



Multicultural
Council of
Saskatchewan

From Many Peoples Strength



2022 Board of Director Nominee Biographies & Videos

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President (2-year term)

Available positions: 1

Received nominations: 1

Name of Nominee: **Cosanna Preston-Iledia**

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

Residence: Regina

Cosanna Preston-Iledia has served on the board of the Multicultural Council of Saskatchewan for five years, first as a director, then as secretary and currently as the VP. During this time, she has focused on enhancing MCoS' engagement in the community, enhancing the ability to measure and evaluate the impact of MCoS' work, and working to ensure MCoS is focused on areas of highest impact to manage its limited resources.

In addition to her work with the Multicultural Council of Saskatchewan, from October 2020 to June 2022, she was the inaugural chair of the Inclusion and Diversity Committee with the Ministry of SaskBuilds and Procurement. There, she led volunteers focused on advancing equity, diversity and inclusion education and awareness for the Ministry.

Cosanna, in her day job, with the Ministry, works in IT (in Regina), where she consistently applies an equity lens to the technical solutions produced. As an example, she led a robust equity-focused stakeholder engagement effort for a very public government IT project. The engagement focused on ensuring the Public government could identify and address barriers (physical, socio-economic and identity-based barriers) that people may face in using digital services.

Both in her professional and personal life, she remains passionate about welcoming and inclusive communities. As such, it has been an honour and a privilege for her to serve on the board for the past five years, and she hopes to continue to do so as your president.

Vice-President (2-year term)

Available positions: 1

Received nominations: 1

Name of Nominee: **Susan Cambridge**

Candidate For: **Vice President (2-year term)**

Residence: Lloydminster

Susan Cambridge migrated to Canada in 2012, is currently a Canadian citizen, and has since made Lloydminster, Alberta her home. Susan is happily married and lives with her husband Dan, her three daughters. Susan believes our stories don't just mold us but by sharing can help others on their journey of life. It can be quite overwhelming when it comes to the challenges of migration, adjusting and looking for that sense of belonging.

Susan has been a Board Member of the Multicultural Council of Saskatchewan since 2019 and continues to volunteer in her community by creating and supporting multicultural events, foster harmony, mutual respect and champion anti-racism awareness programs or campaigns. She is a member of the Advisory Committee of the Lloydminster Immigration Partnership, as well as a member of the NLS Anti-Racist Recovery Project.

Professionally Susan's background includes a Broadcasting, Media Production, Event Management, Public Relations, Marketing and Advertising.

As an MCoS board member Susan shares the core values, mission and vision and promotes successes strategies that MCoS has implemented in building a stronger and more inclusive community. Susan acknowledges that as an immigrant herself, she understands the need for reciprocity as it refers to appreciating, sharing and respecting other multicultural groups. We should all have as reason to care and that's my "why" for doing what as volunteer board member of the Multicultural Council of Saskatchewan.

Director-at-Large (2-year term)

Available positions: 3

Received nominations: 3

Name of Nominee: Lisa Washington

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

Residence: Yorkton

Lisa Washington has lived in the three western provinces throughout her life. Born, raised and educated in Calgary, she obtained a diploma at Mount Royal College and BSc from the University of Calgary. After several years working in Calgary, she headed for a more rural life, to northern BC to work in the non-profit, mental health sector. She met her husband and they relocated to Saskatchewan shortly after their first son was born. They currently live, work and play in Yorkton, where she has strong familial roots in the Good Spirit area of the Parkland area.

Lisa has worked with the City of Yorkton for over 10 years, most recently in the role of Manager of Community, Culture and Heritage in the Recreation and Community Services Department. Through her municipal work, she was honoured to be involved with the Jordan Municipal Support Project (JMSP) through the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM). The JMSP supports municipal governments in Jordan to deliver improved and inclusive municipal services with a focus on local governance capacity and solid waste management. At its core, JMSP also promotes social inclusion and community engagement, which are key values for Lisa and her department. She is responsible for working with volunteer organizations in the community which includes ensuring as many residents have a voice in updating the Community Cultural Plan. She is also working with Senior Administration and elected Officials to develop a Truth and Reconciliation Framework and Implementation Strategy for the municipality, in collaboration with the Yorkton Tribal Council and Reconciliation Yorkton. She believes that community-based organizations and the municipality benefit from and require diverse input and points of view to be truly reflective of the community they serve.

Lisa believes in supporting Yorkton, and the province, in becoming a more welcoming and inclusive community through her volunteer activities. With more people moving to Saskatchewan, she understands and values the importance of multiculturalism in the rural areas and believes partnerships at the regional and local levels is integral to creating a home for everyone in our province. She regularly supports MCoS anti-racism forums with partner organizations in the Parkland District and assisted in the rapid development of a Youth Leadership Workshop in Fort Qu'appelle. She is an active participant with Reconciliation Yorkton and is a founding, and current, Board member of the East Central Newcomer Welcome Centre, which offers settlement service in the Parkland area. She supported and is involved with the recent development of the East Central Local Immigration Partnership. Prior to COVID 19, she participated in the Festival of Cultures, and was part of the Canadian booth, celebrating and promoting multiculturalism.

Lisa understands the power and importance of partnerships locally, regionally, and provincially, and believes a strong, wide network of contacts promotes and effects change at different levels of various systems. She is an active board member with Parkland Valley Sport, Culture and Recreation District, with over eight years' experience, where she has been involved with the Audit, Nominations and Governance Committees. She is currently going on her fourth year as a board member and Chair of the Grants Committee with the Yorkton and District Community Foundation. She has decades of experience with policy-governance as both the Executive Director and Board member of an organization. Her experience at the community level helps create diverse and far-reaching connections within the rural areas of East Central Saskatchewan.

Name of Nominee: Nadeem M Naz

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

Residence: Regina

Saskatchewan has been Nadeem's second home for the last 30 years. Nadeem came to Regina from Karachi, Pakistan after college and worked in the film and music industry for more than 15 years. At the same time, he studied classical music and Tabla hand drums.

Nadeem has been involved in many multicultural groups and music festivals in the past. He produced and presented an Urdu language radio program on CJTR, Regina community radio, for more than 14 years. It was a great way to make lots of friends in Regina and the other cities in our province.

Nadeem loves to bring people from all backgrounds and cultures together to learn from them and share his heritage and community. Nadeem hopes that he can open ways for newcomers to be a part of the big community of Saskatchewan and learn about their new home.

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

Name of Nominee: David Camarador

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

Residence: Saskatoon

David Camarador moved to Swift Current, Saskatchewan at 6 from the Philippines. He lived there until he was eighteen, where he moved to Saskatoon and has since been studying at the University of Saskatchewan for his Bachelor of Commerce. Throughout his academic and professional career, he has attended international conferences, taken a variety of leadership roles, and pivoted his career to focus on diversity, equity, and inclusion.

David has traveled to Finland and Austria where he has participated in rigorous debate on topics such as gender equity, social programs, and economic development. He has spoken to hundreds of youth, convincing them to focus on including minorities in large-scale decisions. For example, he gave a speech on why collaboration between those often left out on decisions (marginal communities) are pivotal in making change. As well as why ethnic background is a variable in income disparities. His speeches were fundamental in passing proposals forwarded to

institutions like the European Parliament. He has always advocated for those in need, and will continue to leverage his education to do so.

Specifically in Saskatchewan, David has made contributions for the 2SLGBTQ+ by being a Chair for the Swift Current Comprehensive High School Student Government. He championed equal rights amongst all peoples. This has led him to take a new position as Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion at the Edwards School of Business Students' Society. He will assist in the initiatives to bring the student body closer together in this brand new portfolio. In addition, he has also been a facilitator at the Multicultural Council of Saskatchewan for a forum on creating inclusive communities. He shared his experiences as a gay and Filipino youth in south-west Saskatchewan. He proposed both incremental and large changes such as how teachers can create welcoming environments, as well as education curriculum reform. He even was interviewed for a focus on culture inclusivity at museums.

If elected, David believes his experiences will benefit the streams of multicultural work that MCoS has set. Specifically, integration is a key focus where he wants everyone in Saskatchewan to show up as their authentic selves. As well as celebrating diversity for the differences that everyone brings to all levels.

Name of Nominee: Saqib Khan

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

Residence: Regina

Saqib Khan is an Associate Dean, and Associate Professor of Finance in the Faculty of Business Administration, University of Regina. He obtained a PhD degree in Finance from the prestigious Ivey Business School at Western University in London, Ontario. He also holds an MBA and an MSc in Engineering.

In the past, Saqib has served as the secretary of the board of Pakistan Canada Cultural Association, and also secretary of the board of Islamic Association of Saskatchewan, Regina. In these roles, Saqib got an opportunity to serve the Pakistani and the Muslim community of Regina, understand the issues facing them, and build connections with the broader Regina community.

As an immigrant belonging to a visible minority group, Saqib dearly values multiculturalism and is passionate about Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI). He has attended several seminars/lectures related to EDI, and strives to adopt best EDI practices in his professional role.

Saqib is enthusiastic about utilizing his knowledge and experience of nonprofit board governance, and his passion for multiculturalism and EDI to contribute towards the MCoS mission of promoting multiculturalism and achieving equality of all Saskatchewan residents. Given his association with the higher education sector, one objective of MCoS that Saqib can directly contribute is helping newcomers in the integration process through education. In his professional career, Saqib has developed strong linkages with business community in Regina. He could leverage those relationships to further the mission of MCoS.

Member at large (1-year term) position

Available positions: 1

Received nominations: 1

Name of Nominee: Michael Afenia

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

Residence: Saskatoon

Michael Afenia is the Cultural Bridging Facilitator with the Saskatoon Open Door Society. His background is in Law and Business Administration. Michael is desirous of serving on the Board of the Multicultural Council of Saskatchewan (MCoS) based on his values, experiences, skills, and confidence that aligns with the vision and mission of MCoS.

To date, Michael's experience involves collaborating with various community associations, leading and conducting projects, and programs and activities that ensure continuous and significant improvement in the knowledge and awareness of diversity, representation and multiculturalism. His contributions and achievements in area of multiculturalism so far include board membership in the CFCR Community Radio station, where he hosts a weekly program called The Global Voice. He also serves on the boards of the Heritage Festival of Saskatoon, Word on the Streets Literary Festival and The Biomedical Research Ethics Board of the University of Saskatoon.

In his current role, he has been involved in creating and supporting programs that promoted newcomer settlement and connected them to indigenous and non--indigenous members of the community. Programs like Affinity Dialogue, Indigenous Studies Circle, Heart to Heart with the Police, Threads: Cultural Conversations and the regular Cultural Bridging Presentations that he facilitates have been very successful in this regard.

In addition to his professional career, he is also a writer with published articles and five novels, some of which have contributed to conversations around race relations, multiculturalism, and equity for the BIPOC population. Michael, as a public speaker has spoken to large crowds and smaller groups alike, including keynote presentations during Black History Month and Indigenous sharing circles. More importantly, he has lived experience as an immigrant and a person of colour that has thrived in Canada.