of the 8 chefs chosen to represent Saskatchewan in the gold plates. He was picked by The Food Network as one of the restaurants to eat in if doing a cross-country trip and was one of the chefs written about in Jen Sharp's book *Flat out foods: a definitive guide to Saskatchewan food artisans*.

Since living in Maple Creek, Joel has befriended many ranchers and farmers in the area, where he helps with their annual branding, cattle drive and harvesting in his spare time. Through this, he has learned some valuable skills, and has a better understanding of how ranchers and farmers live. Another benefit is that he can buy local for his restaurant while promoting local producers.

When it comes to community development, he helped with the annual bottle drive to raise money for the graduating class, community in bloom, and he donated and volunteered in the fundraiser to build a new pool in Maple Creek pool. He is part of the community economic growth initiative, which helps to promote business to move to Maple Creek!

He considers his drive for community development and years of expertise in cultural, multicultural activities, and leadership roles locally, regionally and nationally would be a great asset to MCoS. Also, his connection to the local farmers and ranchers in the area can help bring and promote multicultural, anti-racism, and a better understanding of cultural appreciation to his town and southwest Saskatchewan.

If voted in, he promises to do his best and represent the organization the best he can!

To watch Joel's nomination video, [click here](#).

Name of Nominee: **Tatenda Mhaka**

Candidate For: **Member at large (1-year term)**

Residence: Regina

"What counts in life is not the mere fact that we have lived; it is what difference we have made to the lives of others that will determine the significance of the life we lead." - Nelson Mandela.

With roots originating from Harare Zimbabwe, branches that span the globe and have blossomed in Canada, currently Regina, Saskatchewan, Tatenda is putting forth her nomination to join the Multicultural Council of Saskatchewan (MCOS) Board of Directors in the position of Director-at-large for a one-year term.

The above quote by Nelson Mandela is how Tatenda has governed her life and every step she has taken. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in International Development Studies with a minor in Sociology and a Master's Degree in Intercultural and International Communication. Tatenda is a humanitarian at heart with incurable advocacy for fighting for equity in all spaces and places.

She has been dedicated to the field of international development for some time contributing towards the successful fulfillment of the United Nation’s Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Tatenda Mhaka is currently the Youth Program Coordinator at Saskatchewan Council for International Cooperation (SCIC). It is in this role she has been able to build and create youth empowerment and leadership programs across Saskatchewan including workshops and discussions on global justice issues, equity, diversity and inclusion and anti-racism. Although Tatenda is what some may consider a “new resident “in Saskatchewan, she has immersed herself into the Regina community as best she can as she only arrived five months before the global pandemic hit. She is well acquainted with youth groups and organizations within the province and nationally. She’s developed working relationships with groups such as Black in Saskatchewan, the Regina Open Door Society and the Non-Profit Youth Leadership Network through her work and own personal interests.

Tatenda migrated to Regina from Toronto where she lived in a mosaic of diverse groups and cultures from around the world. She only had to take a step outside of her home to experience the definition of multiculturalism in its totality. Whilst in Toronto she made it a priority to attend cultural festivals such as AfroFest - a celebration of African heritage, traditions and cultures, Caribana- a festival celebration of Caribbean cultures, Pride - a celebration of the diversity of the LBTQ2S+ community, and Taste of the Danforth - a celebration of Greek food and culture; to continue to expand her knowledge and experiences within the tapestry of cultures that form our world. It is with many of these lived and travelled intercultural experiences and connections that she brings to the table to celebrate our diversity, ensure cultural continuity and foster our interconnectedness not only in Saskatchewan but also, across Canada.

Tatenda will bring her passion for youth engagement, equity and inclusivity to the Board of Directors role if selected. To ensure the sustainability of the mission and strategic plans of MCoS, youth need to be brought to the table as they are the voices, the leaders and decision-makers of tomorrow. Tatenda will use her varying professional experiences in the nonprofit sector to ensure the continued growth and success of MCoS where the respect and beauty of multiculturalism across the province are uppermost.

To watch Tatenda’s nomination video, [click here.](#)