**Participant Package**

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| **Tuesday, October 6, 2020**  **Annual General Meeting** 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (EDT) **Symposium** 11:30 AM - 2:00 PM (EDT) | |
| **9:00 - 9:20** | **Voting Member Poll Everywhere and Zoom Platform Sign-In & Tech Support** |
| **9:20 - 9:30** | **Participant Zoom Sign-In and Tech Support** |
| **9:30 - 11:00** | **OCIC Annual General Meeting**   * Welcome & Land Acknowledgement * Approval of the Proposed 2020 AGM Agenda * Approval of the 2019 AGM Minutes * President Report * Presentation of Audited Financial Statements * Approval of 2020-2021 Auditor * Ratification of New Members * Presentation & Election of Candidates to the Board of Directors * Executive Director Report * Approval of Candidates Elected to the Board of Directors * Volunteer Recognition * Business Arising * Adjournment of Business Meeting |
| **11:30 - 12:00** | **Welcome, Land Acknowledgement & Opening Remarks**   * ***Kimberly Gibbons*** Executive Director, OCIC * ***Marianick Tremblay*** Director General, Engaging Canadians Bureau, Partnerships for Development Innovation Branch, Global Affairs Canada * ***Eugenia Ochoa*** Community Engagement Specialist, OCIC |
| **12:00 - 1:30** | **OCIC Member Panel: Towards a Just Recovery**  This panel will explore critical issues related to the COVID-19 pandemic and how it has affected sectoral programs and partnerships, how organizations have been able to pivot and adapt to meet the needs of their partners and the most vulnerable, what supports are still needed, and what the implications of ‘Just Recovery’ principles to our collective work are, or may be.   * *Moderator:* ***Sara Awad*** Advisor, Gender Equality and Women’s Economic Empowerment, Canadian Executive Service Organization * ***Laura Gamez*** MNCH Program Manager, Horizons of Friendship * ***Juan Jose Arenas Ladino*** International Youth Champion, YMCA of Greater Toronto * ***Shawna Novak*** Executive Director, Canadian International Scientific Exchange Program * ***Tina Sweeney*** Outreach & Partnerships Officer, Cuso International |
| **1:30 - 2:00** | **Virtual Networking: Meet Our New Members & Mingle** |

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| **Wednesday, October 7, 2020** **Symposium** 10:00 AM - 2:30 PM (EDT) | |
| **10:00 - 10:20** | **Welcome, Land Acknowledgement & Opening Remarks**   * ***Kimberly Gibbons*** Executive Director, OCIC * ***Eugenia Ochoa*** Community Engagement Specialist, OCIC |
| **10:20 - 12:00** | **Systemic & Organizational Change in International Cooperation**  This panel seeks to open space for critical reflections and calls to action on the systemic and internal organizational change needed to rebuild and sustain equitable systems and communities in the Sustainable Development and International Cooperation sector.   * *Moderator:* ***David Peck*** Founder and Director, SoChange * ***Gonzalo Duarte*** Executive Director, Compañeros Partners * ***Sarah Hanson*** Experiences Canada / OCIC Youth Policy-Makers Hub (2019-2020) * ***Arezoo Najibzadeh*** Platform * ***Ikem Opara*** Capacity Building Lead, Ontario Trillium Foundation |
| **12:00 - 1:00** | **Lunch Break (Offline)** |
| **1:00 - 2:30** | **Ethical Community Engagement**  This panel will open space for critical reflections, approaches and calls to action in community engagement. Panelists will reflect on ethical considerations and practices, accessibility, and measuring impact to ensure we leave no one behind.   * *Moderator:* ***Leslie Chan*** Associate Professor, Centre for Critical Development Studies at the University of Toronto Scarborough * ***Mélissa Dubé*** Public Engagement Coordinator, Results Canada * ***Jakub Nemec*** Executive Director, Salanga * ***Farrah Seucharan*** Advocate, OCIC Youth Policy-Makers Hub (2019-2020) |

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# MINUTES OF 2019 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Ontario Council for International Cooperation**

Held on 19 September 2019 at the Centre for Social Innovation-Spadina  
192 Spadina Ave, Toronto, ON

## 1. Welcome & Introduction

a. OCIC Board President, Mitra Manouchehrian, welcomed the membership to the 2019 AGM, called the business meeting to order, and explained the voting procedure.  
b. Quorum was met, allowing us to proceed.  
c. Mitra explained that OCIC Vice-President, Jessica Ferne, would be concluding the meeting.

## 2. Business Meeting

**a. Approval of the Proposed 2019 AGM Agenda** (Mitra Manouchehrian)

i. *Motion to approve the proposed 2019 AGM Agenda moved by Luke Stocking (Development and Peace – Caritas Canda). Seconded by ­Tina Sweeney (Cuso International). All in favour,* ***motion carried****.*

**b. Approval of 2018 AGM minutes** (Mitra Manouchehrian)

i. The minutes from the 2018 AGM were presented to the membership. There was a question about whether the participants in attendance were noted in the minutes. Mitra explained that a list of participants was included in the AGM participant package.

ii. *Motion to approve the 2018 AGM minutes as presented moved by Matthew Legge (Canadian Friends Service Committee). Seconded by Tina Sweeney (Cuso International). All in favour,* ***motion carried****.*

**c. President’s Report** (Mitra Manouchehrian)

i. Mitra provided an overview of the work of the Board and its Committees over the past year.

ii. Highlights:

* The Board met six times between June 2018 and September 2019, providing support to the ED as we developed a new 4-year GAC proposal submitted in July 2018; a new SDG Unit proposal in December 2018 that was delivered in March and April 2019; concluded our 2014-2019 GAC grant in March 2019; and transitioned to our new 2019-2023 GAC Contribution Agreement in May 2019.
* Executive Committee: developed agendas and areas of focus for Board meetings, and responded to urgent issues between Board meetings, including striking an ad-hoc transition committee to support transition between two GAC agreements.
* Ad-hoc Transition Committee: supported the ED and staff in developing contingency plans to manage the transition between GAC contracts.
* Governance Committee: ensured all Board committees had updated their Terms of Reference; updated the policy review schedule and checklist, as well as Board Objectives, Roles and Responsibilities’ documents; updated OCIC’s By-laws; and developed and approved OCIC’s Anti-Corruption Policy (available on the About Us page of OCIC’s website).
* Finance and Sustainability Committee: supported the ED with financial reporting and review of budgets, and worked with other committees to review and update the restricted reserve and with scenario-planning. The Sustainability Task Force elaborated a Fund Diversification Strategy.
* Membership and Nominations Committee: developed ideas to increase membership, including outside the GTA, and ensured membership considerations featured strongly in the Sustainability Task Force’s Fund Diversification Strategy.
* Personnel Committee: updated employment contracts to align with changes to the Ontario Employment Standards Act, and is currently doing the same with OCIC’s Personnel Policy.

d. **Approval of Revised OCIC By-Laws** (Mitra Manouchehrian)

i. Mitra explained that over the past year the Governance Committee updated OCIC’s By-laws to reflect current approaches to the work in our sector, and more gender inclusive language (including changing from ‘international development’ to ‘universal sustainable development and international cooperation’, and from ‘public engagement’ to ‘global citizenship’). We also formalized expectations regarding participation of Board members in Board meetings, and made changes to allow for online voting for members, in the business of the Council, thus improving accessibility.

ii. Mitra noted that the revised By-laws were posted online for member review a week before the AGM, and apologized for not sending these out 30 days in advance. She asked members whether they would consider voting to accept the proposed changes at this AGM, or whether they would prefer to wait until next year’s AGM. The membership agreed to vote at this AGM.

i. Noticing that preamble removes reference to non-profit organizations, a member asked whether OCIC was removing criteria that members must be non-profits and thus opening membership to social enterprise. Mitra explained that the non-profit membership criteria was still the same, but that the revised language aligns better with OCIC’s diverse membership, particularly the realities of its network/institutional members.

ii. *Motion to approve the Revised OCIC By-Laws as presented moved by Nabil Ali (IDRF). Seconded by Jacquelyn Wright (Canadian Feed The Children). All in favour,* ***motion carried****.*

e. **Presentation of Audited Financial Statements and Approval of 2019-2020 Auditor** (Fahad Ahmad)

i. OCIC Board Treasurer, Fahad Ahmad, provided an overview of the audited financial statements for the 2018-2019 fiscal year (as of March 31, 2019). This was OCIC’s second year using Pennylegion/Chung LLP as its auditor. The auditor found no concerns during the audit, thanked OCIC for sharing all documents requested in a timely manner, and endorsed the financial health of the organization. Fahad explained that OCIC had planned its deficits over the past two years, reduced them during the 2018-2019 fiscal year, and had assets to cover them. Our four-year GAC contribution agreement signed in May 2019 attests to our good financial health. There were no questions concerning the audited statements from the membership.

ii. *Motion to approve Pennylegion/Chung LLP as auditors for the 2019-2020 financial year moved by Luke Stocking (Development and Peace). Seconded by Will Postma (PWRDF). All in favour,* ***motion carried****.*

iii. *Motion to approve the Audited Financial Statements, as presented, for the 2018-2019 fiscal year, ending March 31 2019, moved by Matthew Legge (Canadian Friends Service Committee). Seconded by Ray Beraey (Beautiful World Canada). All in favour,* ***motion carried****.*

f. **Sustainability Task Force Report** (Jennifer Naidoo and Emily Leung-Pittman)

i. Jennifer Naidoo and Emily Leung-Pittman presented on the work of the Sustainability Task Force. This focused on the development of the OCIC Fund Diversification Strategy, which includes high and medium priorities for the coming year. Interested members were invited to join the Task Force as it shifts towards implementation.

g. **Ratification of New Members** (Maggie Zeng and Isabelle Hachette)

i. Maggie Zeng introduced the two new Organizational members (Bhutan Canada Foundation and Firefighters Without Borders) and one new Network/Institutional member (TESOL Canada) to be ratified. She noted that descriptions of their work were shared in the participant package, and invited representatives of Bhutan Canada Foundation and Firefighters Without Borders to introduce themselves to the membership. Isabelle Hachette introduced TESOL Canada, as they were not able to attend.

ii. *Motion to ratify Bhutan Canada Foundation as an organizational member moved by Kristin Douglas (Ethiopiaid Canada). Seconded by Will Postma (PWDRF). All in favour,* ***motion carried****.*

iv. *Motion to ratify Firefighters Without Borders as an organizational member moved by Luke Stocking (Development and Peace – Caritas Canada). Seconded by Abisola Olaniyi (Christian Children’s Fund of Canada). All in favour,* ***motion carried****.*

v. *Motion to ratify TESOL Canada as a network/institutional member, moved by Matthew Legge (Canadian Friends Service Committee). Seconded by Kristin Douglas (Ethiopiaid Canada). All in favour,* ***motion carried****.*

vi. Maggie introduced 51 new Associate Members to be ratified, as noted in the AGM participant package.

iii. *Motion to ratify all 51 Associate Members moved by Jacquelyn Wright (Canadian Feed The Children). Seconded by Tina Sweeney (Cuso International). All in favour,* ***motion carried****.*

h. Presentation of Candidates for OCIC Board of Directors (Vida Shehada)

i. Vida presented the current Board Directors in-term: Jessica Ferne (IDRF), Isabelle Hachette (World Accord), Emily Leung-Pittman (Development and Peace), Jennifer Naidoo (CAP Network) and Vida Shehada (Associate Member).

iii. Vida presented the candidates for the Board of Directors:

4 nominations for 5 available Organizational Member seats:

- Dr. Maggie Zeng (CCFC)

- Roshelle Filart (RESULTS Canada)

- Nabil Ali (IDRF)

- Kristin Douglas (Ethiopiaid Canada)

2 nominations for 2 available Associate member seats:

- Mitra Manouchehrian (Associate Member)

- Aysha Dawood (Oikocredit Canada)

iv. Vida explained that there remains 1 vacant seat for an Organizational Member, that could be appointed by the Board in the weeks ahead, and would stand for election at the next AGM. She explained the voting process.

v. The five candidates to the Board of Directors in attendance were invited to speak to their motivation in becoming or continuing to serve as a member of the Board. The one candidate who was not in attendance was presented by Jennifer Naidoo.

vi. Vida called for two volunteer scrutineers to collect and count the ballots. She asked voting members to vote using the ballot in their package. Mitra clarified that there are fewer candidates than spots, so OCIC is looking for ratification of the entire slate of candidates. Scrutineers collected the ballots and left the room to count them.

**i. Executive Director’s Report** (Kimberly Gibbons)

i. Kimberly Gibbons presented highlights of OCIC’s results over the past year:

* OCIC’s Theory of Change, received by members at our 2018 AGM, has been instrumental in guiding proposal development and the work of the Council over the past year.
* Capacity-building: 12 activities were held in 2018-2019 for members, youth and young professionals, often including live-streaming or online options, to be more accessible across the province.
* In collaboration with Humber College and the CCIC PSEAH Hub Steering Committee, OCIC delivered a one-day workshop on ‘Strengthening Organizational Practice and Policies to Prevent and Address Sexual Misconduct’ with a focus on victim-centered approaches, gaps, and how to bring these resources and learning to small and medium-sized organizations (SMOs).
* OCIC served as one of eight civil society representatives on the GAC Civil Society Partnership Policy Advisory Group (CPAG), helping to develop the implementation plan for the nine action areas with the policy.
* Increasing multi-stakeholder dialogue: OCIC convened academics, experts, CSOs, students and private sector through a series of events.
* This year OCIC’s Transformations photojournalism exhibition featured 50 Ontarians connected to 13 OCIC member organizations, and has been shown large-scale and micro-exhibit across Ontario, as well as through our permanent virtual exhibition, online. Transformations uses an asset-based and partnership approach to document and share stories of resilience and positive change, this year focused on global citizenship.
* OCIC hosted 7 Development Drinks and 1 Holiday Marketplace event, and launched our 10th Anniversary iAM eMagazine’s focused on intersectionality.
* With funding from the SDG Unit within Employment Social Development Canada (ESDC), OCIC consulted with leaders and community members in Eabametoong First Nation (Fort Hope) in collaboration with +CityLab at Ryerson, with disability inclusion and Diaspora communities, with the help of consultants with connections to these communities; and with arts and science institutions, to help inform Canada’s National SDG Strategy.
* Our report includes 43 recommendations and 4 key messages, including the need to break silos between Canada’s international and domestic efforts.
* Influence and inspire: OCIC directly engaged over 600 participated in 10 International Development Week events intended to amplify the voice of our members and develop global awareness among Canadians.
* Together, the Inter-Council Network of Provincial and Regional Councils (ICN) reached 4.4 million Canadians through IDW communications, and engaged 124,979 participants in PE activities.

ii. A member asked how OCIC can build upon members’ work on the iCARE campaign, and how they can promote SDGs in Canadian communities, given that many municipalities are jumping on the SDGs. Kim noted that the ground is fertile, especially with the new Youth Policy Hub, which will allow OCIC to send representatives to sub-national, national and international gatherings for dialogue.

**j. Ratification of Candidates for OCIC Board of Directors** (Vida Shehada)

i. Vida returned to share results of the vote to acclaim candidates for the Board of Directors. Ballots were collected and counted by non-voting volunteers. There was majority approval in the ballot for all members.

ii. *Motion to approve the results of the election and acclaim the presented roster of Board Member candidates moved by Luke Stocking (Development and Peace – Caritas Canada). Seconded by Ray Beraey (Beautiful World Canada). All in favour,* ***motion carried****.*

iii. *Motion to destroy the ballots moved by Will Postma (PWRDF). Seconded by Jacquelyn Wright (Canadian Feed The Children). All in favour,* ***motion carried****.*

**k. Business Arising**

**l. Volunteer/Staff/Board Recognitions** (Vida Shehada, Elisa Chang, Kimberly Gibbons)

i. Vida offered thanks to outgoing Board Members Hamsha Pathmanathan and Fahad Ahmad for their service and contributions to the OCIC Board of Directors.

ii. Elisa recognized and thanked all of OCIC’s volunteers from various programs and events over the course of the year, including the AGM volunteers.

iii. Kim thanked the OCIC staff for their exceptional work, as well as the partners with whom OCIC worked this year.

**m. Adjournment of Business Meeting** (Jessica Ferne)

i. *Motion to adjourn the business meeting moved by Matthew Legge (Canadian Friends Service Committee). All in favour,* ***meeting adjourned****.*

***Minutes taken by Emily Leung-Pittman, Secretary, OCIC Board of Directors***

# AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION**  **AS AT MARCH 31, 2020** |  | |
|  | **2020** | **2019** |
| **ASSETS** |  |  |
| Current assets Cash | $ 149,457 | $ 141,011 |
| Term deposits (note 3) | 39,896 | 39,483 |
| Amounts receivable | 17,599 | 9,092 |
| Prepaid expenses and deposits | 4,159 | 12,285 |
|  | $ 211,111 | $ 201,871 |
| **LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS** |  |  |
| Current liabilities  Accounts payable and accrued liabilities | $ 16,516 | $ 20,308 |
| Government remittances payable | - | 7,742 |
| Deferred membership revenue | - | 307 |
| Deferred contributions (note 5) | 135,492 | 101,348 |
|  | 152,008 | 129,705 |
| Net assets  Internally restricted (note 6) | 57,000 | 57,000 |
| Unrestricted | 2,103 | 15,166 |
|  | 59,103 | 72,166 |
|  | $ 211,111 | $ 201,871 |
| Approved on behalf of the Board: |  |  |
| , Director |  |  |
| , Director |  |  |

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| **STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS**  **FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2020** |  | |
|  | **2020** | **2019** |
| **REVENUE**  Government grants (note 7) | $ 529,459 | $ 383,553 |
| Membership fees | 33,684 | 35,024 |
| Professional services | 21,985 | 9,416 |
| Investment income | 1,324 | 1,309 |
| Other contributions | 967 | 2,802 |
|  | 587,419 | 432,104 |
| **EXPENSES** (note 8)  Program  Global Affairs Canada | 382,242 | 329,486 |
| Employment and Social Development of Canada - SDG | 84,567 | 10,933 |
| Administration | 133,673 | 135,410 |
|  | 600,482 | 475,829 |
| **EXCESS OF EXPENSES OVER REVENUE FOR THE YEAR** | (13,063) | (43,725) |
| Net assets, beginning of year | 72,166 | 115,891 |
| **NET ASSETS**, **END OF YEAR** | $ 59,103 | $ 72,166 |

# PROFILES OF NEW MEMBERS TO BE RATIFIED

## Organizational Members

Partners in Health Canada  
Address: 890 Yonge St, Suite 603

Toronto, Ontario M4W 3P4

Phone: 416-646-0666

Web: pihcanada.org

Partners In Health (PIH) is a non-profit, global health organization that fights social injustice by bringing the benefits of modern medical science first and foremost to the most vulnerable communities around the world. Partners In Health Canada was established in 2011 to strengthen PIH's work and add our voice to the Canadian movement for health as a human right.

Our mission is to provide a preferential option for the poor in health care. By establishing long-term relationships with sister organizations based in settings of poverty, Partners In Health strives to achieve two overarching goals: to bring the benefits of modern medical science to those most in need of them and to serve as an antidote to despair.

We draw on the resources of the world's leading medical and academic institutions and on the lived experience of the world's poorest and sickest communities. At its root, our mission is both medical and moral. It is based on solidarity, rather than charity alone.

When our patients are ill and have no access to care, our team of health professionals, scholars, and activists will do whatever it takes to make them well—just as we would do if a member of our own families or we ourselves were ill.

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## Associate Members

**Network & Institutional**

Canadian Christian Relief & Development Association (CCRDA)  
Address: 16 Soper Creek Drive

Bowmanville, Ontario L1C 4G1

Phone: 289-385-7307

Web: [www.ccrda.ca](http://www.ccrda.ca)

The CCRDA is a group of over 55 Canadian, Christian relief and development agencies who are working in over 100 countries. CCRDA's mission is to promote unity and excellence among all Canadian Christian relief and development organizations and our vision is together, to seek God's kingdom purposes for flourishing lives and communities internationally.

Keys of Health  
Address: Virtual

Email: [info@keysofhealth.ca](mailto:info@keysofhealth.ca)

Web: <https://keysofhealth.ca>

The Keys of Health Fellowship identifies developing areas that lack critically needed subspecialist physicians. Working with local health care teams, outstanding local physicians are carefully selected to train in world-class facilities. Once their training is completed, these exceptional physicians return to their region, serving as leaders in health care improvement and provision of world class clinical care.

SoChange

Address: Oakville, Ontario  
Email: [david@sochange.ca](mailto:david@sochange.ca)   
Web: [www.sochange.ca](http://www.sochange.ca)

The butterfly effect of global transformation starts with organizations such as yours, and SoChange is here to help. By accumulating resources, building donor relationships, putting people over products and engaging and educating the public about important social justice issues, we're working with our partners to make a difference. The future looks brighter with SoChange.

**Individual Associate Members**

|  |  |
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| Marzie Aghdaee Albessa Aliu  Brenda Aviles  Johannah Brockie  Fredriz Cantilado  Erick Carreras  Vaishali Dassani Aysha Dawood  Alexandra Nytschyk-Di Bartolomeo  Amir Ghazinoori  Zari Gill  Kamila Graczyk  Kasia Gryc  Jessica Herhold  Aanuoluwapo Deborah Ighagbon  Shivam Jeyawan  Marisa Kaczmarczyk  Jerry Kallada  Nishat Kazmi  Nathalie Lell | Runa Rani Malawarair  Usama Mehmood  Rishma Nathoo  Sarah Naylor  Fulgence Ndagijimana  Eugenia Ochoa  Omezikam Onuoha  Sydney Piggott  Andrea Poopalapillai  Sascha Preiewe  Alicia Richins  Josselyn Seguin  Farrah Seucharan  Kellan Shields  Aditi Sivakumar  Atef Soliman  Karen Tsang  Dina Vivona  Tiancheng Yu  Maggie Zeng |

# BOARD OF DIRECTOR IN-TERM

## Organizational Members

**Nabil Ali, *International Development and Relief Foundation***Nabil Ali is the Director of Programs at the International Development and Relief Foundation (IDRF), where he leads humanitarian and sustainable development projects across several continents. Nabil also developed IDRF's Canadian programs, which supports youth through job readiness training and educational support across Canada. Before joining IDRF, he worked in Somalia, Kenya and Ethiopia as a research consultant for several INGOs and UN agencies. During his time in East-Africa, he led the UNICEF Rapid Education project which evaluated the overall education infrastructure across 6,000 schools. Nabil holds a B.A. in International Development from York University and Postgraduate certificates from Humber College in International Development and the University of Toronto in International Project Management. He currently serves on the Board of Licensed to Learn (L2L) and provides support to L2L's operations across 100 school programs nationally.

**Kristin Douglas, *Ethiopiaid Canada***  
Kristin is a committed, enthusiastic professional with more than eight years of experience in the non-profit sector. She is currently the Executive Director at Ethiopiaid Canada and has held management positions at Plan Canada, Cystic Fibrosis Canada and the Welcome Centre Shelter for Women & Families. She graduated with a BA in Philosophy, Minor in Social Justice and an MSc in Human Rights & International Politics which has led her down a career path in which she is focused on positions that give back to the local and the global communities that she works in. She specializes in fund development, fund diversification, preparing budgets, monitoring & evaluation, relationship management as well as community engagement. She is currently the chair of the OCIC Membership & Nominations Committee and also sits as a Board Advisor for the Canadian Center for Women’s Empowerment.

**Roshelle Filart, *Results Canada***  
Roshelle Filart is currently in her third consecutive term on the OCIC Board of Directors, representing Results Canada. Since first elected in 2015, she has served on several committees, including: Governance; the Executive as Secretary; and Membership and Nominations as Chair. Prior to serving on the Board Roshelle volunteered on the Editorial Board of OCIC's multimedia journal, iAM, Vol. 4; presented at the OCIC Global Citizen Forum in 2013; and was a frequent attendee of Toronto Development Drinks. She brings to the Board more than twenty years of experience in public education, communication and engagement and has lifelong interests in social justice issues, international development, anti-oppressive analysis and voluntary service. She has volunteered with OCIC Organizational Members, World University Service of Canada (WUSC) in Botswana, and VSO Canada (now Cuso International) in Guinea-Bissau. As co-leader of the Toronto volunteer group of Results Canada, she has led citizen advocacy efforts to engage parliamentarians, policymakers, media and community groups to support the UN Sustainable Development Goals and end poverty in all its forms everywhere. For her volunteer efforts, Roshelle received an official commendation from Hélène Laverdière, MP and NDP Critic for Foreign Affairs in 2016, and was awarded the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal in 2012.

**Dr. Maggie Zeng, *Firefighters without Borders***  
A committed and experienced international development professional, Dr. Maggie Zeng has over 20 years of international development experience working with international and domestic non-governmental organizations including Children Believe (formerly Christian Children’s Fund of Canada), Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA,Gender Advisor) and Oxfam (Country Program Manager). Maggie is passionate about gender equality and human rights issues. Over the years she has served as the organizational representative for a number of networks including ChildFund Alliance, International Child Protection Network Canada (ICPNC), the Canadian International Education Policy Working Group (CIEPWG), as well as UN Theme Group on Gender (UNTGG), Global Call to Action against Poverty (GCAP). Maggie is a strong advocate for partnership, believing we are stronger together. She has published and delivered training/presentations on issues related to international assistance policy, gender equality and child protection.

Maggie has served as a Board Director of OCIC since 2017. For the past year she has served as Vice President of the Board of Directors and as a member of the Personnel Committee. Previously Maggie served as the chair of Membership and Nominations Committee and member of the Governance Committee. She is currently representing Firefighters without Borders, where she is volunteering. Maggie holds a PhD in International Development Policy and Administration from the University of Florida, USA.

## Associate Members

**Aysha Dawood, *Oikocredit Canada***  
Aysha Dawood has been the Program Manager at Oikocredit Canada, a not for profit organization whose mandate is to educate Canadians about the value of responsible investment and sustainable development through the thought leadership and best practices of Oikocredit International. From this role, she has experience in partnership building, capacity building, communications and public engagement. Prior to joining Oikocredit Canada, Aysha worked in the affordable housing sector, which included research as well as new housing construction in Canada, the UK, South Africa, Zambia and Tanzania. Aysha holds a Masters Degree in Economic Development and Innovation from the University of Waterloo, a Bachelor's Degree in Urban and Regional Planning from Ryerson University, and a Diploma in Geographical Information Systems (GIS) and Urban Planning from Fanshawe College. Aysha is in her first term on the OCIC Board of Directors and is a member of the Board’s Governance and Finance & Sustainability Committees.

**Mitra Manouchehrian**  
Mitra Manouchehrian is an international development professional specializing in international public health and health promotion initiatives, with experience in project management, gender analysis, knowledge management and strategic planning, both in Canada and in west and southern Africa. Currently working as a Senior Program Manager with Plan International Canada’s Global Fund Unit, Mitra supports the implementation of projects financed by the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB, and Malaria. Her role includes working to create enabling environments where complex partnerships between key stakeholders such as local communities, community leaders, and local and national governmental bodies can flourish. The goals of these partnerships are to ensure the work of countries, Plan International, and the Global Fund is scaled up to meet national and international disease reduction targets, ultimately improving the health and well-being of children and their families. As Senior Program Manager, Mitra supports the integration of gender equality and inclusion programming, as well as the alignment of grants with Plan International’s Child and Youth Safeguarding Policy.

Mitra is also a part-time professor at Centennial College’s International Development post-graduate program, teaching courses on global health, poverty and development, and gender equality. Mitra holds a Masters in International Public Health from the University of Sydney (Australia) and currently serves as the Chair of OCIC’s Governance Committee. She previously served as Chair of the Board, Secretary, and as a member of the Personnel Committee.

# CANDIDATES TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## Organizational Members

**Martina De Ruyte, *World Renew***Martina De Ruyte has a diverse experience with numerous international development organizations. She worked for 4 years for Plan International Canada in fundraising and public engagement, managing face-to-face fundraising campaign teams and coordinating fundraising efforts across five provinces in Canada. During her year as a Gender Technical Assistant with Plan International, she assisted in the design, creation, data management and analysis of an organizational-wide gender and inclusion survey to evaluate the integration of gender across Plan International’s 75+ global offices, and contributed to creation of gender reports and policies. Following this role, Martina worked for 1 year with World Vision Canada as a Program Officer, contributing to the design and development of large multi-country, multi-sectoral proposals and serving in Mozambique in disaster response following Cyclone Idai. For the past year, she has worked with World Renew as a Grant Writer, contributing to the design and development of project proposals, reporting, and strategic planning for her team during the COVID-19 pandemic. She has a Bachelors of Arts in International Development from the University of Guelph, and an International Development Postgraduate Certificate (formerly IPMP) from Humber College. She has expertise in gender transformative programming, in program design and development, and in non-profit strategic planning. She has helped to develop gender policies and strategies for both Plan International and World Renew. In addition to working in Mozambique during the cyclone Idai response, she has also worked overseas in India and Kenya supporting local women’s empowerment and livelihoods organizations. Her passions include human rights and social justice issues –particularly around gender and racial injustices –and a deep conviction for active participation in global movements.

Martina possesses a number of the assets desired by the OCIC board of directors. Through her four years with Plan International Canada she worked heavily in communications and public engagement, and which also involved a significant level of human resource management in selecting, training, growing and maintaining staff. She has experience in partnership building and brokering through the many international programs she has designed in collaboration with consortium INGO partners, local implementing partners, as well as a variety of institutional donors. She has strong experience in risk management, built over years of identifying, assessing and mitigating programmatic, financial and operational context risks to international programs. Finally, Martina has expertise in anti-oppression analysis, as demonstrated by her ongoing commitment to anti-racism work individually and organizationally, and her contributions to anti-racism and gender equality planning and strategy work in World Renew. Throughout all these experiences, she has focused on designing and developing strong, impactful, gender-transformative community development programs to reach the most vulnerable and marginalized people in the developing world. In bringing this diverse expertise to the OCIC board of directors, Martina hopes to add a fresh voice to OCIC’s collaborative governing processes. She would skillfully and authentically represent OCIC’s interests, mission, vision and values, and hopes to contribute to stronger inter-agency collaboration towards addressing the world’s most pressing issues.

**Hansika Gunaratne, *comdu.it***Hansika Gunaratne works in the education sector where she is currently the Manager of Learning and Development at a private career college that caters to mature immigrants and newcomers to Ontario, Canada. She has a Bachelor of Science in Biology and a Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy from the University of New Brunswick as well as a Master of Arts in Development Studies at York University, where her research work involved a case study on community engagement during a dengue epidemic in Kandy, Sri Lanka. Hansika was born in Sri Lanka and came to Canada as an international student after living for many years in the United Arab Emirates.

Hansika’s experience heading up the Operations portfolio at comdu.it and her professional experience in managing learning and development as well as working in the Office of the President at the University of New Brunswick has equipped her with strong skills in partnership building and brokering, capacity building, process improvement, and more which will serve the Ontario Council for International Cooperation well.

**Courtney Mollenhauer, *Transforming Faces***Courtney Mollenhauer is a Program Manager at Transforming Faces, a long-time OCIC member organization and children’s health NGO focused on comprehensive care for children born with cleft lip and palate. She oversees Transforming Faces’ regional programming in Asia and Africa and has been involved in all facets of the organization’s work over her six year tenure. As TF’s former Communications Coordinator, Courtney partnered with OCIC on the first *Transformations* photojournalism project in 2014/15 and has since actively participated in OCIC public engagement and capacity building initiatives.

Courtney has an undergraduate degree in International Development from the University of Guelph and a graduate certificate in International Project Management from Humber College. She has worked for non-profit health organizations in South Africa and Vietnam, and served on the Board of Directors of the Canada-Mathare Education Trust (an OCIC member organization) from 2013 to 2017.

Interests/Assets for OCIC’s Board:

* Governance: Courtney has served as a Director and Committee Chair on a working Board with the Canada-Mathare Education Trust, a volunteer-led NGO. She also currently serves on the Finance, Program and Public Engagement Board Committees at Transforming Faces, and works closely with the TF Board on a regular basis. This experience with both working and governing Boards has given her a strong understanding of a Board member’s responsibilities and a good sense of how a Board can add the most value for an organization like OCIC and its staff.
* Brokering Partnerships: A critical component of Transforming Faces’ organizational model since inception has been to avoid duplication of services and forge collaborations with like-minded NGOs. In addition to managing their long-time regional partnerships, she has helped to launch formal project partnerships with the two largest NGOs in the cleft field, and create a global network of nearly 400 cleft care professionals. This idea of NGOs collaborating and pooling resources and expertise instead of competing is something she has always valued and something that she thinks makes organizations like OCIC so important!
* Capacity Building: Capacity building is a core component of Courtney’s work at TF (and the best part of her job!). Supporting their partners to think in new ways helps them strengthen their projects, deepen their professional expertise and make their organization more sustainable is a major passion. This is an area where OCIC is adding a ton of value, particularly for small NGOs, and something Courtney would love to contribute to.

Other Relevant Experience:

* Financial Management: Courtney currently manages TF’s program budget for Asia and Africa (~60% of total) including overseeing partner financial reporting and fund disbursements for 10+ global partners.
* Communications/Public Engagement: Before transitioning into program management, she had several non-profit and private sector communications roles and volunteered as a writer with Innovate Development, a platform that highlighted positive, innovative stories in international development.
* Advocacy: Courtney completed an internship with the Treatment Action Campaign, an HIV/AIDS advocacy organization in South Africa. Her role was to research and present findings on HIV prevention and national health policies, and to develop outreach materials for vulnerable groups.
* Membership Associations: Courtney worked with the Toronto Construction Association to design a new marketing strategy to better attract and retain members.

**Christina Muia, *TakingITGlobal***Whilst growing up in Kenya, Christina Muia witnessed a clear gap between the haves and have-nots. From those early years to her young adulthood in Canada, Christina has been passionate about poverty alleviation. This has led her to work and volunteer with the United Nations and several Canadian international non-profits on youth employment, women empowerment, food security, sustainable agriculture and climate change projects. Her experiences sparked interest in how youth from marginalized and poor communities are involved in poverty reduction, which was explored in her Masters thesis and led to co-founding BiaSHEara, a multifaceted enterprise that showcased stories of Canadian women entrepreneurs of East African descent and engaged youth volunteers to support documentary production. Christina was recently part of the OCIC Youth Policy Makers Hub and is currently working at TakingITGlobal as the Partnership and Outreach Lead and Data Administrator for the #RisingYouth program, where she supports youth to take up leadership and make positive changes they would like to see in their communities.

A resourceful, curious and driven 31-year old black woman with six years of experience working in international development, Christina seeks to join the OCIC board.

Christina has worked and volunteered with five Canadian international development organizations in research, policy monitoring and analysis, public engagement, partnership building and brokering, advocacy, anti-oppression work and capacity building. The organizations include World Renew (OCIC member), Mennonite Economic Development Associates, TakingITGlobal (OCIC member), Canadian Samaritans for Africa, and Paradigm Shift Project. She has also served as a Board advisor for the Canadian Samaritans for Africa. She is interested in serving on the Membership Committee and the Sustainability Task Force, and would like to contribute to Ontario’s stance and work in international development, as well as learn from others with similar passions and interests.

**Jacquelyn Wright, *Canadian Feed The Children***  
Jacquelyn Wright, President and CEO of Canadian Feed The Children (CFTC), is interested in serving on the Board of Directors of OCIC. Jacquelyn states that; “I would like to join the Board of OCIC as I truly believe in collaboration within our sector and Canadian Feed The Children has greatly benefited from being a member. I would like to give back and get more involved with the members and the goals of the organization. As an experienced leader in the INGO community, I believe I have reached the point in my career where I can provide added value in the area of partnership, governance, government relations and access to stakeholders. CFTC is uniquely placed in that we work both internationally with partner local NGO’s and communities, as well as with Indigenous Nations and communities in Canada.”

Jacquelyn brings a depth and breadth of international development and humanitarian experience to the role of President & CEO for CFTC, after dedicating nearly 35 years to her career. Jackie, as she is known to many, has been the CEO for the past two years, where she supports a Board of Directors and manages the strategic and governance processes of the organization. A keen advocate for women and children throughout the world, for diversity and inclusion, and for human rights, Jackie is passionate about protecting and upholding Indigenous Peoples rights in Canada and supporting Indigenous communities and nations, particularly in the area of food security and food sovereignty.

Canadian Feed The Children, an organization that operates independently in Canada since 1986, takes a community-led approach to its work. To achieve CFTC's mission, the goal is to be a positive agent-of-change with local partners and communities to deliver sustainable results that unlock the potential of children and youth. CFTC operates with a gender equality focus, and a rights-based approach, empowering women and girls in all of our work and unleashing their potential to lead their own development and be a force for positive, lasting change for their families and communities.

In Canada, CFTC's strategy is to strengthen locally-led partnerships with Indigenous communities using a "food systems approach” focusing on initiatives that improve the overall well-being of children and their communities and that will have the greatest impact on the healthy development and well-being of children and youth, and on long-term sustainable food security towards food sovereignty.

As CARE Canada’s Vice President, Partnerships for Global Change, Jackie built a diversified program portfolio by strengthening strategic partnerships and growing revenue through evidence-based best practices, innovation, and future-ready programming. Prior to that, as Vice President, International Programs, she led CARE Canada’s development and humanitarian programming in 35 countries and strategically positioned CARE with key stakeholders, including the Government of Canada and the academic and civil society communities.

Prior to joining CARE in 2013, Jackie spent more than 25 years in humanitarian response and international development with the Red Cross in Canada and with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) internationally. She served as the Canadian Red Cross country representative in Indonesia for nearly four years, where she oversaw country operations and humanitarian and disaster risk reduction programming.

Throughouther multi-faceted career, Jackie has managed emergency relief and development programs in some of the most challenging conflict and post-conflict regions, including Sudan, Uganda after the Rwandan genocide, Sierra Leone and Somalia. She also worked for the Red Cross in Canada in a variety of positions based in Calgary, Winnipeg and at headquarters in Ottawa.

Strongly committed to the study and practice of leadership, Jackie has a Master’s Degree in Leadership and Training from Royal Roads University in Victoria, BC, where she is past co-chair of the Advisory Council of the School of Humanitarian Studies.

## Associate Members

**Jessica Ferne**  
Jessica Ferne currently serves as Director, Global Health Impact, with CanWaCH (Canadian Partnership for Women and Children’s Health). In this role, Jessica leads CanWaCH’s strategic efforts to strengthen Canadian monitoring and evaluation processes, capacity, and collaborations, in order to drive evidence-driven programming and decision-making, with the ultimate aim of improving the health and lives of women, children, and youth.

Prior to CanWaCH, Jessica served as Director of Programs for IDRF, where she led an extensive global portfolio of emergency response and development programs. A passionate health rights advocate, Jessica has also worked in diverse senior program management, technical expert, research, and evaluation capacities in Canada and abroad, with a particular focus on humanitarian action, sexual and reproductive health and rights, and youth engagement. Her work has taken her to multiple countries across South Asia, the Middle East, Eastern and Southern Africa, Eastern Europe, and the Americas.

For the past year, Jessica has served as President of the OCIC Board of Directors and is a member of the Personnel Committee. She has previously served in both Secretary and Vice-President roles as well. She holds a Master of Public Health degree from the Dalla Lana School of Public Health (University of Toronto), as well as several post-graduate certificates.

**Dr. Vida Shehada, *Centennial College***  
Dr. Vida Shehada is a professor and coordinator of the International Development Program at Centennial College. She develops and teaches courses on different issues of international development including Gender Equality, Human Rights, Poverty, and Monitoring and Evaluation. In addition to her teaching portfolio, she provides academic leadership in the development and coordination of the program courses. She is also responsible for internal and external liaison as well as team leadership and facilitation. Vida has been with OCIC’s Board of Directors since June 2016 and serves on the Governance Committee and Strategic Planning Committee.

Vida accomplished her PhD in Public Affairs as a Fulbright Scholar at Rutgers University in the United States. She also has a Master’s Degree in Democracy and Human Rights. Before Centennial College, Vida was a faculty member at Rutgers University and the State University of New York (SUNY), she served as an advisor and committee member of numerous Master’s theses. She also worked in programs funded by Global Affairs Canada (GAC) (formerly CIDA and DFATD), Austcare, Danida, CGAP (World Bank), UNESCO, UNRWA and USAID. Vida has a demonstrated track record of significant accomplishment in program management, program design, implementation and evaluation. She is also involved with several research, curriculum development and community development activities.

# SYMPOSIUM CONTRIBUTORS

**Marianick Tremblay, *Director General - Engaging Canadians Bureau, Partnerships for Development Innovation Branch, Global Affairs Canada***

Special Guest

Marianick Tremblay joined Global Affairs Canada in 1995. In her diplomatic career Ms. Tremblay has ample experience working with various sectors, including human rights, environmental law, small arms, and foreign relations with the Americas. She was the Political Officer in the Canadian Embassy in Mexico from 1995-1998, and the Head of the Political and Economic Programs in the Canadian Embassies in Morocco from 2001-2005, and Chili from 2007-2010. She then served as Ambassador of Canada in El Salvador from 2010-2012, and Ambassador of Canada in Ecuador from 2015-2018. Since 2018, Ms Tremblay has been the Director General of the Engaging Canadians Bureau at the Partnerships for Development Innovation Branch, Global Affairs Canada.

**Sara Awad**, ***Advisor, Gender Equality and Women’s Economic Empowerment, Canadian Executive Service Organization (CESO)***

Moderator, OCIC Member Panel: Towards a Just Recovery

Sara has experience in strategic and progress evaluation, program design, monitoring and evaluation, result chain analysis, political economy analysis, and proposal writing. Her areas of expertise include poverty reduction and livelihoods support, microfinance development, economic and social research, governance, gender equality, and small business development.

Sara is multilingual and holds a Bachelor of Arts in International Development Studies from McGill University. She currently works as an Advisor, Gender Equality and Women’s Economic Empowerment at CESO-SACO.

**Leslie Chan, *Associate Professor, Centre for Critical Development Studies at the University of Toronto Scarborough (UTSC)***

Moderator, Ways Forward: Ethical Community Engagement Panel

Leslie is Associate Professor in the [Centre for Critical Development Studies](https://www.utsc.utoronto.ca/ccds/welcome-centre-critical-development-studies-ccds) at the University of Toronto and the director of the [Knowledge Equity Lab](https://knowledgeequitylab.ca/). Leslie’s teaching and professional interests centre on the geopolitics of knowledge production and circulation, with a focus on how networking technologies are enabling new forms of collaborations, while also amplifying and reproducing embedded power relations and inequality. In particular Leslie have been exploring the dynamics of university community partnership and the patterns of meanings around knowledge co-creation, participatory research and how community engaged modes of knowledge production may contribute to different frameworks of research impact assessment.

**Gonzalo Duarte, *Executive Director, Compañeros Partners***

Panelist, Ways Forward: Systemic & Organizational Change in International Cooperation

Originally from Toronto, Gonzalo Duarte earned his Master of Philanthropy and Nonprofit Leadership at Carleton University and his Bachelor of Education at Queen's University. His published research outlines best practices for individuals and organizations involved in international volunteering. He is the co-founder of the Canadian-Nicaraguan charity Compañeros Partners and Global x Change, an Ontario learning network. As a Community Manager at the Centre for Social Innovation (CSI Annex) he collaborates with a lot of people to promote the development, growth, and impact of social-purpose organizations.

**Mélissa Dubé, *Public Engagement Coordinator, Results Canada***

Panelist, Ways Forward: Ethical Community Engagement Panel

Mélissa Dubé earned her Master’s in International Development and Globalization at the University of Ottawa and her Bachelor of Arts at St. Thomas University. She spent time in Latin American countries collaborating with local organizations and worked in the federal government to administer advocacy resources to engage international target groups. More recently, Mélissa led Fairtrade Canada’s outreach activities to deepen and increase engagement with volunteers and the general public. Currently, Mélissa is Results Canada's Public Engagement Coordinator and leads national grassroots’ activities in order to engage with volunteer advocates passionate about taking action for a world without extreme poverty.

**Laura Gamez, *MNCH Program Manager, Horizons of Friendship***

Panelist, OCIC Member Panel: Towards a Just Recovery

Laura is currently the program manager for Horizons of Friendship’s Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health Project in Guatemala. Previous to this, she oversaw Horizons’ Mesoamerican program, which included over 11 partners and 18 projects across Central America and Mexico. Laura holds a Bachelor’s degree in Journalism and Human Rights from Carleton University in Ottawa, and a Master’s degree in International Security with concentrations in Migration and Project Management from Sciences Po in Paris, France. She was a contributing author to the OECD’s “Addressing Forced Displacement through Development Assistance and Cooperation: Guidance for Policy Makers and Practitioners;” and authored the chapter: "Lost in the Definition: Environmental Displacement in Salgar Colombia," in the 2016 State of Environmental Migration, a publication led by the Universitaire de Liège and IOM. Originally from Colombia, Laura has called Canada home most of her life, and recently returned from working in East Africa and France where she led projects on conflict resolution, peacebuilding, and the delivery of humanitarian aid for forcibly displaced populations.

**Sarah Hanson, *Experiences Canada / OCIC Youth Policy-Makers Hub (2019-2020)***

Panelist, Ways Forward: Systemic & Organizational Change in International Cooperation

Sarah Hanson is Anishinaabe from Biigtigong Nishnaabeg, whose lived experience as an Indigenous youth guides her work around climate action and community engagement. She holds a Bachelor of Science from Queen’s University in Biology and is currently taking a break from her second bachelor’s degree in Human Rights, Social Justice and Indigenous Studies at Carleton University. During her days, she wears many hats including Program Coordinator for Experiences Canada, North America Regional Director for Youth4Nature and Director of Participants for Leading Change Canada. During her down time, she spends time reconnecting to her ancestry through beading, ribbon skirt making and learning Anishinaabemowin.

**Juan Jose Arenas Ladino, *International Youth Champion, YMCA-GTA***

Panelist, OCIC Member Panel: Towards a Just Recovery

Juan José is a 20-year-old from Colombia. He has been an active volunteer with the YMCA of Risaralada since 2016. Juan José is a Spur Change Youth Champion, after being nominated by the YMCA of Greater Toronto. He is currently in his 4th year of psychology at Uniminuto, and is certified as a Life Skills Trainer by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

Juan José is involved in various projects and is a facilitator of the Leadership School Jaibaná and Ykids – School for Experiential Education Facilitators, which was created by the YMCA of Risaralda. He also founded and leads a program called UsaSOStenible which aims to fight the effects of fast fashion, to strengthen relationships between the citizens of his home city of Pereira and to strengthen volunteers’ life skills.

**Arezoo Najibzadeh, *Founder, Platform***

Panelist, Ways Forward: Systemic & Organizational Change in International Cooperation

Arezoo Najibzadeh is a civil society leader, communicator, and curator of powerful conversations and experiences. She is the founder of Platform where she builds civic leadership capacity among Black, Indigenous, and racialized young women and gender-diverse people. She is also the Communications Manager at Women of Influence, where she amplifies the experience and success of women in leadership internationally. As a natural story-teller and a transformational leader, Arezoo advocates for intersectional gender justice and equity in her work.

**Jakub Nemec, *Executive Director, Salanga***

Panelist, Ways Forward: Ethical Community Engagement Panel

Jakub has worked in the field of international development and humanitarian aid for over a decade. In 2007 he founded Salanga. He is a practitioner at heart and draws on his experience to support Salanga’s partners in everything from program design to safety and security. Jakub understands the many demands and challenging contexts facing our partners, he ensures that Salanga is always providing customized and high quality support.

**Shawna Novak, *Executive Director, Canadian International Scientific Exchange Program (CISEPO)***

Panelist, OCIC Member Panel: Towards a Just Recovery

Shawna Novak has spent over 20 years working with The Canada International Scientific Exchange Program (CISEPO). She specializes in global health delivery and has a clinical background in Cardiology. CISEPO is a registered charitable organization that works to create dignity through health, social justice, and conflict mitigation. CISEPO programs improve quality of life through health systems strengthening and capacity building in healthcare.

Shawna studied Medicine and Conflict Resolution and is also a graduate of the Global Health Delivery Program at Harvard Chan School of Public Health. She has worked on health systems strengthening with 44 partner countries. She has a particular interest in transformative gender equity in global health, telehealth innovations, and implementation science. Her efforts are invested in system strengthening, health leadership education, and engaging healthcare changemakers and communities through CISEPO's global knowledge transfer network. Her work is supported by Ashoka Changemakers and she was a previous recipient of the YMCA Women of Distinction Award for her social justice work in healthcare.

Shawna has been significantly engaged with pandemic relief efforts with Toronto Public Health, the City of Toronto, and Red Cross Canada and has been long committed to disaster relief and good governance work with the Red Cross and CANADEM. She is on faculty for the University of Toronto Centre for Interprofessional Collaboration and the Dalla Lana School of Public Health, and lectures frequently on approaches to conflict management in healthcare, innovation in health systems, global health diplomacy, and the application of CANMEDS competencies to Global Health. She devotes time as a board member for Women for Dignity and Development Foundation and serves on Save a Child's Heart Canada Medical Advisory Committee.

**Ikem Opara, *Capacity Building Lead, Ontario Trillium Foundation***

Panelist, Ways Forward: Systemic & Organizational Change in International Cooperation

Ikem Opara has spent most of his career learning and sharing his passion for designing and building opportunities that enable communities around the world to shape their own futures. Over the last 20 years of service in the public and non-profit sectors in Canada and internationally, Ikem has used his ability to listen, learn and educate to build relationships and strengthen connections across national, linguistic, cultural and other borders. A child of the Igbos of south-eastern Nigeria, Ikem and his family now live in Toronto in territories covered by the Dish with One Spoon Wampum Belt Treaty where he guides the capacity building work of the Youth Opportunities Fund at the Ontario Trillium Foundation. Ikem is a former board member of OCIC.

**David Peck, Founder and Director, SoChange**

Moderator, Ways Forward: Systemic & Organizational Change in International Cooperation

David Peck is a writer, speaker, entertainer, academic, social change consultant and the host of a popular podcast called *Face2Face*. It’s an intimate, in depth conversation where film, ideas and social change meet.

With a Masters degree in Philosophy and postgraduate work in International Development, he is the founder of SoChange, a social enterprise that works with the corporate and NGO community in leadership development, innovation and entrepreneurship. He was named a Global Hero by Verge magazine in 2009. David is the creator of the *Mosquitoes Suck Tour* and yChange social justice initiatives - global campaigns that engaged, entertained and advocated on behalf of the worlds most vulnerable in Toronto, Vancouver and Hong Kong.

David is also a professional magician and co-producer and creator of the Remi award winning children's television show *Spellz* and he is currently directing *Broken Courage*, his first feature length documentary. He lives just outside of Toronto, Ontario with his wife Elizabeth, his children Spencer and Victoria, and their Greek rescue dog Sasha.

**Farrah Seucharan, *Advocate, OCIC Youth Policy-Makers Hub (2019-2020)***

Panelist, Ways Forward: Ethical Community Engagement Panel

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 and advocating for people with disabilities. In the past year, she has spoken at the University of Toronto on patient experience, and she has also addressed the topic of increased representation of marginalized peoples in our political system at the Together│Ensemble 2020 Conference. An advocate of basic income, she also helped facilitate a summer webinar series educating the general public about its history, purpose, and potential future in Canada.

Farrah is a current member of the Patient, Family & Public Advisors Council at Health Quality Ontario, and a Master’s Student in Poverty Reduction Policy at SOAS University of London. Her projects include an analysis of the “global brain” and how its presence or absence in communities worldwide shapes emotion, memory, and the future.

**Tina Sweeney, *Outreach & Partnerships Officer, Cuso International***

Panelist, OCIC Member Panel: Towards a Just Recovery

After volunteer trips to Tanzania, East Africa, and Dharamsala, North India, working in child development services, Tina found meaning in proximity and that closeness voiced a new narrative and a career transition into community engagement and international development. Tina is passionate about engaging and supporting Canadians to better understand how they can contribute their knowledge and talents to help the world's most vulnerable.

For the past 6 years, Tina has been part of Cuso International’s communications and marketing team, as Outreach and Partnerships Officer. She creates spaces to strengthen global citizenship and social inclusion while amplifying the voices and stories of those around the world whom we serve.

Tina sits on the executive board for the Canadian International Council (CIC) Toronto branch and The Program Advisory (PAC) Committee for Centennial College, their International Development program.

# OUR TEAM

**Kimberly Gibbons, *Executive Director***

[kimberly@ocic.on.ca](mailto:kimberly@ocic.on.ca)

Kimberly Gibbons has been the Executive Director of OCIC since 2005. Kimberly believes in supporting community-led development and an enabling environment for civil society organizations, and in mobilizing Canadians to achieve universal sustainable development. As an active contributor to the Inter-Council Network of Provincial and Regional Councils for International Cooperation (ICN) and the Canadian Council for International Cooperation (CCIC), a member of the Humber College International Programs Advisory Committee, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE) Programs Advisory Committee, Knowledge for Change Toronto Hub, and Global Affairs Canada Civil Society Partnerships Policy Advisory Group (CPAG), Kimberly is a vocal advocate for small and medium-sized organizations (SMOs) and their potential to strengthen local to global connections, transformative partnerships, and solidarity.

Kimberly has worked in many formal and non-formal education settings with youth and adults of diverse backgrounds in Asia, Central America, Europe and Canada. She holds a Masters of Education in Adult Education and Transformative Learning from OISE, University of Toronto, and studied human rights at the graduate level at the Commonwealth Institute, University of London, England. Kimberly also has a Bachelor of Arts in International Development and Rural Extension Studies from the University of Guelph and completed her final undergraduate year of study at SNDT Women’s University, Mumbai, India. Throughout the pandemic period, Kimberly’s love of plants and community gardening have grown as she has spent countless hours with her hands in the dirt in her balcony pots, and while connecting with neighbours and passers-by the Hopewell Community Garden.

**Lisa Swainston, *Director of Operations***

[lisa@ocic.on.ca](mailto:lisa@ocic.on.ca)

Lisa Swainston has worked at OCIC since 2008 in a number of capacities. In her role as Director of Operations Lisa is responsible for developing and implementing operational processes and procedures that will better enable the staff and Council to achieve our strategic directions and funded programs. Lisa also supports financial and administrative management of all operations; oversees membership renewal and development; and provides direction on operational and member service activities. Outside of OCIC Lisa is a Board Director for Amnesty International Toronto, and is an advocate for human rights, social justice, equality and inclusion, with a strong interest in Indigenous rights and corporate accountability.

Lisa has an Honours B.A. with majors in Criminology and Sociology and minors in French and Indigenous Studies (formerly called Aboriginal Studies) from the University of Toronto, and Certificates in Project Management from Humber College; Fundraising and Volunteer Management, and Practical Management Strategies from George Brown College. Lisa has taken several courses in Organizational Management and Human Resources from Ryerson University. She also enjoys camping and hiking, watching films, listening to music, reading, traveling and crocheting.

**Eric Plato, *Accountant***

[eric@ocic.on.ca](mailto:eric@ocic.on.ca)

Eric Plato has been the Accountant at OCIC since the fall of 2019. Eric is a CPA, CMA who has worked in the charitable sector for nearly 30 years. He has experience working in organizations with budgets ranging from under $50,000 to over $100 million. Eric is an excellent trainer, speaker and facilitator in nonprofit financial management. He currently teaches financial management for NGO’s at Centennial College. His goal has always been to assist people to feel more confident and comfortable in managing their finances. Eric has served on several boards and is currently the Treasurer at North York Community House. Outside of work Eric enjoys running, travelling and cooking for friends.

**Eugenia Ochoa, *Community Engagement Specialist***

[eugenia@ocic.on.ca](mailto:eugenia@ocic.on.ca)

Eugenia is a community engagement designer, researcher and multimedia artist. Her multifaceted experience has led her to work at the intersection of global sustainable development, civic engagement and storytelling. In her Community Engagement role with the Ontario Council for International Cooperation (OCIC), Eugenia worked to support youth-led advocacy and contributed to policy-focused national and global forums. She also worked in cooperation with international partners to co-create impact stories and support knowledge mobilization. Eugenia serves on the Board of FRIDA - the Young Feminist Fund and is a member of the Global Shapers Toronto Hub and the Canadian Council of Young Feminists.

Eugenia holds a degree in International Development & Gender Studies from Trent University and is originally from El Salvador. This fall Eugenia will be wrapping up four amazing years at OCIC. She will be moving on to lead the Digital Education and Research portfolio at the Toronto Centre for Learning & Development.

**Elisa Chang, *Communications Specialist***

[elisa@ocic.on.ca](mailto:elisa@ocic.on.ca)

Elisa (Ting-Yi) Chang joined OCIC in 2018, bringing with her a passion in strategic communications for sustainable development and social justice. Having worked in the nonprofit sector in Canada and abroad, Elisa is an advocate for inclusion, openness, and equitable access to knowledge. In her current role she is responsible for implementing OCIC’s communications strategies and policies to ensure the visibility of the Council and its key stakeholders’ work, and to encourage meaningful participation for all. Elisa oversees the Council’s website maintenance, social media management, email campaign production, and the creation of digital and multimedia products.

Elisa was born and raised in Taiwan and holds an Honours B.A. in International Development Studies from the University of Toronto Scarborough. Outside of work, she is a keen learner and a comic artist with her own multimedia journalism projects.

**Marilyn Bastedo, *Program Support***

[marilyn@ocic.on.ca](mailto:marilyn@ocic.on.ca)

Marilyn Bastedo joined OCIC in July 2019 and is responsible for supporting membership, logistics and administration for OCIC programs. She brings her passion for women’s empowerment, connecting with communities, and knowledge sharing to her work.

Marilyn majored in Community Development at Brescia University College through Western University and in 2017 completed her postgraduate certificate in International Development with a partnering certificate in Global Citizenship from Humber College. Marilyn’s experience in the non-profit sector spans from volunteering locally with the United Way, Heart and Stroke Foundation, Culture Link and Progress Toronto. She has also worked internationally with CARE Canada in Zambia, with rural indigenous women weavers in Guatemala, and on social justice movements through the use of information and communication technologies in South Africa. Through her work she has specialized in community and public engagement, strategic partnerships, and gender equality.

Marilyn currently volunteers for TEDxToronto supporting community partnership outreach and relationships. She is continually learning and is currently focusing on expanding her knowledge of local policy research and corporate social responsibility. She can most often be found out for a run or a bike in the city.

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# AGM & SYMPOSIUM 2020 PARTICIPANTS

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# THANK YOU

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