



Cindy Blackstock, M.M., PhD (candidate) is Executive Director of the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada (www.fncaringsociety.com).

A member of the Gitksan Nation, she has worked in the field of child and family services for over 20 years. Key interests include exploring the over-representation of Aboriginal children in child welfare care, structural drivers of child maltreatment in First Nations communities, human rights, and the role of the voluntary sector in expanding the range of culturally and community-based responses to child maltreatment.

Ms. Blackstock's current professional interests include serving as co-convener of the Indigenous Working Group for the United Nations NGO Working Group on the Rights of the Child, as co-director of the Centre of Excellence for Child Welfare, and as a board member of the National Aboriginal Youth Organization.



Michael Creek is currently the coordinator of the Toronto Speakers Bureau, Voices from the Street, where he learned research, public policy and public speaking. He is one of three Ontario directors on the board of the National Anti-Poverty Organization (NAPO), and he is also a board member of the Gerstein Crisis Centre.

Mr. Creek is a survivor. He is a psychiatric consumer/survivor and he has overcome cancer, physical and mental abuse, homelessness, and poverty. He has witnessed first-hand how poverty oppresses people and communities. Describing it as an “unwanted companion,” Michael says poverty has caused him more physical and emotional pain than any other illness he has suffered. He advocates by speaking out about the disastrous consequences of poverty on the health and well-being of those in his community.



Françoise David is the co-spokesperson for *Québec solidaire*, a new green, feminist and social justice political party in Quebec. She was a candidate in the general elections of March 2007, winning a quarter of the votes in her riding. She will run again as a QS candidate in the next provincial elections.

Ms. David has a Bachelors degree in social services with a major in community organization from the Université de Montréal. During the 1970s and 1980s, she worked as a community organizer at the *Agence de service social du quartier Centre-Sud* in Montreal, and as coordinator at the *Regroupement (l’R) des centres de femmes du Québec*.

In 1994, she became President of the *Fédération des femmes du Québec*. In that capacity, she launched the *Marche des femmes contre la pauvreté*, organised the *24 heures des femmes* (24 hours during which women surrounded the National Assembly), took part in the Quebec Summit on Economy and Employment, and worked actively in the organization of The World March of Women in 2000.

Ms. David has been involved in several grassroots and community organizations, as well as in the CSN: she traveled to Nicaragua in connection with solidarity projects; she was an observer in a non-governmental mission in Iraq; she made three trips to Mali with the SUCO (Solidarity, Union, Cooperation) organization; and she participated in the World Social Forum in India.

In 2003, Ms. David was one of the spokespersons of the collective *D’abord solidaires*, which focused on reflection, education and non-partisan action, and in 2004, she became the spokesperson for *Option citoyenne*, a feminist left wing political movement.

Françoise David was named *chevalière* (commander) of the *Ordre national du Québec* in 2000, and in 2002, she received the “Persons Award,” granted by the Governor General of Canada for outstanding contributions to reaching equality between women and men.



Tim Draimin is the Executive Director of Social Innovation Generation (SiG). A partnership between The J.W. McConnell Family Foundation, Toronto's MaRS Discovery District, the University of Waterloo and Vancouver's PLAN Institute, SiG unleashes the creativity of social innovators to tackle the profound social and environmental challenges facing Canadians. Tim was the founding CEO of the Tides Canada Foundation and Sage Centre and continues with Tides Canada as a Senior Fellow.

He has over 30 years experience in the charitable and non-profit sector in both Canada and abroad, including: the Canadian Council for International Co-operation, CUSO, and the Jesuit Centre for Social Faith and Justice.

Mr. Draimin has also served as a consultant on such issues as non-profit management, resource diversification, and non-profit/private sector partnerships for domestic and international clients including the Canadian Public Health Association, the Ford Foundation, Synergos Institute, International Development Research Centre, and the Steelworkers Humanity Fund.

He is coordinating a collaborative initiative, Causeway Social Finance, among several foundations, Carleton University, SiG, and the Canadian Co-operative Association on "social finance," which aims to accelerate the expansion of social finance capital for public interest initiatives and organizations. Mr. Draimin also sits on the Advisory Board of the International Studies Program at the University of Toronto.



Dr. Roger Gibbins is President and CEO of the Canada West Foundation. Prior to assuming leadership of the Foundation in 1998, Dr. Gibbins was a professor of political science at the University of Calgary. He began his academic career there in 1973 and served as head of the department from 1987 to 1996. His association with the University of Calgary continues through an ongoing appointment as a Faculty Professor of Political Science.

Dr. Gibbins has authored, co-authored or edited 21 books and more than 100 articles and book chapters, most dealing with western Canadian themes and issues. In 1998, he was elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, and he served as President of the Canadian Political Science Association from 1999 to 2000.

Mr. Gibbins was born in Prince George, British Columbia. He received his undergraduate degree from the University of British Columbia and his doctorate in political science from Stanford University in California. In 2007, Dr. Gibbins received the Alberta Lieutenant Governor's Award for Excellence in Public Administration from the Institute of Public Administration of Canada.



Charles Karelis received his doctorate in philosophy from Oxford University. He taught philosophy at Williams College in Massachusetts for 13 years, and he spent 14 years as the Director of the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education, a program within the U.S. Department of Education.

After serving as President of Colgate University in New York State, Dr. Karelis joined the faculty of George Washington University, in Washington, DC, where he is currently a research professor. He is married and has two sons.

(Artist Dennis Fritz, Courtesy of Portraits, Inc)



Mark Kelley is currently a correspondent for CBC News: The National. He joined the CBC in 1990, and from 1992 to 1995, he was the National Assembly correspondent for Newswatch, the Montreal supper-hour program. He joined The National in 1995, where he served as the Montreal correspondent and covered such stories as the Great Ice Storm of 1998.

Kelley co-anchored CBC News: Morning from 1998 until 2002, and in 2002, he joined the investigative journalism program CBC News: Disclosure, where he served as a co-host until 2004. During the Canadian federal election in 2004, he spent five weeks on the road in CBC's election bus crossing the country to cover stories unfolding behind the campaign.

In 2008, Kelley won a Gemini Award for Best News Magazine Segment for his story about the immigration and integration of Muslims in Europe. He has also won two other Gemini Awards for Best Host or Interviewer in a news information program – one for his work covering the September 11th attacks and one for his reportage on Disclosure – and he was part of a team that won an award from the Canadian Association of Journalists for the best news story of the year for a Disclosure report on body checking in minor hockey.

Kelley graduated from Concordia University in Montreal, where he studied journalism.



Ruth MacDonald is the proud mother of three sons aged 5, 8, and 20. She is also very proud to be a board member of the National Anti-Poverty Organization representing Newfoundland and Labrador.

Raised in a middle-class family, Ruth worked for 10 years as a sales associate with national and provincial jewellery outlets. Then her life took some unwelcome turns. She suffered serious health problems and after ending an abusive relationship, she and her sons had to rely on social assistance and low-income housing for several years. Rather than give up, she enrolled in courses to help gain employment and she developed support networks to encourage goal-setting, informed decision-making, and improve her self-esteem.

In 2005, she found employment as a Research Assistant in the School of Social Work at Memorial University, working on a five-year project known as Lone Mothers Building Social Inclusion. Done in conjunction with Wilfred Laurier University, the project explored the impact of welfare and labour market changes on the lives of lone mothers in Vancouver, Toronto and St. John's, and developed more effective policy and service interventions. In addition to conducting interviews with lone mothers in the community, Ruth helped develop presentations on the research project, and she has made presentations at the Provincial Social Work Association Conference and the Social Work National Conference.

In 2007, Ruth joined Vibrant Communities St. John's, working as the Neighbourhood and Citizen Voice Engagement Facilitator. This collaborative initiative involves community partners from all sectors committed to poverty reduction. Her main responsibilities involve networking to build spirit, capacity, and engagement for collaborative action, especially in those neighbourhoods without established community centers; and to facilitate the Citizen's Voice Forum, which brings together people living with low incomes for learning, sharing and opportunities to impact policy and decision-making.



Alain Noël is a professor of political science at the Université de Montréal. He works on social policy in a comparative and international perspective, as well as on federalism and on Quebec and Canadian politics. His articles have appeared in various journals, including the *American Political Science Review*, the *Canadian Journal of Political Science*, *Canadian Public Policy*, *Comparative Political Studies*, the *Critical Review of International Social and Political Philosophy*, *Global Social Policy*, *International Organization*, and the *Revue française des affaires sociales*.

His latest book, *Left and Right in Global Politics*, co-authored with Jean-Philippe Thérien, was published in June 2008 by Cambridge University Press. He also edited *Labour Market Policy and Federalism: Comparing Different Governance and Employment Strategies* (Montreal and Kingston, McGill-Queen's University Press, 2004), and *Forging a Canadian Social Union: SUFA and Beyond* (with Sarah Fortin and France St-Hilaire; Montreal and Kingston, McGill-Queen's University Press, 2003).

Alain Noël is currently president of the Centre d'étude sur la pauvreté et l'exclusion of the Quebec government and vice-president of the Fonds québécois de recherche sur la société et la culture. Previously, he was a member of Quebec's Commission on Fiscal Imbalance, and a visiting professor at the Institut d'études politiques de Grenoble, at the Institut d'études politiques de Lyon, and at the School of Social Welfare of the University of California at Berkeley.

He regularly comments on current political events in the media, and he writes a monthly column in *Policy Options*, the magazine of the Institute for Research on Public Policy.



Chandra Pasma is a policy analyst with Citizens for Public Justice (CPJ), a national organization of members inspired by faith to act for justice in Canadian public policy. CPJ encourages citizens, leaders in society and governments to support policies and practices which reflect God's call for love, justice and stewardship.

Chandra earned a Master's in political science from Carleton University and an MA in French from Bowling Green State University. She has extensive experience on Parliament Hill, including policy, legislative and committee work. At the Forum of Federations, she worked with experts on federalism from around the world. Since joining CPJ, she has worked on such diverse issues as poverty and income security, electoral reform, immigration and diversity, and human trafficking. Chandra infuses all her work

with a faith-based commitment to justice.



A graduate of the University of Ottawa, **Hugh Segal** spent several decades in both the private and public sectors before being appointed to the Canadian Senate in 2005.

His experience in the public sector spanned the Cabinet Office at Queen's Park to the Prime Minister's Office in Ottawa. In the private sector, he worked in the alcohol and food, marketing and advertising, and financial service sectors. He is a former President of the Institute for Research on Public Policy, and he remains a Senior Fellow and teacher at Queen's University. He also sits on various corporate and public boards, as well as serving on not-for-profit and charitable organizations.

Since being appointed to the Senate, he has served on Senate committees for Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Agriculture and Forestry, and Aboriginal Affairs, and on the Special Committee on Anti-Terrorism. In 2003, he was named to the Order of Canada; in 2004, he received an honorary doctorate from the Royal Military College; and in 2005, he was appointed an Honorary Captain of the Canadian Navy. He has authored numerous books and articles on public policy and on the Conservative party, and prior to his Senate appointment, he was a regular commentator on the CTV, PBS and CBC television networks.

He makes his home in Kingston with his wife Donna Armstrong. They have one daughter, Jacqueline.

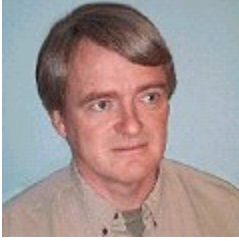


Uzma Shakir is a community-based researcher, advocate, and activist. In 2007, she was awarded the Atkinson Economic Justice Fellowship from the Atkinson Charitable Foundation. Ms. Shakir is the former Executive Director of the Council of Agencies Serving South Asians (CASSA) and the South Asian Legal Clinic of Ontario (SALCO). She has also worked as a teacher, journalist and researcher.

Ms. Shakir has a BA in English Literature from Karachi University in Pakistan and a BA in International Relations from Sussex University in England. She received her Masters Degree in International Law and Diplomacy from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University in Massachusetts.

Ms. Shakir's work focuses on issues of race, the erosion of civil liberties, and critical multiculturalism. Her experiences include advocating, organizing, facilitating, writing and speaking on such issues as the racialization of poverty; violence against immigrant and racialized women; youth and civic engagement; hate crimes; racial profiling; access to professions and trades; precarious and contingent work; legal education; rights and obligations; building innovative coalitions with diverse ethno-racial communities; and the production and documentation of alternative practice and knowledge.

Ms. Shakir also serves on a number of boards. She is the Immediate Past President of the Ontario Council of Agencies Serving Immigrants (OCASI), a board member of the HR Council (sector council for the voluntary sector), an Editorial Board Member for the *Non-Profit Quarterly* in Boston, Massachusetts, and a Member of the Attorney General's Hate Crime Community Working Group. In 2003, she received the Jane Jacob's Award.



Dr. Richard Shillington has been engaged in the quantitative analysis of health, social and economic policies for 30 years. His research has covered many fields, including poverty, income security, tax policy, program evaluation, and human rights.

He has worked for NGOs, the private sector, provincial and federal government departments, as well as commissions studying the economy, unemployment insurance, human rights and tax policy. He appears regularly before committees of the House of Commons and the Senate, and he is a commentator on issues of social policy, taxation, and human rights for television, radio and newspapers.

Dr. Shillington has also done international work on social indicators for the Social Policy Development Centre in Pakistan and on monitoring human rights for the South Africa Human Rights Commission. He has post-graduate degrees in statistics from the University of Waterloo.



Shirley Soleil is from the Annapolis Valley, Nova Scotia. She chose her last name because it described her sunny personality and a character as trustworthy as the rising sun.

Shirley was diagnosed with Fibromyalgia while working on her Masters of Education degree. By 2002, when additional diagnoses of Chronic Fatigue Syndrome and Environmental Sensitivities were made, she was forced to leave work.

Realizing that there were others facing these health issues, Shirley established a support group in 1992 which began with six members. Today, it has grown into a national organization – Invisible Disabilities Association of Canada – and includes people suffering from Chronic Fatigue Syndrome, Environmental Sensitivities, and Fibromyalgia. Many people in the organization also suffer from low incomes, disabilities, and a lack of family or community supports.

In 1997, Shirley's efforts were formally recognized when she received the Governor General's Caring Canadian Award. She continues to help others regain control of their lives and fight for their basic human rights, and her articles have been published in *The Nova Scotia Policy Review*.

Shirley is currently setting up a home-based business. It will provide counselling, tutoring, teaching, writing and facilitation services to fulfill her passion for helping people.



Michel Venne is Executive Director and founder of the Institut du Nouveau Monde – a non-partisan organization dedicated to the renewal of ideas and the animation of public debates in Québec (www.inm.qc.ca/index.php). He is also Co-Director of *L'annuaire du Québec*, published by Éditions Fides.

In 2007, the Government of Quebec named him Vice-President of the (Castonguay) Task Force on the Funding of the Health System. From 1990 to 2006, he worked for the Montreal daily, *Le Devoir*, as parliamentary correspondent at the National Assembly, as a news editor, and columnist. The quality of his work was recognized with the Judith-Jasmin Award (print media section) in 1993 and the Michener Award in 1997. He is the author of several works, in particular *Souverainistes, que faire?* and *Les Porteurs de liberté*, and he had edited several collective works including *100 idées citoyennes pour un Québec en santé; Jeunes et engagés; Justice, démocratie et prospérité – L'avenir du modèle québécois;* and *Penser la nation québécoise*.



Cornelia Wieman, MD, FRCPC, is Canada's first female Aboriginal psychiatrist. From 1997 to 2005, she practiced psychiatry at a community mental health clinic based on the Six Nations of the Grand River Territory. She is currently Co-Director of the Indigenous Health Research Development Program and an Assistant Professor in the Dalla Lana School of Public Health at the University of Toronto.

Dr. Wieman is also a co-investigator on several research initiatives funded through the Canadian Institutes of Health Research – Institute of Aboriginal Peoples Health, and she is Co-Director of the National Network for Aboriginal Mental Health Research. In 1998, Dr. Wieman received a National Aboriginal Achievement Award for career achievement in medicine.