



OCIC
Ontario Council for
International Cooperation

OCIC YOUTH POLICY-MAKERS HUB (2020)

INTRODUCTORY KIT

ABOUT OCIC

The Ontario Council for International Cooperation (OCIC) is an expanding community of Ontario-based international cooperation and global citizenship-focused organizations, institutions, and associate members committed to working for global social justice, human dignity and participation for all.

ABOUT THE HUB

OCIC envisions the Youth Policy-Makers Hub (YPH) as a dynamic and generative space including Youth Policy-Makers and Allies; a 'community of practice' focused on policy-making and advocacy efforts towards achieving gender equality and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The YPH is one of the new 'signature' initiatives of [OCIC's Community Engagement and Learning programs](#).

Read the [YPH Concept Note](#)

Visit the [OCIC website](#) for more information

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This initiative is undertaken with the financial support of the Government of Canada, provided through Global Affairs Canada

THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

[The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#), adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015, provides a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future. At its heart are the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which are an urgent call for action by all countries - developed and developing - in a global partnership. They recognize that ending poverty and other deprivations must go hand-in-hand with strategies that improve health and education, reduce inequality, and spur economic growth – all while tackling climate change and working to preserve our oceans and forests.

Since its introduction in 2015, the Sustainable Development Goals

(SDGs) have been a transformative global agenda incorporating the vision of sustainable, just, and equitable development in economic, social, and environmental aspects. With the reframing of international cooperation policy in 2016, the launch of Feminist International Assistance Policy (FIAP) in 2017, these have been critical points where Canadian organizations and development practitioners reinvigorate our strategies to ensure a peaceful, inclusive and prosperous society that leaves no one behind. OCIC believes these goals can be accomplished both in Canada and abroad by working creatively and collaboratively at both the local and global level.

[Read more about the SDGs](#)
Visit the [Alliance 2030](#) Website



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

17 GOALS TO TRANSFORM OUR WORLD



THE HUB

Youth Policy-Makers (2020)

Edna Ali	Abdullah Osman
Fatah Awil	Jasmine Ramze Rezaee
James D'Souza	Anam Rashid
Iffat Damji	Thrmiga Sathiyamoorthy
Piotr Dudek	Sorit Seid
Jennifer Gammad Lockerby	Farrah Katherin Seucharan
Sanchit Gupta	Kate Shao
Sarah Hanson	Mary Shin
Vivian Hung	Dequana Simmonds
Shiyana Hunter	Aditi Sivakumar
Kayleigh Jooste	Tharsini Sivananthajothy
Vyshnavi Kanagarajamuthaly	Madina Tabesh
Niko Moniz	Lesley Korlekie Tetteh
Christina Muia	Lorenzo Vargas

Youth Policy-Makers Hub Allies (2020)

Aaron Brown

Linda Bui, Council of Ontario Universities (COU) | OCIC Global Changemaker Youth Ambassador

Erick M. Carreras, Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres

Lisa Gunn

Antu Hossain, Canadian Partnership for Women and Children's Health (CanWaCH)

Samir Janmohamed, Parliament of Canada

Shannon Kindornay, Canadian Council for International Co-operation (CCIC)

Alexandra MacAulay Abdelwahab, NATIONAL Public Relations

Sabrina Natale, International Development and Relief Foundation (IDRF)

Joanna Patouris, ACT Alliance

Sydney Piggott, YWCA Canada OCIC Delegate to Women Deliver 2019

Gary Pluim, Lakehead University

Julia Rao, Youth Challenge International (YCI)

Safa Shahkhalili, Rain Barrel Communications | Rethinking Development Podcast

Anjum Sultana, YWCA Canada | Millennial Womxn in Policy

BIOS

Edna Ali (she/her)

Civic engagement, particularly where it concerns communities systematically left out civic spaces, is something close to Edna's heart. This has led her to do work around leadership capacity building for young people and anti-oppressive city-building with institutions like the City of Toronto, organizations like the Canadian Council of Muslim Women, and community-based initiatives in her community of Etobicoke-York.

Previously, Edna served as Executive Director of the Toronto Youth Cabinet, where she was responsible for the management of the Leadership Team and the organization as a whole. As Executive Director, Edna fostered inclusive leadership among her peers to empower and mentor diverse youth to become leaders in their own right. She also worked to create and improve critical youth relationships across institutions including the Toronto Transit Commission, Toronto District School Board and Toronto Public Health.



Fatah Awil (he/him)

Fatah is concurrently completing a Graduate Diploma in Clinical Epidemiology and a Masters in Public Policy and Management. Following undergrad, he worked on innovative projects to improve healthcare in Ontario, expanding his understanding of healthcare as a tool for empowerment.

Most recently, Fatah was a youth fellow working in the Office of Councillor/Chair of the Board of Health Joe Cressy. Outside of studies, Fatah spends time on community development projects such as Charity Week, the largest Muslim youth-led project in the world, supporting orphans and needy children. Fatah is passionate about building vibrant and healthy societies for all to enjoy.



James D'Souza (he/him)

As a Program Manager with the International Development and Relief Foundation (IDRF) James D'Souza manages a diverse portfolio of health and education projects in Canada and India.

James is also the Chief Operating Officer at Supporting Education, Empowerment and Development through Science (S.E.E.D.S.), a charity that trains youth and provides resources and supports they need to design and implement solutions to issues related to Sustainable Development Goals 3 (health), 4 (education), and 5 (gender equality). James studied neuroscience and cell and systems biology at the University of Toronto. He also completed training in international development at Humber College.

Iffat Damji (she/her)

Iffat Damji recently completed the post-graduate certificate program in International Development at Centennial College where she has completed

numerous projects related to the Sustainable Development Goals. She also has a Bachelors degree in Environmental Studies with a minor in Political Science from the University of Waterloo.

During her undergraduate, Iffat completed a senior honours thesis focusing on minimum wage and how it affects post-secondary education in Ontario. She has experience working for the provincial government of Ontario as well as for a local government, the Regional Municipality of York.

She is particularly interested in topics regarding human rights, income inequality, as well as life on land. Iffat is a member of the International Development Student Society at the Centennial College Progress Campus as well as a member of URISA Ontario.

Piotr Dudek (he/him)

Piotr has been interested in education-related topics for as long as he can remember. Coming from a family of teachers, he quickly understood the importance of quality education in fighting against social inequality. His professional experience spans from start-ups and NGOs, to IGOs. He worked at the European Commission Representation in Warsaw, as well as at the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in Paris. During his undergraduate studies, he had the

chance of conducting a baseline study on the issue of primary school dropouts in Sungu Waard, North-Eastern Tanzania. Through his work he polished his skills in the field of community engagement, political participation, and social justice.

Born and raised in Warsaw (Poland), Piotr holds a BA in Political Sciences and Anthropology from University College Utrecht (The Netherlands) and a MPP in Social Policy and Social Innovation from SciencesPo Paris (France). Passionate about new cultures, Piotr recently moved to Canada from Europe. In his free time he enjoys exploring Toronto, going to the theatre and philharmonics, as well as volunteering at community-based organizations.



Jennifer Gammad Lockerby (she/her)

Jennifer is the Policy and Communications Coordinator at YWCA Canada. She brings a unique Filipinx-Canadian activist background. Before joining the YWCA, she worked in the Philippine women's and migrant sectors.

In just six years, she's led advocacy campaigns addressing child poverty and promoting equity and inclusion in education. She has also supported frontline provision of legal aid for migrant workers and shelter services for Indigenous women.

Jennifer holds a Joint Honours Bachelor's degree in Political Science and International Development Studies from McGill University. Personally, she is passionate about migrant justice, climate justice, workers' rights, and supporting queer and trans women of colour. As a queer woman of colour and survivor, she applies a critical lens grounded in lived experiences to all of her work.



Sanchit Gupta (he/him)

Sanchit is the Co-Founder of MealCare, an advocate for sustainability, a student-athlete for McGill University, and a Future Leaders fellow with the British Council. Sanchit is a recent graduate from McGill University with a B.Sc. in Anatomy and Entrepreneurship. He also represented Canada and completed a global fellowship at the University of Cambridge in policy-making.

During university, he created MealCare, a nation-wide social enterprise that diverts surplus food to underprivileged communities. As the Co-Founder, he manages a team of over 50 members across Canada and MealCare delivers 400-800 meals per week.

Finally, Sanchit is an inspiring entrepreneur and through the Next 36 incubator, he will be starting a venture in the health-tech space.



Sarah Hanson (she/her)

Sarah is Anishinaabe from Biigtigong Nishnaabeg, who began her second undergraduate degree in the fall of 2019 in Indigenous Studies at Carleton University after finishing a biology degree at Queen's University.

She recently began working at Experiences Canada as the Youth Forum Coordinator, working on their upcoming Reconciliation Forum in Winnipeg. Prior to working there, she spent 9 months working with the Indigenous Community-Based Climate Monitoring where she was able to put into practice her biology experience and Indigeneity. As a passionate advocate for

climate change and health, Sarah utilizes the experiences she's had to incorporate her Indigenous background into mainstream discussions.

Vivian Hung (she/her)

Vivian has a Master of Public Health from Queen's University. She is interested in combining her background in public health and her interest in public policy to aid in the development of policies, programs, and services to promote health and improve equity. She is currently involved in a Provincial Youth Cabinet, working with other youth to advocate for and promote issues important to Ontarians.

Shiyana Hunter (she/her)

Shiyana's passion for community and citizen engagement have allowed her to work and volunteer with various organizations in Ontario and British Columbia. Currently, Shiyana contributes to the Adornment Stories blog, an initiative that focuses on mental health and wellness of black women and femmes. She is also involved with MASS LBP, the Parkdale Sewing & Repair Hub, and Osgoode Professional Development. Shiyana values fair policy and building stronger communities.

While attending Vancouver Island University, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology and Liberal Studies, Shiyana was an active member of the community. She was the Deputy Director

of the Sociology Students' Union, the Liberal Studies Student Representative to the Social Sciences Faculty, and held a research assistant position in the Sociology Department. Upon graduation, Shiyana wished to be closer to family and moved to Toronto. Shiyana thought that opportunities and resources would be more readily available to her in a metropolitan setting as opposed to the rural setting she lived in previously. This theme of urban versus rural has been fascinating to her.

Shiyana's number one concern remains addressing the climate crises in a way that serves all. She views food security, sustainability, policy and citizen engagement, gender equity and mental health as being interconnected. Shiyana maintains that international cooperation is necessary to solve the most pressing issues and that our social policies will translate into better environmental policy and vice-versa.

Kayleigh Jooste (she/her)

Kayleigh Jooste has worked at Ethiopiaaid Canada as the Program, Communications and Fundraising Officer since February 2019. Prior to holding this role, she worked in fundraising, communications, programming, public engagement and volunteer management at various non-profit organizations in Ottawa and Toronto.

Kayleigh is a graduate of Trent University with an Honours Bachelor of Arts in

History and Anthropology, and of the Humber College Fundraising and Volunteer Management Post-Graduate Certificate Program. She is passionate about politics, social justice, and gender equality. Outside of work, she spends much of her time engaging with these issues in her community.



Vyshnavi Kanagarajamuthaly (she/her)

Vyshnavi is an ambitious first-year undergraduate student at the University of Toronto pursuing a degree in international development studies. She is passionate about politics, advocacy, climate action, social justice, gender equality, international relations, community work, and youth mobilization. Vyshnavi follows her passion of working with youth through her job with the City of Toronto as a Community Youth Leader, where she implements programs and guides youth in the Scarborough community. Vyshnavi hopes to work with other youth on the OCIC's YPH to find tangible solutions to injustices faced in her community and evoke positive change in a sustainable manner.



Niko Moniz (he/him)

Niko Moniz is a Youth Ambassador Program Coordinator for Children Believe (formerly Christian Children's Fund of Canada). He is passionate about giving underrepresented youth a voice in their communities.

With all of the amazing women in his family, including his goddaughter, Niko is very passionate about gender equality.

Niko graduated from Ontario Tech University (formerly UOIT) with an Honours B. COMM with a major in Marketing and a minor in Human Resources. He currently runs a youth drop in basketball program that runs weekly in his community.



Christina Muia (she/her)

From a young age, Christina has been passionate about social justice and addressing poverty. She has worked with

United Nations, World Renew, MEDA and TakingITGlobal on youth employment, digital communications and sustainable agriculture development projects.

Her experiences sparked interest in how youth from marginalized and poor communities are involved in poverty reduction, which was explored in her thesis and led to co-founding BiaSHEara.

She is excited to contribute her lived and work experiences, learn from youth leaders and advocates, and strengthen work that makes a difference for young people here and worldwide. Christina is affiliated with YouthRex Ontario and Manyatta.

Abdullah Osman (he/him)

Abdullah Osman is a youth leader and community organizer from Toronto, Canada. In 2019, he graduated with Honours from the University of Toronto where he studied political science.

He is passionate about human rights and sustainable development. This summer, Abdullah interned with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Canada, the Honourable Chrystia Freeland in Ottawa and prior to that at the U.S. Mission to Canada and the Office of the Mayor at Toronto City Hall. Abdullah also has served as a national Youth Fellow with both the Urban Alliance on Race Relations and Mosaic Institute where he worked on a national social action campaign to combat racial discrimination and promote multiculturalism in Canada.



Jasmine Ramze Rezaee (she/her)

Jasmine has over ten years of experience in the nonprofit sector spanning Vancouver, Montreal and Toronto. She specializes in strategic communications, political advocacy, policy research and community building.

Currently, Jasmine is the Manager of Advocacy at YWCA Toronto and a Board of Directors member at Social Planning Toronto and Access Alliance. She is committed to advancing equitable and inclusive health, social and economic policy. Jasmine holds an MA in political science from the University of Toronto.



Anam Rashid (she/her)

Born and raised in Toronto, Anam Rashid is passionate about gender equality, quality health and education and community

development. She is currently a student at the University of Toronto, pursuing a Specialist degree in International Development Studies and minor in Critical Migration Studies.

Anam actively engages in community-led initiatives that drive positive change both locally and globally. She has previously worked with Yellow Brick House, a local organization that aims to support women and children who are victims of abuse and violence. She is also committed to supporting and engaging in initiatives that work to enhance educational outcomes around the world, particularly through her current role as a Global Program Partnerships Intern with Right to Play.

Anam is interested in understanding the diverse impacts that displacement and forced migration have on global refugee populations. This drove her to join Refugee Girls Worldwide, where she works alongside her team to improve health and educational outcomes for refugee girls globally. She is excited to be a part of the Youth Policy-Makers Hub, where she hopes to engage in critical dialogue around the SDG's, policy-making, and community-driven advocacy.

Thrmiga Sathiyamoorthy (she/her)

Thrmiga Sathiyamoorthy is a researcher at a health equity think tank. Her research interests lie in the areas of aging, immigration, and health and social care. Her work examines public policy responses to emerging social issues and how they shape the experiences of vulnerable and disadvantaged populations.

Thrmiga has worked on several research projects, which have explored 1) the need for ethno-cultural accommodation in long-term care homes; 2) how to appropriately re-design the way in which health and housing services are delivered in the seniors designated buildings with Toronto Community Housing; and 3) the adaptability of programs and services to complex and intersecting issues, such as public transit, housing, employment and racism, specifically in East Scarborough, so that all children and youth benefit, despite systemic barriers.



Sorit Seid (she/her)

Sorit Seid discovered her passion for social justice while completing her undergrad at Ryerson University. Wanting to equip

herself with the technical skills necessary to affect change she completed her bachelor's in economics, while pursuing her passion with a minor in global politics and development. In her extracurricular work she looked to give back to her community by volunteering with Pathways to Education as a youth mentor. With youth being the leaders of tomorrow, Sorit strongly believes in the importance of providing accessible quality education to all children across the globe. With organizations such as AIESEC and Enheed, she took the opportunities to travel to teach and support educational programs looking to expand their operations.



Farrah K. Seucharan (she/her)

Farrah K. Seucharan holds 15+ years of experience in community work, specializing in optimizing social change through outreach and coordination. As a young woman with chronic illnesses, Farrah's targets involve reducing inequalities for marginalized communities by incorporating storytelling in policy to foster inclusive ways of living.

Farrah is a current member of the Patient, Family & Public Advisors Council at Health

Quality Ontario, and the founder of a social enterprise which now involves researching liminality and shifts in thinking. She is a Master's Student at SOAS University of London specializing in Poverty Reduction Policy with a focus on inclusive growth.



Kate Shao (she/her)

Kate is a member of the OCIC Youth Policy-Makers Hub. She currently works as a consultant in the City of Toronto's Human Rights Office and sits on the board of the Chinese Canadian National Council (Toronto Chapter).

Prior to working at the City, she practiced employment and human rights law. Kate received a Juris Doctor from the University of Toronto and a Bachelor of Arts (Honours with Distinction) from Queen's University, where she studied Political Studies and Global Development. She has completed exchange programs in London, Shanghai, and Osaka, and enjoys visiting art galleries, drinking coffee, and travelling.



Mary Shin (she/her)

From farms in rural Nepali villages to the rocky soils of North York, Mary has dedicated her academic and her early professional career to issues of environmental sustainability, climate change policy, food security, and participatory community-based development.

Her experience with obtaining her permaculture training in Nepal, working as an urban farmer and community garden animator in Toronto, and background in non-profit spurred her interest in food security and the paths to further understanding how we shape our communities and share experiences with our stories about food.

She is an advocacy co-lead for the Toronto Youth Food Policy Council, as well as a mentor with the SDG Impact program with the United Nations Association-Canada. She currently works as a policy advisor researching energy resilience in the face of climate change.

Mary completed her Masters in Public Policy at the University of Toronto after a specialist degree in International Development Studies. In her spare time,

you might be able to spot her dancing with her headphones on the TTC, catching up on her latest book club read, and/or planning her next travel adventure.



Dequana Simmonds (she/her)

Dequana Simmonds is originally from Saint Kitts, and came to Canada in 2015. She is passionate about rights and access to education for newcomer youth, and making people happy.

Being the first person in her family to attend university, Dequana is an advocate for Quality Education (SDG 4) and tackling global poverty challenges (SDG 1). She believes all youth should be able to access post-secondary studies, regardless of status.

Dequana is involved in her community through The Immigrant Women Integration Program (IWIP), The Black Creek Youth Initiative, FCJ Refugee Centre (Youth Network), and enjoys engaging in dialogue with other youth, around the Sustainable Development Goals.



Aditi Sivakumar (she/her)

Aditi is a passionate philanthropist, leader, and advocate for women rights. Aditi serves as a peer supporter where she provides support to women facing violence and helps plan community-based events to raise awareness regarding violence against women.

She created various programs at a local domestic violence shelter within her community, and has delivered numerous speeches at the national and international level regarding the importance of gender equality. Aditi founded the “My Empowerment (ME) Packs” which are wellness kits containing comprehensive resource booklets for youth facing homelessness and women facing violence. Due to her passion for gender equality, Aditi was chosen to serve as a United Nations Association in Canada

youth delegate for the 63rd Commission on the Status of Women, selected by the Duke of Edinburgh to facilitate a lunch regarding gender equality in the work place with Her Royal Highness the Countess of Wessex and the Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, and is assisting the Canadian Teachers’ Federation in the creation of the Student Voice Booklet on

Gender Equality. Aditi is currently working to launch a campaign highlighting the importance of teaching all healthcare students how to screen and assess for domestic violence. Aditi was recently invited to speak to HRH Prince William, Duke of Cambridge at Kensington Palace about her work, and received the coveted 2019 Princess Diana Legacy Award from Lord Spencer in a glittering ceremony in London, UK.



Tharsini Sivananthajothy **(she/her)**

Tharsini Sivananthajothy is a public health professional with a passion for creating healthy public policy rooted in equity and social justice.

Currently, as a Policy Development Officer in the Children's Services division at the City of Toronto, Tharsini supports policy development and strategic planning of the early years and child care system to improve the well-being of Toronto's children and families, especially marginalized communities including Black and Indigenous people.

Previously Tharsini worked as a Toronto

Urban Fellow at the City of Toronto where she worked on complex policy issues across different divisions.

Tharsini holds a Master's of Science in Public Health, with a specialization in global health and her graduate research focused on the maternal health inequities of newcomer women in Edmonton, Alberta. Her academic training is complemented by over 5+ years of equity-driven community development experiences, including leading a community-based health promotion organization that works with youth facing high-risk barriers and ensuring the voices of marginalized youth and communities were heard in municipal policies relating to poverty reduction and policing. In recognition of her service to the Edmonton community, Tharsini received both the provincial Graduate Citizenship Award and has been named one of Alberta's "Top 30 Under 30" by the Alberta Council of Global Cooperation. She currently serves as the Board Director of Grants and Research for the Canadian Tamil Youth Development Centre (CanTYD).

Madina Tabesh (she/her)

Madina Tabesh is a recent Toronto transplant originally from Vancouver, B.C. Her interest lies in the intersection of race and identity, civil rights and civic engagement, social justice, public health, law, justice and concept of morality, writing and the arts, through an intersectional feminist critique of everything aforementioned.

She is a 2016-2017 Global Health Corps fellow, a former ACLU New York Community Organizing Institute fellow, a current Planned Parenthood Toronto SNAP volunteer, and an avid daydreamer.

Madina graduated in 2014 from Simon Fraser University with a degree in political science and a minor in International Development and has since worked in the non-profit sector. Her skills and experience include copy-writing and editing, grant writing, digital and direct marketing, facilitation, government lobbying and community organizing.



Lesley Korlekie Tetteh (she/her)

Lesley is currently a student at Brock University, completing her Bachelors of Arts in Psychology and Women and Gender Studies, with a minor in Sociology. Born and raised in North York, Lesley has always been passionate about the importance and advocacy of mental health, youth & gender empowerment and equality, justice and action.

Her interests in advocacy and the SDGs continue to grow with her involvement in anti-oppression activism, and initiatives in

the Niagara Community. When her time as a Brock student ends, she hopes to expand her involvement in various initiatives in the GTA, nationally and internationally while sharing her knowledge and experiences. She is looking forward to learning, engaging and leading with brilliant minds who also share similar interests.

Lesley is a current volunteer and former board member of the Ontario Public Interest Research Group – The Brock Chapter. She is also a member of the Model United Nations club at Brock.



Lorenzo Vargas (he/him)

Lorenzo Vargas is a communication for development specialist and researcher on citizens' media and digital rights. Lorenzo manages WACC's Communication for All programme, which supports media and sustainable development initiatives in Asia, Latin America and Africa.

Lorenzo holds a Hons. BA in Development Studies from York University (Canada), an MA in Communication from McGill University (Canada), an Advanced Diploma in Internet Governance from DiploFoundation (Switzerland) and has pursued further studies on media policy at

the University of Brasilia and the University of Oxford. His publications include *Citizen's Media as a Tool for the Local Construction of Peace in Colombia* (2013); *Community Media Aid Reconciliation in Canada* (2015); and *Expanding Shrinking Communication Spaces* (2020).

ALLIES

Aaron Brown (he/him)

Aaron Brown is currently an International Development student at the University of Toronto Scarborough. He has been able to be involved in many grassroots, community initiatives in his hometown of Richmond Hill. Recently, Aaron worked at the Economic and Social Council at the United Nations for the government of Costa Rica. He also was the NDP candidate in the 2019 Canadian Federal Election, running in the riding of Aurora-Oak Ridges- Richmond Hill. He looks forward to help with this fantastic Youth Policy-Makers Hub.

Linda Bui (she/her)

***Council of Ontario Universities | OCIC
Global Changemaker Youth Ambassador***

Linda Bui is the Government Relations Specialist at Council of Ontario Universities, a forum for Ontario's universities to collaborate and advocate for its shared mission. She is the co-founder and Executive Director at the

Girls Empowerment Movement, a grassroots organization cultivating opportunities for youth in the Peel Region. Linda has served municipally on citizen-based committees with the City of Brampton, worked provincially at the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, and internationally as a representative with the World Youth Parliament for Water.

Linda completed her B.A. in International Development Studies at the University of Toronto Scarborough. She was previously a part of OCIC's Global Changemaker Youth Ambassador program in 2018 and she is thrilled to continue to be engaged as an Ally with the Youth Policy-Makers Hub.

Erick M. Carreras, BSc, MScGH (he/him)

***Ontario Federation of Indigenous
Friendship Centres***

Erick M. Carreras has a background in clinical surgical research, nutrition and methylmercury assessments in the Amazon of Peru, international development work, and education. Among other things, Erick has worked to promote Gender Equity and Social Inclusivity in the private sector in Barranquilla, Colombia; completed free-lance English to French translation work for a non-profit that helps establish Syrian Refugees coming to Canada who identify as a part of the LGBTQ2+ community; and now supports the field work and administration of social programs created by, and for, urban Indigenous residing in Ontario. Outside of work, Erick volunteers his time in varying capacities to pay it

forward and help empower others. He is a passionate life-long learner, avid international film goer, and someone who adores being in nature.

Lisa Gunn (she/her)

Lisa's background is in international development and feminist theory rooted in critical perspectives of the disciplines. Most of her academic work has been on gender and social movements. As a founding member of Climate Justice Ottawa and organizer for Powershift Young and Rising in 2019, Lisa is very engaged in climate justice activism and grassroots organizing.

Her professional work has included stints at Global Affairs Canada (GAC), where she helped with the ground work of the International Assistance Review, World University Service of Canada (WUSC), where she was the lead researcher and writer of a gender assessment on WUSC's programming and policies, and at the International Development Research Council (IDRC) with their Programs and Partnerships branch.

She was recently in the International Youth Internship Program (IYIP) in Vietnam, where she worked with rural Khmer women and youth. Lisa has also worked as a research assistant on projects focused on best practices for girls' empowerment programming, food sustainability in rural Nova Scotia, and participatory action research in Ghana. In the past, she's volunteered with Ecology Ottawa, Oxfam Canada, the Antigonish Women's Resource Centre, and Meal Exchange.

Antu Hossain (she/her)

Canadian Partnership for Women and Children's Health (CanWaCH)

Antu brings a diverse background of experience in research, monitoring and evaluation, policy development, project design and management across government, non-profit, community development and international spheres. Her past roles range from policy operations of a large-scale oral health program for children and youth at the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, to policy formulation for strengthening harm reduction services for women living in prisons globally at the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

Her current role at the Canadian Partnership for Women and Children's Health (CanWaCH) focuses on enhancing capacity strengthening efforts across data and information experts across government, civil society and academia to centre strong data and measurement processes related to sexual and reproductive health and rights in policy, programming and research. She looks forward to bringing her equity and participatory lens to the advocacy and policy work of the OCIC Youth Policy Hub. She holds a Master of Public Health degree from the Dalla Lana School of Public Health at the University of Toronto. A self-acclaimed pizza tasting expert, she can be found exploring hidden mom-and-pop eateries and attending spoken word performances.

Samir Janmohamed (he/him)

Samir Janmohamed is a Constituency Assistant at the House of Commons serving the office of Yasmin Ratansi, MP. Having come to Canada as an International Student, he has continued to work towards creating spaces for dialogue within his own community while on and off campus. During this time, his interest lay in understanding the role of micro insurance and microfinance as a method of poverty reduction in the global south. His final year Economics paper aimed at understanding the link between gender and demand for micro insurance in rural and urban Ethiopia. His passion for research led him to receiving numerous undergraduate research and writing awards. Samir completed an Honours B.A. in Economics and International Development Studies from York University.

He is especially thrilled to work alongside youth from across Ontario who share an interest in leading change in their communities and the country through dialogue and participation in policymaking. Samir previously served as a Public Engagement Volunteer and SDG Consultation Assistant for OCIC.

Shannon Kindornay (she/her) ***Canadian Council for International Co-operation (CCIC)***

Shannon Kindornay is the Director of Research, Policy and Practice at the Canadian Council for International Co-operation (CCIC). Prior to joining CCIC,

Shannon worked at the research-policy nexus in international development for ten years. Shannon is also an Adjunct Research Professor at Carleton University's Norman Paterson School of International Affairs and previously worked as an independent consultant, Senior Analyst for the Canadian International Development Platform and a researcher at the North-South Institute.

Alexandra MacAulay **Abdelwahab, Bjourn, MA** **(she/her)**

NATIONAL Public Relations

Alexandra brings a decade of experience in media and communications to her work as a consultant in communications and public affairs for NATIONAL Public Relations in Ottawa, where she works, among other clients, with CARE Canada's Feed Her Future Campaign.

Prior to joining NATIONAL, Alexandra worked as a reporter in TV, radio and print, with staff positions at Global News, New Brunswick, The Toronto Star, Montreal Gazette, and Metro Ottawa. Alexandra also worked to strengthen the communications capacity of a number of local civil-society organizations as a communications advisor with Cuso International in Georgetown, Guyana.

Alexandra holds a Master of Arts in International Studies and Diplomacy from SOAS University of London and a Bachelor of Journalism from Ryerson University. She previously participated as a youth delegate to a number of conferences and tours including: Reaching High for a

Nuclear-Weapons Free World in Prague, Czech Republic; Diplomacy to Mobilize Momentum For Girls' Education at Wilton Park, in Sussex, UK; the Shadow NATO Summit IV in London, UK; the Geneva Dialogue on Securing our Common Future in Geneva, Switzerland; and the Future Diplomats Peace Game in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, as well as participated in study tours to the United Nations in Geneva and New York.

Sabrina Natale, HBA (she/her)
International Development and Relief Foundation (IDRF)

Sabrina Natale is a Program Manager at the International Development and Relief Foundation (IDRF). Prior to joining IDRF, Sabrina worked with the NATO Association of Canada (NAOC) as a junior researcher and with Doctors Without Borders within the programming unit. Sabrina holds an Honours Bachelor of Arts Degree from the University of Toronto with specialization in Political Science and a postgraduate certificate in International Development from Humber College.

Currently, Sabrina is managing a diverse portfolio of multi-sectoral, sustainable development and humanitarian relief projects. She is also leading a number of new initiatives at IDRF including designing targeted impact reporting assessments, expanding monitoring and evaluation practices and developing new programming partnerships in East Africa. Sabrina is most passionate about sustainable development programming

within the education sector and hopes to expand IDRF's programming to support children's education in conflict zones. Sabrina is thrilled to be joining the OCIC Youth Policy Hub as an ally.

Joanna Patouris, MES (she/her)
Climate Change Coordinator and Communicator

Joanna is a climate advocate with over seven years of experience in UN climate change negotiations. Over the years, Joanna has worked to promote gender and human rights in climate change discussions and has also focused on issues of climate-induced displacement, community resilience and capacity building.

Joanna has supported the capacity building of youth, women government negotiators, and civil society representatives to engage in various climate and sustainable development-related policy spheres. She has also supported governments and CSOs to develop and communicate their climate plans. Joanna has a Masters in Environmental Studies with a specialization in Climate Change Governance and a Bachelors degree in Economics, Environmental Studies and Sociology.

Sydney Piggott (she/her)
YWCA Canada | OCIC Delegate to Women Deliver

Sydney Piggott (she/her) is the Director of Programs & Projects at YWCA Canada where she leads impact-driven initiatives

with a vision to see women and girls empowered in a safe and equitable society. She sits on the board of directors of Springtide Resources, is a member of Gender Equality Network Canada and a contributor for Btchcoin News.

Sydney has represented YWCA in several international forums including the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, Inter-Parliamentary Union Conference for Young Parliamentarians and RightsCon. In 2019, she was selected as OCIC's delegate to the Women Deliver conference in Vancouver.

Sydney holds a Master of Global Affairs from the University of Toronto – Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy where she co-founded the Intersectional Feminist Collective, was a Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee scholar and a researcher for the Reach Project. Sydney also holds a bachelor's degree in International Development Studies from McGill University and recently completed a professional certificate in Leadership and Public Policy at the University of Cambridge as part of the British Council's Future Leaders Connect program.

Gary Pluim, PhD (he/him) ***Lakehead University, Orillia***

Gary Pluim is a long-time avid participant in youth activities both locally and globally, and an advocate for issues concerning youth around the world. For several years he was a field director of overseas programs with Youth Challenge International, and later completed his

dissertation on forms of youth participation after the Haitian earthquake. He is currently an Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Education at Lakehead University, Orillia, and the primary investigator of a SSHRC-funded research project examining the establishment of professional fields of youth work in small states of the Commonwealth.

Julia Rao (she/her) ***Youth Challenge International***

Julia has worked with diverse organizations in the development sector in Central America, South and Central Asia and East and West Africa. Her experience encompasses the intersecting fields of health and nutrition, education, human rights and emergency relief. This work has given her a comprehensive perspective and critical understanding of how inclusive, participatory and sustainable development works.

Currently, Julia is the Youth Employment Lead at Youth Challenge International where she manages the International Youth Internship Program. Here she harnesses her background in education and interest in ethical volunteerism and intercultural partnerships in training and mentoring the next generation of international development practitioners.

Julia holds an Honours Bachelor of International Development from University of Toronto and a Master of Arts in Comparative International and Development Education from the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education. Her

research focused on culturally relevant pedagogy of international volunteers in school setting. Most recently Julia completed her yoga teacher training and hopes to integrate mindfulness and wellness into practice in the field of international development.

Safa Shahkhalili, HBA, MA (she/her)

Rain Barrel Communications | Rethinking Development Podcast

Safa Shahkhalili is a cultural anthropologist and international development consultant based in Toronto. She is an associate of Rain Barrel Communications - an international communications consulting firm that co-creates social good initiatives with partners, with a special orientation to the wellbeing of children. She has educational and professional experience in eight countries and has worked with a variety of organizations, including UNICEF and UNESCO.

Her work has focused on various social justice issues such as urban poverty, disability rights, ethical consumption and social entrepreneurship, quality and inclusive education, and early childhood care and development. She is also the creator and host of the “Rethinking Development” podcast where she interviews international development and humanitarian aid practitioners regarding ethical issues, systemic challenges, and personal reflections on their work and the industry.

Anjum Sultana, MPH (she/her) ***YWCA Canada | Millennial Womxn In Policy***

Anjum Sultana is the Director of Public Policy & Strategic Communications at YWCA Canada, the nation's oldest and largest women's serving organization. Anjum is the Founder and Executive Director of Millennial Womxn in Policy. It is a community of practice that connects over 2500 women and non-binary people working in policy and public affairs across civil society, politics, private sector and public service.

Anjum regularly provides media commentary in print, radio and TV and has been on platforms such as CBC, CityTv, CTV, and The Walrus. Raised in Toronto, Anjum is passionate about giving back to the city and is proud to serve on the boards of the Regent Park Community Health Centre, Toronto Environmental Alliance and the Council of Agencies Serving South Asians.

Earlier this year, Anjum represented Canada as a delegate at the 2019 G7 Youth Summit in Paris, France. Anjum holds a Masters of Public Health (MPH) from the Dalla Lana School of Public Health at the University of Toronto.

In 2019, Anjum was awarded the Frances Lankin Inspiring Leadership Community Service Award by Social Planning Toronto.

For more information on the YPH and relevant opportunities, please visit the [OCIC website](#).