



2023

THE SAFETY OF OUR
CITIES CONFERENCE

SPEAKER BIOS



Piita Aapasskaan (Kyle Young Pine), Last Door Recovery Society

Kyle Young Pine, of the Kainai First Nations Blood Tribe, is a recovery coach at Recovery Coaches Alberta, devoted father, and Fancy Feather Dancer who inspires and guides others on their own journey to wholeness.

His remarkable life was the subject of a TELUS originals film and critically acclaimed documentary, "Piita Aapasskaan - The Kyle Young Pine Story".



Inspector Jason Altmiks, Edmonton Police Service

Jason Altmiks is a 24 year member with the Edmonton Police Service. He is presently the Inspector in charge of the Investigation Management and Approval Centre, which includes the Arrest Approval and Detainee Care Section.

Throughout his career, Jason has worked in areas such as patrol, foot patrol, recruit training, general investigations, leadership training, charge approval, and detainee care.

Jason also is the Vice Chair of the Alberta Association of Chief's of Police Detainee Care Committee.



Chief Innovation & Technology Officer Ron Anderson, Edmonton Police Service

Ron Anderson is the Chief Innovation & Technology Officer of the Edmonton Police Service. Ron leads the EPS's Innovation and Information Bureau as it works to leverage technology, innovation, and data to respond to and reduce crime.



Chief Statistician Anil Arora, Statistics Canada

Anil Arora is the Chief Statistician of Canada since September 2016. He has led significant transformational initiatives throughout his career, with experience and partnerships spanning all three levels of government, the private sector and international organizations, including the UN and the OECD. He has led projects on high-profile policy issues, legislative and regulatory reform, and overseen large national programs. Mr. Arora is currently the chair of the OECD committee on statistics and statistical policy, Vice Chair of the bureau for the conference of European Statisticians, and the Chair of the High-Level Group on the modernization of official statistics. He was named top 25 immigrants in Canada in 2022 and is a sought-after speaker and thought leader.



Lynn Barr-Telford, Statistics Canada

Lynn Barr-Telford is the Assistant Chief Statistician of the Social, Health and Labour Statistics Field at Statistics Canada. Lynn holds a Master's Degree in Sociology from Carleton University and has several years of experience as a senior Executive with responsibility for large, complex statistical programs. The Social, Health and Labour Statistics Field provides accurate, timely and relevant information across a range of social subject matters to decision makers at all levels of government, to non-governmental organizations, to researchers and to the Canadian public. The portfolio includes a number of large survey and administrative data programs such as the Centre for Population Health Data; the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics; the Centre for Gender, Diversity and Inclusion; and the Centre for Labour Market Information, among others. The Field is also the home for Canadian Census content expertise.



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Dave Batchelor, ROCA

Dave Batchelor served with the Chelsea Police Department for 36 years. Throughout his career, Dave has demonstrated compassion, a commitment to community and systemic change on behalf of young people. He was recognized for his exemplary contributions and dedication in 2022 when he received the prestigious James E. Mahoney award.



Tarjinder Bhullar, Calgary Police Service

Tarjinder Bhullar is a strategic advisor and communications professional, driven by the goal of supporting individuals and organizations in sharing their stories and fostering a community in where everyone feels they belong, through respectful, equitable and inclusive practices. Tarjinder's work experience has been focused on the non-profit and public sector, with the last ten at the Calgary Police Service. She currently manages the Office of Respect and Inclusion responsible for providing employees with a safe place to bring forward workplace concerns and building service-wide capacity to advance their commitment to equity.



Daniel Bilodeau, Genetec

Daniel is the Director of Public Sector Canada at Genetec. Daniel has 25 years of experience in sales management, business development, and excels in the implementation of large-scale projects across diverse markets, including law enforcement, in hardware, software, and business process-related services and solutions.

His specialties include: Public-Private Partnership builds in Division 25, 27 & 28, Integration Engine, Large scale Enterprise Security, Artificial Intelligence Analytics, Emergency Communication & Mass Notification Systems (ECS & MNS), Security Incident & Information Management Systems, Continuity of Operations (COOP), Command and Control (C2), Incident Management Systems (IMS) & Crisis Management (CM) technologies, along with disaster mitigation technical solutions and procedures.



Myrna Bittner, RUNWITHIT Synthetics Inc.

Myrna Bittner, BA, MBA, started her first tech company in 1992, developing commercial internet groupware produced and used by NASA and US West for real-time remote communications, followed by co-founding a 3D neural net visualization research company. In 2019 as Founder and CEO of RUNWITHIT Synthetics, Myrna and her team created their first Synthetic City for utility earthquake response in Silicon Valley. Today RUNWITHIT's Synthetic City platform connects 28 global cities and their communities with the insight they need to design improved futures for people and their planet. RUNWITHIT's platform continues to win international awards, including the 2021 United Nations Global Call Award for Decarbonization, Taiwan's Top Technology Gold Medal, ASTech AI/ML Award in Simulation, SET100 Certification as the top 100 energy technologies in the EU with award-winning applications in Energy Transition, Space, Built Environments, Emergency Management, Resilience Investments, and Social and Environmental Justice. Myrna passionately lives and promotes the imperative for inclusion, diversity and representation to lead the future of people, the planet and our galaxy.



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Gillian Bowerman, Calgary Police Youth Foundation



Gillian Bowerman began her career as an elementary school teacher. In 2013, she was seconded to work with the Calgary Police Service (CPS), where she held a variety of positions including Manager of the Youth and Child Wellness Section, and most recently the Manager of the Youth Services Section. In 2014, she conceptualized and developed the Integrated School Support Program (ISSP), a multi-agency partnership that brings together various community resources, including police, schools, health and wellness specialists, after-school program providers and other local agencies to provide intensive wraparound supports to students and their families in Calgary. ISSP is funded through the Calgary Police Youth Foundation (CPYF), and in 2022 the CPYF received provincial funding intended to expand the program throughout Alberta. Gillian transitioned to CPYF to become the Provincial Program Director for ISSP and is currently leading its expansion and implementation provincially. She earned her Master's degree in Education in 2020 from the University of Calgary and continues to be a passionate advocate of comprehensive school wellness.

Paul Brandt, #NotInMyCity



Beginning his musical career in honky-tonks and talent contests in Calgary, Canada, Paul Brandt's journey eventually led him to Nashville, Tennessee where his music was first exposed to the entire world. A career highlight for him was being a co-writer on a song which was recorded by Johnny Cash.

He is a Multi-Platinum recording artist, Canadian Country Music Hall of Fame member, philanthropist, and 21-year serial entrepreneur in music. He is the most awarded male Canadian Country Music artist in history, and his song "My Heart Has A History" is the most played Canadian Country song ever.

As a recipient of the Queen's Diamond and Platinum Jubilee awards and numerous other national and regional humanitarian nods, he is committed to serving those in need through various charitable endeavours including his Buckspring Foundation.

#NotInMyCity is an initiative of his Buckspring Foundation, and in six years has significantly shifted the landscape of the Albertan and Canadian response to Human Trafficking. Paul Brandt is the former chair of the Alberta Human Trafficking Task Force, and a writer on The Reading Stone Report with its 5 primary recommendations being accepted by the Government of Alberta. On July 2023 it was announced that #NotInMyCity, in partnership with Native Counselling Services of Alberta and REACH Edmonton, have been tasked with the set-up of the report's primary recommendation, The Alberta Office to Combat Trafficking in Persons.

Married with two children, he is inspired by people with big vision to help others. He and his family live in Alberta in the foothills of the Canadian Rocky Mountains.



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Denise Andrea Campbell, City of Toronto



Denise Andrea Campbell is a purpose-driven executive leader with a successful history of delivering transformational change on social justice issues. A seasoned public servant, in 2019, Denise became the Executive Director of the Social Development, Finance and Administration Division at the City of Toronto where she leads a passionate team of community developers, funders, youth workers, researchers and policy writers to help make Toronto a safer, more equitable and just city. Among leading social equity work like the Toronto Action Plan to Confront Anti-Black Racism and the Toronto Poverty Reduction Strategy, Denise and her team just launched the ground-breaking Toronto Community Crisis Service for people experiencing mental health crises as part of Toronto's Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan, SafeTO.

Before joining the City of Toronto, Denise worked internationally on race and gender policies in numerous United National Forums and the African Union, and nationally, developing equity and community investment strategies. She's received numerous awards for these efforts, including Who's Who in Black Canada, Women of Distinction and Harry Jerome Awards for leadership and service and in 2021, being named one of Toronto Life's most influential Torontonians. Denise is an avid media spokesperson, a former TV host, and an author and photographer. Her most challenging role came in 2018 with the birth of her twin boys, Zander and Zion with her husband, His Worship, Justice of the Peace, Bentley Springer.

Denise holds a Masters of Voluntary Sector Management from McGill University and completed her undergraduate degree in Political Science and Women's Studies at the University of Ottawa and University of Toronto.

Anu George Canjanathoppil, International Justice Mission



Anu has 13 years of leadership experience with International Justice Mission (IJM). In South Asia, she served as the Director of Operations, the Director of National Interventions and the Director of Legal. At IJM Canada, she currently serves as the Chief Executive Officer. Anu initiated and led IJM's first ever partnership program and oversaw the training of more than 17,000 police officers, government officials, and NGO's on the rescue and rehabilitation of individuals trapped in slavery and bringing criminals to justice. As a result of Anu's leadership, 10,000 individuals have been rescued from forced labour slavery. Anu holds a master's degree in business administration from Edith Cowan University, Australia and a Master's degree in Organizational Leadership from Eastern University. She successfully completed her B.A., B.L. from Dr. Ambedkar Government Law College and acquired a special diploma in Intellectual Property Law.

Anu has used her creative communications skills to bring social issues to the public's attention by writing and producing radio dramas and street theatre with social messages. Her dedication to the empowerment of people who are vulnerable to poverty and violence, her vision for social change, education through street theatre and knowledge about international issues, have all led to Anu being awarded several honours; one of which was being recognized as a Sauv  Scholar. Educating those who had no access to education was what started her journey into the Justice space. Having invested several years as an educator and professor, Anu understands the intricacies and the importance of education deeply.

She represented India as a Youth Ambassador to Dhaka in 2003 through the National Cadet Corps, with the status of a Diplomat as a Cultural and Military Attach . Anu and her husband Sachin have twin daughters, Tamara and Ila. Anu loves justice, gardening, cooking, empowerment, and her family.



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Inspector Roger Caracciolo, Toronto Police Service

Inspector Roger Caracciolo has been a member of the Toronto Police Service for 24 years. He has gained extensive experience in Divisional command, Detective operations, and Community Policing.

He entered the leadership ranks in 2009 and is currently the Service lead in the Justice Centre's, TTC Public Safety and the City of Toronto Office to Prevent Gun Violence – Safe TO.

Drawing on his varied and related experience, Inspector Caracciolo contributes to a multi-sector team to ensure that TPS programs, services, and violence reduction efforts are reflected and prioritized in the strategic Safe TO goals.



Carol Caughlin, Deloitte

Carol is Partner, Consulting, at Deloitte Canada. She is a leader who is passionate about driving and enabling real, tangible change in our evolving world. She is a systemic thinker who sees possibility in challenge and solutions in complexity. She has over 20 years of experience focusing on real transformation – always starting with people – and resulting in tangible improvements for employees, citizens and/or customers.

With a career spanning more than 20 years in industry & consulting, private & public sector organizations, Carol strives and has experience in making the improbable a reality, always starting with what needs to be true to enable people to grow, adapt and thrive.



Superintendent Don Chapman, Vancouver Police Department

Superintendent Don Chapman was born relocated to North Vancouver from Ontario at the age of four. He joined the Vancouver Police Department in September 1997 after graduating from Simon Fraser University with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Criminology.

Superintendent Chapman spent the first five years of his career working in District 3, held assignments as a field trainer, ERT reserve, and was a member of the Public Safety Unit. In 2003, he was selected to join the Emergency Response Team as a tactical operator, and over the course of 11 years participated in 600 critical incidents, becoming a subject matter expert in explosive disposal, explosive forced entry, and chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear operations. In 2013, Superintendent Chapman was promoted to sergeant and pursued assignments as the Aide to the Deputy Chief Constable in Operations, led a patrol team in District 4, and oversaw the Research and Policy Unit in the Planning, Research and Audit Section. In 2017, he was promoted to staff sergeant and has since worked in District 4 in the Operations Division, as well as in the Professional Standards Section. In 2020, Superintendent Chapman was promoted to inspector and held positions as the Duty Officer and the Inspector in charge of the Emergency and Operational Planning Section. In December 2021, he was promoted to superintendent and is currently assigned to the Support Services Division – Discipline Authority Services portfolio.

Superintendent Chapman is the recipient of the 20-year Exemplary Service Medal as well as seven Chief Constable's Unit Citation Awards. He continues to devote time as the Chair of the VPD Equipment Committee, CBRNE Working Group, the VPD's Remotely Piloted Aerial Program, the mental health awareness initiative Project Connect Protect, and represents the VPD as a Military Liaison and Public Safety Unit accredited Gold Commander.



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Irfan Chaudry, Edmonton Police Commission



Irfan Chaudry has been working in the area of equity, diversity, inclusion (EDI) and human rights since 2011. He has held numerous roles within the EDI space including leadership positions with MacEwan University, the City of Edmonton, and currently, with Hockey Canada as the inaugural Vice President, Diversity and Inclusion.

He has held special advisory positions with the City of Edmonton's Community Safety and Wellbeing Taskforce, as well as with the Edmonton Police Service Chief of Police Diversity Recruitment Committee and Chief of Police Community Advisory Committee. He is an active member of the Alberta Hate Crimes Committee and Public Safety Canada's Expert Committee on Countering Radicalization to Violence. Additionally, he serves as a member of the Federal Government's Judicial Advisory Committee for the Province of Alberta.

Chaudry has a bachelor's degree in Sociology and master's in criminal justice from the University of Alberta.

Michael Chiocca, Genetec



Detective (Ret.) Michael Chiocca retired with over 30 years of sworn law enforcement experience and built the current digital forensic capability of the Chicago Police Department Detective Division from the ground up. Michael designed the entire scope of the program, now known as the Area Technology Centers. Michael researched, specifically configured the hardware, selected the software used, wrote the policies and procedures, interviewed and selected the practitioners, and then developed, authored, and administered the entire digital curriculum. This was documented in the study More and better video evidence for police investigations of shootings: Chicago's area technology centers by Emerald publishing. The "ATC's" were such an overwhelming success, it was noted as a 2019 City of Chicago, "Public Safety Key Result". Michael has spoken nationally on the use of technology to aid investigations at dozens of law enforcement executive tradeshows around North America. His work with digital evidence won him numerous awards that include both the Cook County Crime Stoppers and Chicago Crime Commission Excellence in Law Enforcement awards. Michael's law enforcement career was not narrowly defined by his work in the digital evidence field, as Michael earned three awards of Valor and his performance culminated as a recipient of the State of Illinois Law Enforcement Medal of Honor. Michael holds a master's degree in public safety administration, numerous forensic certifications and is a certified LEO instructor by the Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board. Michael is still very much involved in LEO digital evidence community as a member of the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) Computer Crimes and Digital Evidence Committee, Scientific Working Group on Digital Evidence (SWGDE) Video Committee and the American Academy for Forensic Sciences Digital & Multimedia Sciences section. Michael works at Genetec on the Unification team, creating and conducting detailed scenario-based end user training for public safety products, as well as providing SME input on current and future public safety products.



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CEO/Superintendent Marc Cochlin, Alberta Law Enforcement Response Teams

Superintendent Marc Cochlin is the Chief Executive Officer of ALERT; an integrated, provincially funded police entity. ALERT is comprised of over 400 police officers and professional staff and is mandated to tackle serious and organized crime across Alberta.



As a 26-year member of the Edmonton Police Service, Cochlin has worked in a variety of specialized areas and units across the city and most recently supervised the criminal investigations division, which entails homicide, robbery, organized crime, firearms investigations, and missing persons. Cochlin previously spent time in ALERT leading the Edmonton-based organized crime and gang teams between 2018 and 2020.

Born and raised in Edmonton, Cochlin was a member of the first Alberta Francophone graduating class of École Maurice-Lavallée. He studied Criminology at the University of Alberta. In 2017, received his certification through the advanced program of Executive Education in Project Management within the U of A School of Business.

Cochlin was appointed ALERT CEO in December 2021.

Executive Assistance Chief Sean Connolly, Phoenix Police Department

Operations Executive Assistant Chief Sean Patrick Connolly is an Arizona native who is a 30-year veteran with the Phoenix Police Department. During his career, he has had the privilege of policing some of the most diverse communities in this major city. He has demonstrated a strong commitment to community driven, problem oriented, intelligence led policing. He currently leads the Patrol Division, the Investigative Division, the Strategic and Tactical Services Division and the Reserve Division.



Executive Assistant Chief Connolly has served in multiple ranks in the South Mountain, Maryvale-Estrella Mountain, Mountain View and Cactus Park Precincts. He has led the department's Gang Enforcement Unit, Walking Beat Unit and Precinct Resources Teams. He has served as the Commander of the Maryvale Estrella Mountain Precinct, the Violent Crime Bureau, the Drug Enforcement Bureau and the City Manager's Office. He has also served as the department's Night Watch Commander.

Executive Assistant Chief Connolly earned his Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from the University of Arizona and his Master of Educational Leadership from Northern Arizona University. He is a graduate of the Major Cities Chiefs Association's, Police Executive Leadership Institute and possesses an Executive Certificate from Georgetown University McCort School of Public Policy in School-Justice Partnerships. He instructs nationally for the Auschwitz Institute for the Prevention of Mass Atrocities and Genocide in partnership with the National Center for Civil and Human Rights. He has been the recipient of numerous commendations and awards to include four Police Chief Unit Awards, Distinguished Service Award, Community Based Policing Award, Supervisor of the Year and the Human Services Campus Dream Catcher Award.

Jessica Cooksey, Last Door Recovery Society

Jessica Cooksey is the Director of Operations, Clinical Supervisor, and Addiction Counsellor at the Last Door Recovery Society. Jessica is an experienced operations manager with a demonstrated history of working in the addiction recovery field. Skilled in Nonprofit Organizations, Operations Management, Microsoft Word, Crisis Intervention, and Program Evaluation. She is a strong operations professional with a Master's degree focused in Organizational Leadership from Royal Roads University.





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Louise Cooksey, Last Door Recovery Society



Louise Cooksey is the Director of Finance and Development at Last Door. Since 1986, she has been an integral part of the Last Door community and a staunch believer in Last Door's potential to profoundly impact individuals in recovery.

What Louise values most about her role is the people—the residents, their families, and her coworkers. Her pride in Last Door stems from its unwavering commitment to creating a compassionate and diverse community founded on compassion, trust, faith, integrity, diversity, fun, and unity.

In her 30+ years at Last Door, Louise has witnessed the organization's steadfast dedication to its aim—building a community that inspires recovery and emphasizes citizenship as integral to healing from addiction.

Andre Corbould, City of Edmonton



Andre Corbould is the City Manager of Edmonton, Alberta. Mr. Corbould's previous experience includes emergency management and executive leadership with the Government of Alberta, security for the 2010 Olympics and nation building in Afghanistan with the Canadian Armed Forces. Corbould is a graduate of civil engineering from the Royal Military College of Canada and has a master in management from the University of Canberra, as well as a master in defence management and policy from the Royal Military College of Canada.

Deputy Chief Mark Dapat, Peel Regional Police



Deputy Chief Mark Dapat is a collaborative leader with extensive experience guiding Peel Regional Police's vision of becoming a progressive police service in Canada. A life-long advocate of Peel's diverse communities, Deputy Chief Dapat's journey with the Peel Regional Police began in 1997 playing key roles in various areas of policing, including Front line policing, special enforcement and investigations and community safety and well-being.

Deputy Chief Dapat has been instrumental in implementing and integrating system transformational initiatives across the service through his work on the Community Safety and Well-Being Strategy.

Mark represents the Peel Regional Police on several Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police committees, including the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee and the Community Safety and Crime Prevention committee that he co-chairs. He was recently invited to join the Canadian Association of Chief's of Police – Crime Prevention and Community Safety and Well-being Committee.

Constable Ben Davis, Edmonton Police Service



Moving from Ontario to pursue his passion for a career within law enforcement, Ben joined the EPS in 2014. Since joining, Ben has engaged with and developed key community relationships across the city. Most notably, his leadership within the liquor industry bringing together various stakeholders to develop a unique, and innovative response to rampant liquor theft within the province of Alberta. Since then, this concept has become a standard security measure within the province of Manitoba and is actively being considered by several other provinces. Ben has led key research and investigations within this space beginning in 2018. As a result, most recently he was awarded the Alberta Association of Chiefs of Police (AACP) innovation award, the EPS award of merit for project Capone which highlighted the organized crime element behind stolen liquor and the Queen's Platinum Jubilee medal for his significant contribution to the province of Alberta within this space.



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Matthew Day, Deloitte

Matthew is a Partner, National Defence, Security, and Justice, at Deloitte Canada. He is an experienced leader with in-depth expertise in technology-enable and digital transformation within the public sector. Matthew offers more than 22 years of experience in strategic design, planning, and management at the intersection of information, technology, digital and business operations. Over the past 13 years, he has worked exclusively within the public sector, and has led high profile and complex technology/digital transformation programs.



Dr. Nathaniel Day, Alberta Health Services

Dr. Nathaniel Day is the medical director of addiction, mental health and correctional health services with Alberta Health Services. He is an addiction medicine specialist and helped implement and expand Alberta's award-winning Virtual Opioid Dependency Program. Dr. Day also served on the Minister's Opioid Emergency Response Commission.



Former Chief Cadmus Delorme, Cowessess First Nation

Prior Chief of Cowessess First Nation, Cadmus grew up on Cowessess First Nation. After attaining a high school diploma, undergraduate degree and master's degree, Cadmus was elected Chief of Cowessess of Cowessess First Nation. During this time Cadmus attained a strong understanding of the two world views, Indigenous and Western World View, we all inherited and roles we all play to get to a stronger future.



Inspector Brent Derksen, Vancouver Police Department

Brent was a teacher prior to joining the VPD in early 1999. As a Constable, Brent worked in patrol, surveillance, the Emergency Response Team (ERT), Identity Theft Unit and Integrated Riot Investigation Team. Brent was promoted to Sergeant in 2012 while working as a Patrol Tactics Instructor at the British Columbia Police Academy. He returned to the VPD in 2016 as the ERT Training Sergeant. Brent served in the Court & Detention Services Section upon his promotion to Staff Sergeant in early 2019, then transitioned to the Professional Standards Section in early 2020. After promotion to Inspector in early 2021, Brent led several projects for the VPD's Operations Division. He currently oversees the Operations Support Section and remains focused on the continuing modernization underway within the Operations Division. Brent was a member of the Critical Incident Stress Management team for over 15 years. He was a Tactical Liaison Officer for many years and is currently a nationally accredited VPD Critical Incident Commander.



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Jesse Donaldson, HelpSeeker Technologies



Jesse Donaldson serves as the Executive Vice President of Strategic Services at HelpSeeker. In this capacity, she is responsible for ensuring that our clients receive the highest level of support while overseeing the development and implementation of innovative solutions to enhance our product offerings. With extensive experience in community development, stakeholder engagement, and social innovation, Jesse is well-equipped to guide our clients toward success. Her dedication to fostering strong relationships and her unwavering commitment to innovation make her a valuable member of our executive team.

Over the last decade, Jesse has dedicated her career to creating social change within and across public, private, and charitable sectors. She has supported more than 60 communities as the Government of Canada's technical advisor for Point-in-Time Homeless Counts and co-authored important publications on homelessness. In the private sector, Jesse has created social purpose programs for companies like Starbucks, Petro-Canada, and Home Depot, effecting change in areas such as education, youth, food insecurity, mental health, employment, and caregiving. Jesse's diverse experience and dedication to social change make her an essential part of the HelpSeeker executive team, as we continue to empower the social sector with data-driven solutions and improve the well-being of individuals and communities.

Deputy Chief Warren Driechel, Edmonton Police Service



Deputy Chief Warren Driechel has been with the Edmonton Police Service for over 26 years, and is currently the Deputy Chief of the Community Safety and Well-Being Bureau. Previous to this he was the executive officer to Chief McFee. He led a transformative change to the EPS Information Technology Division, and is a staunch advocate for data and information management and governance leading effective operational and strategic decisions. Over his career, he has worked in several areas, most notably leading and developing police intelligence units and programs, working in organized crime and gang investigation teams, in recruit training, and in patrol and beats.

Kyle Dubé, YOUCAN Youth Services



Kyle has lived in the Edmonton area his entire life and has been dedicated to working with youth for over 30 years. Kyle has been with YOUCAN Youth Services since 2002. In that time, YOUCAN Youth Services has grown from a one-person office, to being a leading organization in youth work and transitional youth employment programming. Kyle loves working for YOUCAN Youth Services because it is an organization that works very hard at assisting young people to get out and stay out of harm's way. Kyle is proud that our agency helps youth build lifelong skills that enable them to maintain safe and healthy lifestyles leading them to economic independence. Kyle loves his family, his friends, hockey, U2, and of course every youth that walks through the doors of YOUCAN Youth Services.



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Chief Neil Dubord, Delta Police Department



Chief Neil Dubord joined the Delta Police Department on June 29, 2015 after three years as Chief of the Metro Vancouver Transit Police and 25 years with the Edmonton Police Service where he was the Deputy Chief in charge of Community Policing Bureau.

Dubord has been awarded the Police Officer Order of Merit from the Governor General of Canada, the Police Exemplary Medal and the Queens Diamond Jubilee medal.

He is a member of the International Association of Chiefs of Police, FBI National Academy, FBI Law Enforcement Executive Development Association and serves on committees for various local, national and international policing committees.

Chief Dubord holds a Master's degree in Leadership & Training, a Doctor of Philosophy Degree in business, has graduated from the FBI National Academy, is a Canadian Human Resource Professional (CHRP) and is certified by the Association of Fraud Examiners (ACFE), the Association of Certified Money Laundering Specialist (ACAMS), and the Certified Financial Crime Specialists (CFCS).

Staff Sergeant Peter Duchnij, Calgary Police Service



Staff Sergeant Peter Duchnij has been a police officer with the Calgary Police Service for 21 years. Over his time with the CPS, he has held a variety of positions, including Skills and Procedures Unit, Calgary 911 center, the Office of the Chief, Arrest Processing Section and now he is in charge of the Restorative Justice Unit, which is responsible for PACT, VAST, Volunteers, Youth Diversion, Calgary Drug Treatment Court, Indigenous Court, Crisis Response Projects (C911 211 Co-location, Community Mobile Crisis Response Team, etc.). Peter is a father of a 15 year old daughter, who plays competitive golf, married to his amazing wife of 16.5 years, and who was lucky enough to share the same perspective on who will win the next Stanley Cup – the Edmonton Oilers.

Chief Nishan Duraipappah, Peel Regional Police



Chief Duraipappah began his career with Halton Police in December 1995. He served in a variety of assignments throughout his career including front line policing, specialized investigations and Diversity and Community relations. He was promoted to Deputy Chief of Halton Police in 2015 leading front line policing, community mobilization as well as innovation and technology.

In October 2019, Chief Duraipappah was appointed Chief of Peel Regional Police. Chief Duraipappah arrived with a mandate for change and the strategic goal of becoming the most progressive police service in Canada. He is committed to the safety and well-being of the community he serves, with one of the primary focuses being mental health and seeking multi-sectoral collaborative partnerships to reduce risk in the community.

Chief Duraipappah is heavily involved in the community. He holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Sociology and Criminology from the University of Toronto, and a Diploma of Public Administration from the University of Western Ontario. Chief Duraipappah was the President of the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police between June 2022 to June 2023. He is also the recipient of the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal and is an Officer of the Order of Merit Canada. In November 2022, Chief Duraipappah was appointed to the Order of Ontario.



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Jennifer Flaman, City of Edmonton



Jennifer joined the City of Edmonton in April 2022 as Deputy City Manager for Community Services. Prior to that, since 2004, she held progressively more senior roles with the Government of Alberta in the departments of International and Intergovernmental Relations, Economic Development and Trade, Executive Council, Infrastructure, and Education. She is an exceptional leader and has earned recognition and certifications in public administration, leadership, and coaching.

Jennifer brings a remarkable blend of energy, discipline, and momentum to her projects and teams. She is widely acknowledged for creating high-performing team environments that empower and inspire staff to excel in handling complex initiatives.

Jennifer's current portfolio covers a wide spectrum, including poverty elimination, affordable housing, community development, homelessness solutions, social services coordination, Indigenous and multicultural relations, social identity and inclusion, as well as non-profit development and support.

Jennifer is recognized as a collaborative leader, navigating the path from consultation to tangible outcomes in an inclusive and decisive manner with a proven track record of delivering results.

Joann Fox, ESRI GIS Mapping



Joann leads the development and execution of Esri Canada's public safety strategy. She brings 15 years of public safety experience in strategic and operational location intelligence, Business Intelligence, and analytics. Prior to joining Esri Canada, Joann led the Edmonton Police Service Business Analytics, Intelligence and Reporting team through significant systems modernization initiatives, and the delivery of innovative analytical products to the organization. She holds a BA in Geography from McMaster University and a Masters in Spatial Analysis from Toronto Metropolitan University.

Commander Brian Freudenthal, Phoenix Police Department



Brian Patrick Freudenthal is a Commander with the Phoenix Police Department and has been with the department for 24 years with over 27 years of law enforcement experience. Commander Freudenthal has had the opportunity to serve a diverse community in the 5th largest city in the United States. He currently leads the Downtown Operations Unit and Homeland Defense Bureau. Commander Freudenthal has served as a Commander of the Employment Services Bureau, Maryvale Estrella Mountain Precinct, Downtown Operations Unit, Homeland Defense Bureau along with serving as the Night Watch Commander. He has spent much of his career responsible for public safety at the largest homeless shelter within the State of Arizona. He has served as the subject matter expert for the city and police department on Public Safety related to homelessness.

Commander Freudenthal has earned his Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from Northern Illinois University and a Master of Educational Leadership from Northern Arizona University. He has been the recipient of numerous commendations and awards to include the Police Chiefs Unit Award, Community Based Policing Award, and HIDTA Task Force Commander of the Year Award.



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Chief Eddie Garcia, Dallas Police Department



Chief Edgardo (Eddie) Garcia is the 30th police chief of the Dallas Police Department, the ninth largest police department in the country. With nearly 33 years of law enforcement experience, Chief Garcia was appointed in 2021 and is the first Latino to serve in this position in the department's 140-year history. Chief Garcia was recently elected president of Major Cities Chiefs Association, a professional organization of police executives from across the United States and Canada.

Originally from Puerto Rico, prior to coming to Dallas, Chief Garcia was with the San Jose Police Department for 29 years. In San Jose, in addition to working in Patrol, Narcotics, SWAT, and Fugitive Apprehension, he also served as a patrol sergeant, night detective, and homicide investigator. He was subsequently promoted to Captain, then Deputy Chief, then Assistant Chief, and was appointed Chief of Police in 2016.

During Chief Garcia's tenure, he has implemented several policies, procedures, and initiatives helping reduce violent crime, build community trust and increase transparency, while embracing both constitutional policing and police proactivity.

Chief Garcia, who is bilingual in English and Spanish, places tremendous value on public safety and community engagement with the understanding that it is a shared responsibility and that police cannot do it alone. He is committed to making Dallas one of the safest cities in the country.

Blair Gibbs, The Policy Works



Blair Gibbs is a seasoned political advisor and consultant specializing in public policy, political communications, and government relations. He has specialized over 15 years in criminal justice, drug policy, and public safety. Currently based in Canada, Blair is the founder of The Policy Works, which supports clients in policy, political insight, and government engagement. Moreover, they are a notable contributor to reputable publications like CapX (UK) and TheHub (Canada).

He previously served as special advisor to the British Prime Minister, a senior policy advisor to the U.K.'s justice minister, and was also the policing advisor to the Mayor of London.

Chris Gibson, Alberta Correctional Services



Chris Gibson is a Security Intelligence Officer with the Alberta Correctional Services Intelligence Unit. He graduated with a BA in Criminology from the University of Western Ontario. He has since worked in Corrections for the past 10 years with both the Yukon Territory Department of Corrections and more recently as an Intelligence Officer and acting Deputy Director investigating gangs and narcotics in Institutions within Alberta.

Superintendent Robinder Gill, Edmonton Police Service

Superintendent Robinder Gill is a member of the Edmonton Police Service with an illustrious 28-year career primarily dedicated to frontline policing. He has demonstrated excellence in various pivotal frontline roles, including Patrol, Neighborhood Foot Patrol, Recruit Selection, Hate and Bias Crimes, Criminal Investigation, Homicide, and Diversion and Desistance programs. Superintendent Gill's comprehension of the multifaceted challenges encountered by law enforcement professionals in the field underscores his unyielding commitment to public safety.

Renowned as both an innovator and a strategic thinker, Superintendent Gill is passionate about addressing mental health and addiction challenges. He advocates for the evolution and transformation of policing approaches in response to these pressing issues, contributing his visionary insights and exceptional leadership to our conference discussions. His innovative mindset and strategic acumen greatly enrich our exploration of pioneering approaches to modern policing.



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Superintendent Bob Gourley, Halton Regional Police Service

Bob Gourley is a Superintendent with Halton Regional Police Service and has over 30 years of policing experience in Canada and Northern Ireland.

Throughout his career, he has worked in frontline policing, court services, investigative units, bomb tech, and support services. He is currently in charge of Communications, Records, and Community Mobilization Bureau which includes the Retail Theft Unit. The Retail Theft Unit is a standalone unit investigating all retail crime in Halton.

Outside of law enforcement, Bob enjoys playing, coaching, and watching soccer.



Lindsay Gray, PwC

Lindsey is a Director in the national Community Safety and Justice practice for PwC Canada where she helps governments, police services, police services boards and other community safety partners tackle important problems. Lindsey has a Master's in Public Policy, Administration and Law from York University and prior to joining PwC, she spent 15 years in the Ontario Public Service, primarily within the Ministry of the Solicitor General. She brings an extensive background in strategic and operational policy development with subject-matter specialty in the areas of policing standards and governance.



Staff Superintendent Pauline Gray, Toronto Police Service

Staff Superintendent Pauline Gray has been a member of the Toronto Police Service since 1988. Staff Superintendent Gray's policing career has been predominantly spent within the field of criminal investigation including the Gambling Squad, The Major Drug Squad and Domestic Violence Response.

After having spent 12 years with the Toronto Homicide Squad both as a Lead Investigator and Major Case Manager, Staff Superintendent Gray then spent the next years working as an Inspector in Divisional Policing, and Unit commander in both Sex Crimes and Professional Standards. As a Superintendent, Pauline was the Unit commander of Specialized Criminal Investigations, which encompasses Homicide, Sex Crimes, Hold Up and Forensic Identification Services. Currently Staff Superintendent Gray is the head of Detective Operations having responsibility of Intelligence, Specialized Criminal Investigations and Organized Crime Enforcement, which encompasses Guns and Gangs, Drugs, the Fugitive Squad and Financial Crimes among others. Pauline is also the Implementation lead of Missing and Missed the Report of the Independent Civilian Review into Missing Person Investigations. She is a regular speaker at the Toronto Police College, Ontario Police College and the Canadian Police College focusing on such topics as Major Case Management, homicide investigation, surviving cross examination, critical thinking and fair and impartial policing. Pauline has also been a guest lecturer at CSIS, the University of Toronto, the University of Ontario and Humber College.

Staff Superintendent Gray continues to be engaged in the management of multijurisdictional major cases as a Canadian certified Team Commander. Staff Superintendent Gray was the recipient of the 2010 Mike Matthews Award, the 2014 Ontario Women in Law Enforcement, Law Enforcement Officer of the Year and recently the 2023 OWLE Heritage Award. Staff Superintendent Gray is a Deputy Chief Aide de Camp for the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario and a Member of the Order of Merit of the Police Forces.



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SPEAKER BIOS

Katherine Hancock, Edmonton Police Service



Katherine Hancock is a researcher, currently working with the Edmonton Police Service, who couples her diverse experience in law enforcement with advanced training in criminology and sociology to promote evidence-based policing practices. In her current role, she launched a research-focused community of practice in the EPS, a first of its kind, which provides sworn and civilian police members an opportunity to collaborate across the organization, develop their scientific literacy, and build their capacity to conduct and apply research in their work. Committed to addressing the root causes of complex social challenges in an effective and responsible way, Katherine was part of the team that designed and launched the EPS's Human-Centered Engagement and Liaison Partnership (HELP) unit, a transformative policing initiative that partnered police constables with social service navigators. Here, she devised an evidence-based methodology for client selection and prioritization, along with a rigorous mixed-methods approach for program evaluation. Katherine is presently in the final stages of a doctorate in criminology from the University of Alberta, in which she conducted a qualitative study of the organizational culture of sworn and civilian members in a Canadian police service.

Inspector Phil Heard, Vancouver Police Department



Inspector Phil Heard is currently the Inspector in charge of the Vancouver Police Department's Organized Crime Section.

Phil is one of approximately 100 police officers in BC that are accredited as a Team Commander of major investigations. He previously served in the Homicide Unit where he led files to convictions for all levels of culpable homicide: 1st degree murder, 2nd degree murder and manslaughter. Phil successfully located a male murder suspect in South Africa and led the extradition of this male for an organized crime murder that had occurred in Metro Vancouver. In addition, he has been a member of the Forensic Interview Team since 2010 and has obtained confessions for murders, attempted murders, and sexual assaults.

Previously, Phil led the second Vancouver Police Department's Operational Review that documented long-term organizational resource needs. This 18-month project resulted in Vancouver Council approval of a five-year plan to increase the staffing of the Vancouver Police Department by an additional 172 positions.

Phil holds a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry and a Master of Business Administration from the University of British Columbia. He is the recipient of the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal and five Chief Constable Citations.

Dr. Tarah Hodgkinson, Wilfred Laurier University



Tarah Hodgkinson is an assistant professor in the department of Criminology at Wilfrid Laurier University. Her research expertise focuses on policing, community safety, and crime prevention. She has worked with police services across Canada and internationally to address issues related to police leadership, organizational change, community safety partnerships, oversight and accountability, strategic planning, and performance assessment. She is also a SafeGrowth(R) practitioner and works with neighbourhoods across North America and internationally to develop bottom-up and evidence-based strategies to reduce crime and disorder.



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SPEAKER BIOS

Inspector Dexter Huber, Metro Vancouver Transit Police

Inspector Dexter Huber oversees Transit Police Operations, which consists of all frontline patrol officers who police over 2000 buses, 70+ trains and one passenger ferry route in Metro Vancouver.



In 2007, Inspector Huber joined the Transit Police, as a recruit constable and received the Chief Constable Award as best all-round recruit upon graduation from the police academy.

In 2019, Inspector Huber achieved a significant milestone in his career when he was promoted to his current rank. As an Inspector, he assumed a pivotal role overseeing critical units such as the Targeted Mobile Enforcement Team, General Investigative Unit, and Patrol. His leadership has been instrumental in enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of these sections.

Before dedicating himself to law enforcement, Inspector Huber served his country as a member of the Canadian Armed Forces. His military career spanned 28 years, with 14 years in the regular force, followed by another 14 years as a reservist. This experience instilled in him a deep sense of discipline, dedication, and a commitment to service that continued to drive his work in the police force.

He remains steadfast in his mission to protect and serve his community while upholding the highest standards of integrity and professionalism.

Dr. Keith Humphreys, Stanford University

Keith Humphreys is the Esther Ting Memorial Professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at Stanford University. He is also a Senior Research Career Scientist at the VA Health Services Research Center in Palo Alto and an Honorary Professor of Psychiatry at the Institute of Psychiatry, King's College, London. His research addresses addictive disorders and translation of science into public policy.



Dr. Humphreys has been extensively involved in the formation of public policy, having testified to U.S. House and Senate Committees and in many state legislatures, and having served on the White House Commission on Drug-Free Communities during the Bush Administration and as Senior Policy Advisor in the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy under President Obama. He created and co-directs the Stanford Network on Addiction Policy, which brings scientists and policy makers together to improve public policies regarding addictive substances. He also leads the Stanford-Lancet Commission on the North American Opioid Crisis.

Patricia Jones, Calgary Homeless Foundation

Patricia Jones (MSW, BSW) is President and CEO of Calgary Homeless Foundation. Following 27 years with Catholic Family Service, Patricia is known for her reverence for anyone experiencing vulnerability and as a well-respected leader in the human service sector. Her passion sparks courageous conversations that lead to innovative solutions that help people break the cycle of vulnerability.



Patricia's background is in social work with a clinical specialty. She has stewarded many innovative programs throughout her tenure, including one of the first evidence-based programs in Canada serving teen fathers, and the use of technology to ensure counseling is barrier-free and coordinated amongst organizations. She is client-focused and believes that effective collaboration is critical to ensuring effective and humane service.



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Staff Sergeant Mike Kembel, Edmonton Police Service

Mike is currently the Staff Sergeant in charge of the Edmonton Police Service's Police and Crisis Team (PACT), Human Centered Engagement and Liaison Partnership Team (HELP) as well as the Crime and Trauma Informed Support Services Unit (CTSS). Mike has a unique front-line perspective relating to collaborative response to mental health and addiction crisis events in the community having both worked in and supervised multi-disciplinary teams working in this space.



Inspector Angela Kemp, Edmonton Police Service

Inspector Angela Kemp currently leads the Crime Suppression Branch with the Edmonton Police Service. The Crime Suppression Branch is responsible for the application of proactive crime management practices throughout City of Edmonton and focuses on high crime / disorder geographies with the aim to reduce criminality and increase prosocial behaviors. Inspector Kemp has been a member of the Edmonton Police Service for over 21 years and is currently pursuing her Masters of Public Safety from Wilfrid Laurier University.



Dr. Michael Kempa, University of Ottawa

Michael Kempa is a social scientist (PhD. Law, Australian National University) with the spirit of an investigative journalist. Working as an Associate Professor within the Department of Criminology, University of Ottawa, his program of research draws upon Political Science, International Relations, and Sociological theory to address the ways in which states and non-state organizations variously conceive of and attempt to institutionalize "police power" in such domains as the economy, new forms of urban communal space, and international security. Trained in media through a Munk Fellowship in Global Journalism, University of Toronto, Dr. Kempa tries to take the results of his research to the broadest possible audience. He contributes written, spoken and audiovisual materials to such major news outlets as the Walrus Magazine, Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, National Post, and Global and Mail, as well as academic publications in top-ranked social science journals.



Chief Administration Officer Justin Krikler, Edmonton Police Service

Justin Krikler is the Chief Administrative Officer for the Edmonton Police Service, an agency of 3,000 employees serving a population of over one-million residents. Justin oversees the EPS' Human Resources, Training & Recruiting, Finance, and Supply Services Divisions.

Justin started working in public safety as the Public Complaint Director and Legal Counsel at the Edmonton Police Commission, the civilian oversight board for the EPS. Justin subsequently served as the Executive Director for the Edmonton Police Commission.

Justin transitioned from civilian oversight to police leadership initially as general counsel for EPS overseeing both the Legal Services Branch and Professional Standards Branch. Of note, Justin led the Professional Standards Branch through a re-design and overhaul of the use of alternative dispute resolution for managing public complaints.

His experience in policing includes leading and participating on Provincial legal reform including the overall review of the Alberta Police Act. Justin has also taught senior officers on subjects such as civilian oversight of police, professional accountability, and criminal liability of officers.

Justin graduated from the University of Alberta with a bachelor's degree and the University of Calgary with Juris Doctor. Justin previously practiced law in professional regulation, labour & employment, and general litigation.



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Steve Kwasny, MNP

Steven is the Senior Manager of Advisory Services at MNP. He has a track record of successfully navigating stakeholder rich environments. He combines his experience in leading teams, fund development, community and government relations, crisis management, project management, and communications to find solutions to complex problems.



Randy Lack, Dell Technologies

Graduate of Cal State Fullerton with a Degree in Business Finance. Randy is a former LAPD Gang, Narcotics and SWAT officer. After leaving law enforcement Randy transitioned to a career in Electronic Security and Surveillance where he has 22 years of experience. Early in his career he had the opportunity to work with Global Security Integrators as a National Account Manager both in commercial and retail sectors with a focus on Fortune 1000 accounts, large enterprise accounts as well as State and Local Government. Randy then worked with a major VMS, camera and analytics manufacturer as a video surveillance expert in design and implementation. Prior to joining the Dell Technologies team Randy held a position with an intelligent video storage and scale out solutions company overseeing operations in the Americas. In his current role Randy is responsible to manage the Computer Vision & Edge Verticals team Globally for Dell Technologies.



Deputy Chief Devin Laforce, Edmonton Police Service

Deputy Chief Devin Laforce oversees the Edmonton Police Service's Investigations and Support Services Bureau. In this role, he oversees the EPS's major and organized crime branches. Devin is also the co-chair of the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police's research advisory committee.

Devin started his career in patrol, which he says was the most fun he has ever had at work. He was then briefly assigned to Police Communications before moving to the Forensic Identifications Services Section (one of the areas on his bucket list). In Ident, he gained expertise as a latent print examiner, a bloodstain pattern analyst, and earned his first promotion. Enjoying the problem-solving nature of the work and energy of high-profile files, he later worked as a detective in both patrol and Criminal Investigations Division.

His next promotion led him to the business side of policing as a Staff Sergeant within the Office of Strategy Management. Next, as an Inspector, he led the Professional Development Branch followed by Traffic and Forensic Services Branches. He was then assigned to co-chair the work of Vision 2020 before being promoted to Superintendent where he led the Investigative Support Services Division and recently created the Research and Development Division.



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SPEAKER BIOS

Sergeant Tom Lange, Calgary Police Service



Tom started his policing career with the Winnipeg Police Service in 2001, working front line uniform duties throughout the city. In 2004, Tom transferred to the Calgary Police Service (CPS) and worked frontline uniform duties in the downtown core. In 2007, he transferred to the Mountain Bike Unit (MBU) and became an instructor for both the CPS MBU and the Public Safety Unit Mountain Bike Team. In 2009, Tom transitioned to an investigative career path and was part of the Child and Risk Response Team (partnering with Child and Family Services), Robbery Unit, and Arson Unit. In 2013, Tom was asked to join the Multi Agency School Support Team (MASST) which is a partnership program with the CPS, Social Workers through the City of Calgary, and Clinicians through Alberta Health Services (AHS) dealing with at risk children between the ages of 5-12. Tom was promoted to the rank of Sergeant in 2015 where he spent time in the Calgary 911 Call Centre and later in the development of the Patrol Support Team. In 2017, Tom transitioned to the Youth at Risk Development Program (YARD), a partnership program again through the CPS, Social Workers through the City of Calgary, and Clinicians through AHS, dedicated to helping youth between the ages of 10-17 transition out of a life involved with gangs and criminal offending. Tom is still actively overseeing YARD and has a passion for working with outside agencies and preventative policing initiatives to serve at risk youth and their families for the betterment of the communities that they live in.

Commander Gabe Lopez, Phoenix Police Department



Gabe Lopez is a native of Phoenix and a 27-year veteran of the Phoenix Police Department. As an officer, he proudly served in the Maryvale Precinct where he was awarded numerous commendations, two Medals of Lifesaving and a Medal of Valor. Gabe has a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration and a Master of Education degree in Leadership from Northern Arizona University. Additionally, Gabe is a graduate of the 272nd Session of the FBI National Academy.

Gabe is currently the commander of the Violent Crimes Bureau at the Phoenix Police Department (PPD) where he oversees the Homicide, Assaults, Robbery, Arson and Crime Gun Intelligence Units. He has held supervisory assignments in the Professional Standards Bureau (Internal Affairs), the Drug Enforcement Bureau and the Family Investigations Bureau, overseeing the Domestic Violence and the Missing Persons Units. Additionally, he oversaw the Investigative Division of PPD for approximately two and a half years.

Dr. Rebecca Marsh, Edmonton Police Service



Dr Rebecca Marsh is a researcher and strategist currently working at the Edmonton Police Service. A physicist and complex systems scientist, she helps organizations better generate and use evidence to tackle community safety and well-being challenges. She is passionate about connecting people and ideas, understanding different perspectives, and co-building solutions with the frontline. Dr Marsh has held a variety of leadership roles in academia, the innovation sector, and children's mental health care. She is a Credentialed Evaluator and an Adjunct Assistant Professor at the University of Alberta.



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SPEAKER BIOS

Ashif Mawji, ScaleGood Fund LP & Edmonton Police Foundation

Ashif Mawji is a serial entrepreneur, philanthropist, venture capitalist, mentor and community builder. He chairs the Edmonton Police Foundation and TELUS Friendly Future Foundation and serves on numerous private and nonprofit boards, including the Invest Alberta Corporation, Sarah McLachlan School of Music, Hockey Canada Foundation, CN Community Foundation, Premier's Council on Civil Society and others.



Ashif has directly invested into more than 110 companies globally, is invested in over 10 funds, is the managing director of the ScaleGood Fund LP (Social Impact VC Fund). He advises and mentors entrepreneurs globally. Ashif has built (ground up) and exited several companies in the tech space, with one of his companies having a presence in over 150 countries and in virtually every industry.

He received the EY Prairies Entrepreneur of the Year award, named one of Canada's Top 40 under 40 and received Canada's 50 Best Managed companies award three years in a row. Ashif was inducted into the Junior Achievement (NA) Business Hall of Fame. Ashif is an active member of YPO (Young Presidents Organization) and won the coveted Laing Award - he has served in the executive including as Chair of the organization (YPO-AB).

Ashif received NAIT's Alumni of Distinction Award and was named one of the Top 50 Graduates in 50 years and received an Honorary Degree in Bachelor of Business Administration. Ashif has served as an Honorary Colonel in the Canadian Army and received the Queen's Golden, Diamond and Platinum Jubilee medals and the Alberta Centennial Medal. He was named a Henry Crown Fellow (part of the globally renowned Aspen Institute) and one of a handful Canadians to ever be included.

Superintendent Mike McCauley, Royal Canadian Mounted Police



Superintendent Mike McCauley is the Officer in Charge of Crime Reduction Strategies with the Alberta RCMP's Community Safety and Well-being Branch. He has over 21 years of police service working in front line policing, homicide, and senior leadership roles in both British Columbia and Alberta. In addition, Superintendent McCauley has sat on the Alberta Association of Chiefs of Police Executive Team for the past 4 years. Superintendent McCauley's focus is on building programs through strategic partnerships that aim to mobilize communities to work alongside front-line police officers to reduce crime and social harm. A data and intelligence led approach, has assisted Superintendent McCauley and his Team focus on proactive initiatives that effectively address the root causes of both crime and victimization.



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SPEAKER BIOS

Chief Dale McFee, Edmonton Police Service



On February 1, 2019, Dale McFee was sworn in as Police Chief for the Edmonton Police Service. Prior to this role, Dale served 6.5 years as the Deputy Minister of Corrections and Policing in the Ministry of Justice for the Government of Saskatchewan and was the Senior Deputy Minister involved with leading transformational change. Dale served as a police officer for 26 years in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, including 9 years as the Chief of Police for the Prince Albert Police Service.

Dale has considerable small to mid-size business experience and lectured extensively on leadership and change management nationally and internationally. He is a former member of Entrepreneurs International and served in the capacity of moderator for groups of business leaders within Saskatchewan. Dale is a past President of the Canadian Association Chief's of Police, a former Chair of the Federal Provincial Deputy Ministers and former Co-Chair of CCJA within Stats Canada.

Dale has received several commendations in his related fields including being appointed and promoted to officer within the Order of Merit within police services by the Governor General of Canada. He has received a provincial policing leadership award for Leadership in Multi-Agency Community Mobilization. He is a recognized Governor General Leadership alumnus and a former citizen of the year within his home community.

Dale resides in Edmonton, AB with his wife, Leanne. Their 3 daughters are currently pursuing careers in education, nursing & engineering.

Chief Harold Medina, Albuquerque Police Department



With nearly three decades of policing experience, Harold Medina is currently serving the Albuquerque Police Department as Chief of Police.

He believes in principles that are focused on community and law enforcement partnerships, problem solving, and transforming the department to help create a strong bond of trust with the community. Medina believes in strong customer service in order to create a program based on community policing. He introduced and developed several first-time programs that emphasized on outreach to local youth. He strongly believes in working with the community to educate and have an understanding of community-oriented policing.

Harold Medina received a Bachelor's degree with a double major in Biology and Criminology through the college of Arts and Science from the University of New Mexico in 1994. He became a first-generation college student and graduated within four years. He continued his education, attending the Police School of Staff and Command with Northwestern University. He also attended the Chief's Development Program through Major City Chiefs.

Staff Sergeant Jack Meikle, Edmonton Police Service



Staff Sergeant Jack Meikle is currently in charge of the Edmonton Police Service Operations & Intelligence Command Centre (OICC), the service's real time crime centre. S/Sgt. Meikle is in his 20th year of policing with the EPS and has worked in Patrol, Beats, Patrol Criminal Investigations, Child Protection Section, Police Communications, and on a year-long transformative organizational review and restructuring project. While working as a Detective he completed his law degree at the University of Alberta and was admitted to the Alberta Bar in 2019 after taking a leave to complete articles with a global law firm in Edmonton.



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SPEAKER BIOS



Norman Mendoza, Edmonton Police Service

Norman Mendoza is the Edmonton Police Service's Director of Architecture and Solutions. In this role, Norman has been deeply involved in transforming the architecture and modernizing EPS IT capabilities. Prior to joining EPS, Norman held leadership roles in Technology Innovation and Enterprise Architecture with the City of Edmonton and was part of the Smart City and Open Data initiatives during that time. Before his time in the public sector, Norman was a serial entrepreneur in Edmonton's technology startup community, which provides a unique combination of perspectives and approaches that can be used to help the EPS promote collaboration and partnerships with the technology community and businesses.



Carl Miranda, ROCA

Carl Miranda is Director of Roca Boston. He oversees Roca Boston's internal operations and the external partnerships with elected officials, Boston city government, law enforcement organizations, and community organizations. Carl has been in the youth serving space for 15 years.



Natalie Muyres, #NotInMyCity

Natalie has more than 20 years of experience in organizational change and culture, project and program management, and technology-driven transformation in multiple sectors and industries. For four years, Natalie has worked with #NotInMyCity to lead key initiatives for systemic change and develop and execute an industry partnership strategy to raise awareness on human trafficking and sexual exploitation. An anthropologist, Natalie applies disciplined and qualitative research to design collaborative stakeholder-centred solutions for complex systems change. For two years starting in 2021, Natalie led the Alberta Human Trafficking Data Portal project, funded by a Civil Society Grant from the Alberta Seniors, Community and Social Services Ministry. She conducted research and collaborated with law enforcement and civil society non-profit organizations from across Alberta to understand their needs and how data could be used to improve the collective understanding of human trafficking. In June 2023, #NotInMyCity released the first human trafficking data portal and data story, available to member organizations of the Provincial Human Trafficking Network. The data story explores the complexity and context of human trafficking and is a catalyst to further develop a collaborative data sharing culture in Alberta.



Staff Superintendent Dirk Niles, Peel Regional Police

Staff Superintendent Dirk Niles is a public safety leader with 25+ years of police experience with Peel Regional Police, the third largest municipal police service in Canada. Throughout his career, he has worked equally in various roles, including patrol, investigative and administrative units. He has served in a command function, leading divisional operations, recruiting, training bureaus, and as Executive Officer to the Deputy Chief of front-line operations.

In 2022, he played a key role in the collection and release of Use of Force race-based data metrics for Peel Regional Police. He has most recently been called upon by the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police (OACP) to co-lead the development and implementation of Ontario's Race and Identity Based Data Strategy, in partnership with stakeholders from academia and the justice sector.

He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology & Criminology from York University.



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SPEAKER BIOS

Honourable Wally Oppal, Boughton Law

Wallace Taroo "Wally" Oppal, OBC KC is an experienced Canadian lawyer, strategic advisor, former judge, and provincial politician.



A lifetime resident of B.C., Wally has dedicated his entire working life to the pursuit of social justice and community safety. From his time as a trial lawyer and special prosecutor, to serving as Attorney General and sitting as a judge in the Supreme Court of B.C., for more than 55 years, Wally has made significant contributions to the legal industry through his innovative and impactful work.

In 2010, Oppal was appointed to lead the Missing Women Commission of Inquiry into the Robert Pickton murders. Oppal served as the Chancellor of the Thompson Rivers University in Kamloops from 2011 to 2018, and was named Chancellor Emeritus upon the end of his terms. In 2019, he was appointed to chair a committee to oversee the creation of a new municipal police force in the city of Surrey. Oppal was appointed to the Order of British Columbia on November 30, 2017.

Wally has received numerous awards for his years of public service—including the Order of B.C.(2017)—and holds honorary doctorates from Thompson Rivers University (2022), Simon Fraser University (2021), and the University of the Fraser Valley (2010).

Chief Adam Palmer, Vancouver Police Department

Adam Palmer took command as the 31st chief constable of the Vancouver Police Department (VPD) on May 6, 2015. Chief Palmer was born and raised in the Vancouver area.



Prior to joining the VPD, he studied business administration at Simon Fraser University and worked as a correctional officer. Chief Palmer began his career with the VPD in 1987 and has since worked in a variety of operational, investigative, and administrative areas. As a sergeant, he was extensively involved in the development of the VPD's Strategic Plan and managed a long-term review of policing operations at the VPD. During the 2010 Winter Olympics, Chief Palmer was seconded to the Integrated Security Unit as the venue commander for the Pacific Coliseum where he oversaw the security for the figure skating and short track speed skating events.

Chief Palmer has completed numerous policing and professional development courses throughout his career. He holds a bachelor's of arts degree (honours) and has completed two executive leadership programs with the FBI: Leadership in Counter-Terrorism and the National Executive Institute. Chief Palmer sits on the Metro Vancouver Transit Police Board and the Criminology Advisory Committee for Kwantlen Polytechnic University. He is the recipient of nine VPD commendations and is a former Police Officer of the Year.

He has been invested as a Member of the Order of Merit for the Police Forces by Her Excellency the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean, Governor General of Canada.



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SPEAKER BIOS

David Pavlus, Last Door Recovery Society

David Pavlus is the founder of the Last Door Recovery Society, a New Westminster non-profit organization that has been providing long term residential addiction treatment and adjunct family services for over 30 years.



In 1997 David opened the Last Door Youth Program for boys ages 14 to 18. Although many have claimed to be the “first and only” youth programs of their kind, Last Door Youth program actually is the first of its kind. David’s belief that youth can be addicted and deserve the support of a community of recovery has set innumerable young men on the path to successful and productive citizenship.

Some of the innovations David has brought forth in his lengthy career have yet to be successfully duplicated. An example is pioneering nicotine abstinence in all Last Door programs in 1998. David’s vision required an entire group of 25 clients and 10 staff the stop smoking and stay stopped, all at the same time. No patches or nicotine substitutes, just a vision and a leader.

In the larger recovery community David is a sought after speaker. His voice of recovery is strong, clear and unassuming. He moves relentlessly in the direction of the solution and away from the problem.

Superintendent Darren Pringle, Saskatoon Police Service

Darren has been policing for over 27 years, beginning his career in Calgary and now with Saskatoon. Prior to policing, Darren was trained as a Social Worker, which informed his practice when on the street and is reflected in the style of programming he develops. As a Constable, and later as a supervisor, Darren was involved in units and programs which leveraged the numerous advantages that come from police forming working partnerships with others operating in the public safety environment. This holistic philosophy drove the development and success of Darren’s latest project in Saskatoon, the development of an Alternative Service Delivery unit, using collaborative data developed with academia and integrative partnerships with community based organizations.



Chris Richardson, Denver Police Department

As the Director of the Crisis Service Bureau, Chris Richardson has over 19 years of clinical expertise working with behavioral health populations that intersect with criminal justice systems and integrating sequential intercept planning into alternative criminal justice solutions. Operating as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and Certified Addictions Counselor, Chris oversaw the creation and growth of Denver’s Co-Responder Program in 2016, Civilian Response program (STAR) in 2020, and Court based assertive community treatment teams in 2018. Grounded in trauma informed practices, the Crisis Service Bureau additionally houses the Victim Assistance Unit, supporting victims of crime and accessing care to engage individuals in the healing process. To its core, the Crisis Service Bureau seeks to be able to engage effectively in community collaboration, connect community partners with first responder programs to streamline and gain access to low barrier services, and most importantly serve the citizens of Denver in solution focused, individual driven way.





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SPEAKER BIOS

Inspector Sarah Jane Riddell, York Regional Police



Inspector Sarah Riddell began her career with York Regional Police in March 1999. During her 25 year career she has worked in Uniform Patrol, Youth Programs, Criminal Investigations Bureau, Community Orientated Response, Traffic Enforcement and the Road Safety Unit. She is currently assigned to the Community Services Bureau, overseeing Youth Engagement and the Community Engagement and Wellbeing Bureaus. Also under her command is the Mental Health Resource Unit which is comprised of the Mental Health Support Team, the Mental Health Engagement and Outreach team, Call Diversion, and our Social Workers.

Sarah is the co-chair of the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police, Police Response to Persons in Crisis Committee.

She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Carleton University and an Advanced Certificate in Justice Studies with Honours from Humber College. Sarah has completed the University of Toronto Rotman School of Management Police Leadership Program, and Carleton University's Advancing Women In Leadership Program.

She is a Board member at Jericho Youth Services and volunteers her time with the Mount Albert Sports Day 5 km run, and the Edwards Animal Sanctuary.

Tara Robinson, YouthLink



Tara Robinson is the Executive Director of YouthLink. Robinson brings with her an extensive background in leadership, a passion for partnerships, and a proven track record of igniting wonder in community policing, history and innovation. She is a dynamic leader who has a deep understanding of the importance of community policing and crime prevention.

Robinson is a transformational leader who believes in people power to drive change. She led the build and design that resulted in the 2015 opening of the award-winning YouthLink Calgary Police Interpretive Centre. Robinson has also served as Executive Director of the Calgary Police Foundation and the Calgary Child Advocacy Centre. Robinson returns to Calgary after serving two years as the CEO of the RCMP Heritage Centre in Regina, where she led teams in creating a vision and plan for Canada's new National RCMP Museum.

Rui Rodrigues, Retail Council for Canada



Rui has worked with retail organizations including HBC, ICI, Best Buy, Staples and Holt Renfrew and as a consultant continues to work with retail organizations specializing in Strategic and Tactical Program Design; People Development; Threat & Risk Assessment; Problem solving. Rui has been actively involved with Retail Council of Canada for over 20 years and as of July 2021 he joined RCC as the resident Advisor for Loss Prevention & Risk Management.

Mariela M. Ruiz-Angel, Albuquerque Community Safety Department



Mariela Ruiz-Angel brings her experience from both the mental and behavioral health industry and local government to the role of Director of the Albuquerque Community Safety Department. Ruiz-Angel has an extensive background in social work, program development, and corporate customer relations and management.

Ruiz-Angel's has served two Albuquerque Mayors in multiple start up programs including AmeriCorps and youth workforce development. She spent 5 years creating and managing the Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs before becoming the inaugural Director of the Community Safety Department in June 2020.

In her new role leading the third branch of public safety, Ruiz-Angel is working to ensure that the department follows through with its mission of advocating and promoting a citywide culture that values the voices and safety of all residents.

Ruiz-Angel holds a Master of Social Work in Leadership and Administration, and a Master of Business Administration in Human Resources from New Mexico Highlands University.



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SPEAKER BIOS

Micki Ruth, Canadian Association of Police Governance



With a significant background in human resources at the executive level, Ms. Micki Ruth brings a solid management approach to boards and commissions. Ms. Ruth's approach to problem solving and oversight is a blend of knowledge garnered from experience in policing, provincial prosecutions, banking investigations, and 20 years in human resources in financial, aviation, and the telecommunications industry.

Ms. Ruth's board and commission experience is significant, particularly with regard to policing issues and oversight. She participated as a member of the Halifax Regional Municipality's Board of Police Commissioners from 2011 to 2014 – as Chair for one year and Vice-Chair for two years. She contributed to the approval and oversight of the police budget while serving mandated oversight to the Board of Police Commissioners for Halifax Regional Police and the Advisory Board for Halifax District RCMP. From 2016-2021, Ms Ruth was a member of the Edmonton Police Commission, serving 2 years as Vice Chair and 2 years as Chair. Ms Ruth is currently on the board of the Canadian Association of Police Governance (CAPG) having served on that board from 2016-2021 and is a Past President.

Her earlier experience as a police constable in Ontario combined with her degree in Criminology and work in human resources energized her in her ability to work towards an improved policing service in today's complex environment.

Noha Salem, PwC



With over a decade of experience in Business Intelligence, AI, Data Analytics, Data Governance, and Data Architecture, I've spearheaded transformative data initiatives across a wide range of industries as well as in the public sector. My proficiency in data governance ensures robust compliance and data integrity, while my involvement in government policing focuses on leveraging data to enhance public safety and operational efficiency. Specializing in the integration of raw data with strategic enterprise frameworks, I empower organizations to make agile and insightful decisions. My expertise extends to creating robust BI models and architectural designs that keep organizations one step ahead, allowing them to forecast trends, follow market changes, and optimize processes effectively. As an instructor at the University of Calgary and a Microsoft Certified AI Trainer, I am committed to championing future-proof strategies and leading digital transformation efforts, seamlessly aligning operational objectives with cutting-edge enterprise solutions.

Dr. Kanika Samuels-Wortley, Ontario Tech University



Kanika Samuels-Wortley is an Associate Professor and Canada Research Chair in Systemic Racism, Technology, and Criminal Justice in the Department of Criminology and Justice at Ontario Tech University. Her research explores the intersection of race, racism, and the criminal justice system in Canada. Samuels-Wortley's research has influenced both provincial and federal inquiries into the impact of racial bias within the justice system, including experiences with the police, victimization, and engagement in crime. Furthermore, her research has been featured as well as quoted in numerous national news reports, podcasts, blogposts, and literary journals.



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SPEAKER BIOS



Chief Bill Scott, San Francisco Police Department

When William “Bill” Scott was sworn in as San Francisco’s new police chief in January 2017, he vowed to build trust both within the department and outside it.

Scott had previously served for 27 years in the Los Angeles Police Department, where he was a deputy chief. He was selected to lead the SFPD after a nationwide search. Then-Mayor Edwin Lee said a major factor in his choice was Scott’s experience in helping lead the Los Angeles department through transformational progress.

Scott grew up in Birmingham, Alabama, and attended the University of Alabama, where he earned a degree in Accounting. He is married with three children.



Mohamed Shuriye, City of Toronto

Mohamed is the Director of Community Safety and Well-Being at the City of Toronto. Prior to this position, he was the manager of Policing Reform with the city. He is a creative and engaged community leader with diverse experience in public policy, corporate communications, social media, and stakeholder engagement. Mohamed holds a bachelor of arts in Political Science, and a master’s degree in Corporate Social Responsibility. He was an Action Canada Fellow in 2019 to 2020.



Inspector Anna Sinclair, Edmonton Police Service

Acting Superintendent Anna Sinclair – Integrated Community Safety Division
Anna has been a member of the Edmonton Police Service for 20 years and works in the Community Safety and Wellbeing space leading Young People Support Branch. She has spent most of her career working with community partners to improve the lives of our citizens, particularly the vulnerable population.

Prior to her time in Young People Support Branch, Anna spent time in Patrol, Major Collision Investigation Unit, Historical Homicide on the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Enquiry, Police Communications Branch, Search Management and Domestic Offender Crimes Section to name a few.

Anna believes we must work alongside our community partners and invest in our youth to make an impact on reducing crime and violence as we walk alongside our youth on their journey towards healing. She is passionate about teaching trauma informed practices to new recruits and ensuring trauma informed policing principles are followed within CSWB and promotes wellness strategies in her branch.

Anna advocates for youth to connect to cultural healing principles and land-based teachings and has worked with community partners to reduce systems gaps and believes that working in the social navigation space is the way to achieve this goal.



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SPEAKER BIOS

Acting Staff Superintendent Kelly Skinner, Toronto Police Service



Kelly Skinner is an Acting Superintendent with the Toronto Police Service, in her 26th year of policing. Kelly is responsible for overseeing Field Services – Community Safety Command, which encompasses Toronto Police Operations Centre, 911 - Communications Services, Traffic Services, Parking Enforcement, the Public Safety Response Team and the Community Partnerships & Engagement Unit. Prior to this role, Kelly led a number of uniform divisions, and was a Duty Senior Officer for the Toronto Police Operations Centre.

With a wealth of Uniform Policing experience, Kelly developed an extensive background in various forms of investigation. As she moved through Major Squads, Kelly honed strengths in; authoring and executing Part VI affidavits, search warrants, investigation of serious violent crimes, drug investigations, and the gathering of gang intelligence. Throughout her career, Kelly has risen through the ranks, consistently demonstrating exceptional leadership, integrity, and a deep understanding of the complexities of modern policing.

Kelly's dedication to fostering strong community relationships is evident through her involvement in the Service's Police and Community Engagement Review (PACER) 2.0 Committee. Kelly is also a member of the Association of Black Law Enforcers (A.B.L.E) where she was a former Executive Board Member, and an A.B.L.E. 1996 Scholarship Award Recipient. Kelly also proudly serves as a Board of Director with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Toronto.

Former Chief Peter Sloly, Sloly Solutions Inc.



Peter Sloly is the CEO of Sloly Solutions Inc which provides strategic security and safety services to governments and private/public sector organizations including c-suite supports to executive teams and governance boards. Peter was a professional athlete, a Deloitte partner, and a police officer who rose through the ranks to become Chief of Police. Peter has experience and expertise in justice sector modernization, organizational culture change, physical/cyber security, and integrated human services operations for community safety and well-being strategies. He is also a life-long champion for diversity, equity, inclusion, and anti-discrimination. Peter's career took him to five continents and over fifty countries which included two tours of duty in the United Nations Peacekeeping Mission in Kosovo. Peter is a recipient of the United Nations and Canadian Peacekeeping Medals – he was also invested as an "Officer of the Order of Merit" (Police Forces). He has an MBA, a BA in Sociology and is a FBI National Academy graduate. His professional mission is to develop socially just communities, smarter safer cities, and inclusive sustainable societies. His personal motto is "others before self, compassion for all". He was born in Jamaica, immigrated to Canada, and lives in Ottawa with his wife and two children.

Chief Danny Smyth, Winnipeg Police Service



Chief Smyth began his career with the WPS in 1986. He worked in Uniform Operations and Organized Crime through most of his early career. He was promoted to the senior officer ranks in 2005, working in organizational development, uniform operations, and investigations. He was appointed to Chief in 2016. Chief Smyth has also served on the Board of the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police, and he is the current president of the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police.



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SPEAKER BIOS

Nathan Stern, Regional Municipality of York



Nathan Stern serves as the Program Manager for Community Development at The Regional Municipality of York. In this role, he is responsible for spearheading the implementation of the York Region Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan. Through his dedicated efforts, Nathan has pioneered and established seven innovative Community Safety and Wellbeing programs in York Region, with a strong focus on fostering social development, prevention, and risk intervention programs in collaboration with diverse stakeholders.

Nathan boasts a wealth of experience in facilitating productive partnerships between government entities and community members to devise effective solutions for complex challenges. His expertise extends to community capacity building, and he has also shared his knowledge through teaching at post-secondary institutions such as York University, Seneca College, Humber College, and the University of Guelph-Humber.

In his leisure time, Nathan generously contributes to his local community by coaching track and field.

Attaché Chris Taylor, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives



Mr. Chris Taylor is the ATF Attaché at the United States Embassy in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. The ATF Attaché in Canada serves as a strategic advisor to the U.S. Ambassador and Canadian government in matters relating to firearms and explosives enforcement, international trafficking activities, enforcement strategies, and operational practices for all matters within ATF jurisdiction. The mission of the office is to enhance cooperation between U.S. and Canadian law enforcement and to attempt to neutralize the illicit movement of U.S. sourced firearms, explosives and ammunition by criminals and international organized crime groups.

Mr. Taylor holds a Master of Science degree in Management & Leadership from Johns Hopkins University (2011) and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science & History from the University of Washington (1996). He has taught arson, explosives, and criminal investigations classes at numerous police academies domestically as well as in Asia, Africa, Central America and the Caribbean. He has supervised international covert undercover operations and supervised the training to over 1,000 foreign police and military from over 30 countries across five continents. He also served as a guest lecturer at the University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Criminal Justice and Marymount University Graduate School of Forensic Psychology.

Chief Superintendent Peter Tewfik, Royal Canadian Mounted Police



Chief Superintendent Peter Tewfik is the Officer in Charge of Community Safety and Well-being for the Alberta RCMP. He is passionate about collaborating with community leaders and police professionals across the province to identify issues contributing to community harm and developing strategies designed to reduce the multiple contributors to crime and victimization over the long term.

Before starting in this role, Peter was the Officer in the Charge of Crime Reduction Strategy for the Alberta RCMP. He worked with the district offices and detachments over 4 years building and refining initiatives and programs in a multi-year effort to reduce the impact of crime in rural Alberta between 2018-2021.

Peter has been awarded the Order of Merit of the Police Forces for leadership and exceptional service over an extended period. He was the recipient of the Meritorious Service Medal from British Columbia as well as the Commissioners Commendation for his contribution in developing a new investigative technique which has since been adopted by the RCMP and shared internationally.



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SPEAKER BIOS

Chief Ron Thomas, Denver Police Department



Chief Ron Thomas began his career in law enforcement as a Denver Department of Safety cadet, shortly after graduating from Denver's Thomas Jefferson High School. In 1989, Chief Thomas joined the Denver Police Department, continuing a family tradition of public service to the Denver community. Since then, Chief Thomas has held numerous assignments in Patrol, Investigations, Police Administration, and Special Operations, to include assignments as Commander of Police District Two, Police District Five, and the Internal Affairs Division. In 2018, Chief Thomas was selected as the Division Chief of Patrol where he served until his appointment by Denver Mayor Michael B. Hancock as Chief of Police for the Denver Police Department. As a Division Chief, Chief Thomas maintained a well-established reputation as a collaborative leader and consensus builder, developing and sustaining lasting partnerships with neighborhood organizations, community leaders and other city agencies. Additionally, while leading the Internal Affairs Division, Chief Thomas spearheaded the creation of the Denver Police Wellness and Resiliency Unit.

Chief Thomas graduated Summa Cum Laude from Columbia Southern University and completed post-graduate study at the Naval Post-Graduate School, the FBI National Academy, Northwestern University Command College, and the Senior Management Institute for Police.

In addition to being steadfastly committed to the residents of Denver and the mission of the Denver Police Department, Chief Thomas is also an avid sports fan, engages in several outdoor activities, and enjoys coaching and mentoring Denver's youth.

David Thorne, MNP



Dave is based out of Winnipeg and is a Senior Advisor with MNP's Community Safety & Well-Being Practice. Prior to that, he spent 35 years with the Winnipeg Police Service, retiring in 2016 as the Deputy Chief of Operations. As an active member in his community, Dave is the Chair of the Board for Main Street Project, Winnipeg's largest low barrier wet shelter and sits on the Salvation Army's Citizen Advisory Board. What he is most proud of throughout it all, are his three beautiful granddaughters.

Dr. Alina Turner, HelpSeeker Technologies



Dr. Alina Turner, as CEO and Co-Founder of HelpSeeker Technologies, melds visionary leadership with strategic operations to execute the company's mission. Specializing in AI-led social systems planning and policy, her credentials extend across human services sectors like homelessness, domestic abuse, and mental health. She is keen on leveraging cutting-edge technologies to reform social safety nets, a focus that aligns seamlessly with data-driven policing initiatives and systems intelligence.

As a Fellow at the University of Calgary's School of Public Policy and through her leadership of HelpSeeker, Dr. Turner's mission of empowering the sector with data-driven solutions resonates with modern, tech-enabled law enforcement and public safety agencies.

Dr. Marta Urbanik, University of Alberta



Dr. Marta-Marika Urbanik is an Associate Professor at the Centre for Criminological Research at the University of Alberta. She is an urban ethnographer spending time "deep hanging out" with marginalized communities, including gang members, drug dealers, and unhoused community members across several Canadian provinces and territories. Leading one of the largest criminological studies on homelessness in Canada, Dr. Urbanik has conducted 485 interviews with unhoused community members across 9 Canadian cities and 4 provinces. She routinely shares her research findings with community groups, government officials, the Courts, and police services.



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Rebecca Visscher, The Salvation Army – Edmonton Centre of Hope

Rebecca is a passionate advocate for wellness and trauma recovery. She holds various degrees and certifications that support her in her goal of client focused whole person care and recovery. Rebecca had passionately served on the front line in encampments, in rural aboriginal communities and in low service areas. Currently she is the Director of Programs with the Edmonton center of Hope with the Salvation army. Currently she is overseeing 5 separate programs in 6 locations in Edmonton.



Omar Yaqub, Islamic Family & Social Services Association

Omar Yaqub DSL ICD.D MBA BSc (@somyaqub Twitter, LinkedIn), serves the team at IslamicFamily, a social change organization that is disrupting systemic inequity through service, research & beauty. He is the Historian Co-Laureate for the City of Edmonton. He has two decades of experience in the for-benefit sector. During his time with IslamicFamily the organization has become a multi-award winning Imagine Canada & Great Places to Work accredited charity. Omar has been awarded a Doctor of Sacred Letters from St Stephen's College, EMCN's RISE award for Community Leadership, and the University of Alberta's Co-op Mentorship Award. He is a settler on Treaty 6.