



OUR LEADERSHIP TEAM

Following a successful Annual General Meeting of Members on September 17, 2022, the CPPN's Leadership Team for 2022-2023 was confirmed, as was the Board of Directors' Executive Committee.



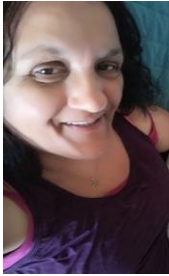
Deborah Norris
Regional Director, the Prairies,
and
Co-Chair

Deborah Norris has been an activist and advocate for people living with HIV since soon after her HIV diagnosis in 1991. She has been an active member of the boards of local, provincial, national, and international groups of people living with HIV. Deborah originally sat on the Board of CPPN starting in the spring of 2017 and resigned in September of 2018. She was again elected to the CPPN Prairie seat in January of 2019. Since 1992, Deborah has provided peer support to people living with HIV and community education on the social/psychological issues of living with HIV and the basics of HIV infection. In the mid-1990s, she co-founded a non-profit society for women living with HIV in Alberta and was its chairperson for three years. Deborah was recognized by HIV Edmonton with a Community Leadership award and nominated for a Woman of the Year award in Edmonton. She is looking forward to continuing to represent the voices of people living with HIV.



Robert Olver
At-Large Director, and Co-Chair

Rob Olver was diagnosed as HIV-positive in 2014, a couple of weeks before he was due to retire. He shares he knew from the start that he wanted to be open about his diagnosis and work to destigmatize HIV in the community and blogging about life with HIV at PositiveLite.com offered him the chance to do that. Shortly after, he became its editor. PositiveLite.com was Canada's online magazine run by and for people living with HIV. It was a peer-led initiative and was unique in that and many other ways, so it was just natural that we were early endorsers/supporters of two other peer-driven initiatives: The U=U movement and the CPPN. PositiveLite.com liked to see peers succeed and direct their own success. The closure of the publication a couple of years ago was just one of several big changes in Rob's life which shifted his focus for a while to more personal matters and a retirement of sorts. The world, the CPPN and we are going through challenging times of late. And there are more challenges to come, some of them unprecedented. So, to be able to continue to serve the Canadian HIV community by serving on the board of the CPPN now is an honour for Rob and he approaches the work knowing that if we can be our best selves together, we can accomplish great things for all people living with HIV in this country. Rob reports he is looking forward to working with you all.



Dani Burke
At-Large Director, and Secretary

"I am currently a member of CPPN & sit on the finance committee. I am also a board member on the Calgary HIV Social Society. I have been living with HIV since 2012. I enjoy volunteering my time to give back to those who I support living with this disease. Although I have only been a CPPN member less than a year, I have sat in on many group discussions learning the legal aspects, the stigma that continues, the fight for better medical care, the fight for the government to honor us with promise funding, and the stories from my HIV peers across Canada. My motto: We will not be silent, instead we will be loud and proud. I am mom & an animal advocate. I have three rescues: 2 cats & a bunny. I am opinionated & speak my mind. I do not sugar coat my words. I am trustworthy."



Synder Starr
Regional Director, British Columbia, and Treasurer

Tyler uses the pronouns they/them and they are 36 years old. Tyler says, "I would love to part of the Board again, representing the Pacific Region." They have 10+ years of experience in the not-for-profit sector: with YouthCo AIDS Society for 8 years, two terms with the Positive Living Society, and in service to the Hepatitis C Council of BC. Tyler has been living with HIV for 15 years. They describe themselves as a person who has a unique quality of looking at a problem and finding a solution. They say they are "someone who is not afraid to stand up for things that may need a helping hand." Tyler is currently enrolled in a 2-year diploma program in Social Work and, in 2019, received their diploma in Property Management.



Glen Hart
Regional Director, Ontario

Glen Hart is a Housing Stabilization Worker with the Homeless Outreach Program at Fife House Foundation in Toronto, where he is also Chair of the Truth and Reconciliation Working Group, and a Union Rep for OPSEU Local 5120. He is a queer, long-term PLHA who now uses his traumatic past to inform his work with marginalized, homeless, and at-risk clients living with HIV. He is a recent two-term Member and Vice-Chair of the Toronto Accessibility Advisory Committee, a current Board member of the Ontario AIDS Network, and Chair of the OAN's Governance Committee. He believes that Peers need to have a central role in the HIV sector, including their leadership in key policy, priority, and program decision-making positions in all HIV-related institutions. GIPA/MEPA in action must be the norm, rather than merely an aspirational goal.



Kellie Leeder
Regional Director, Northern, Rural, and Remote Communities

"Hello, my name is Kellie, and I have lived with HIV for 37 years; I have lived in a rural community all my life. I feel connected to my community.

I have worked at the Gilbert Centre for five years and have been at the centre for nine years. I didn't know what I was looking for when I walked into the Gilbert Center. With the help of the Support Worker at the time, she helped me to understand and expand my knowledge about living with HIV; at the time, I lived one day at a time, and I have a much better understanding of HIV. I have attended many trainings, including three levels of Positive Leadership Development Institute (PLDI); I participated in the three levels of Turn towards One Another (TTOA). I am a trained facilitator and master trainer of the Chronic Conditions Self Management Program (CCSMP) and the Positive Self Management Program (PSMP); I am on the Advisory Committee of People Living with HIV with Ontario AIDS Network (OAN). I am on the Board of Gravenhurst Women's Centre. At the agency level, I organize the Red Scarf Campaign and World AIDS Day; I support Women living with HIV. I am on the Muskoka Pride Festival; I collaborate with community members to put on the Muskoka Pride Festival, and I attend events as an ally to the 2S-LGBTQ Community. I collaborate with WHAI for the Love Positive Women committee to bring a virtual event for Women."



Marlo Cottrell

Designated Communities Director, People Living with HIV and HIV Co-infection(s)

Marlo Cottrell is a long-term HIV survivor. Diagnosed in 1996, she became an HIV activist and advocate for people living with HIV, while also tackling stigma and discrimination faced with homelessness, gender-based violence and people who use drugs through her lived experience. She has been active in the HIV community since her diagnosis, working on several boards within the local and provincial level.



Folasade Olaniyan

Designated Communities Director, Ethnocultural/Migrant Communities

Folasade is an apprentice member of the CAC (CTN), worked as a dental hygienist and is pursuing a career in medicine, currently in her second year of training. She is a peer research associate, has volunteered with several AIDS communities and involved in Community based research across Canada. A mother of two and a Sunday school teacher. when she is not working or studying, she loves travelling.



Dakarayi Chigugudhlo

Designated Communities Director: People who identify as Women or Girls

Dakarayi Chigugudhlo is result-oriented development professional with a passion to make transformative change in people's lives. She is an inspirational Community Leader who is committed to help and support her community. This is seen in her community involvement and volunteer engagement in the HIV Sector. In her capacity as Founder of Women Empowering Positive Women, a peer led social enterprise; she has transformed the lives of immigrant women living with HIV. Her strident selfless outstanding leadership qualities reflective with her work has influenced many lives in a positive way in the community. Dakarayi is currently working for Toronto HIV AIDS Network as a Peer Coordinator. She has been involved in HIV work since 2002, when she first volunteered at APAA, PWA, Fife House, and Women's Health in Women's Hands Research. She also served in several Advisory committees, Toronto HIV AIDS Network, PWA' 30th Anniversary, NOT art Therapy and Picturing Participation projects. Dakarayi graduated with Honours Bachelor of Arts Degree at the University of Toronto and completed M.A. in Critical Disability Studies at York University and Non-Profit Management in the Non-Profit Sector Certificate at Seneca College. She had received Recognition Award from Inspector of Toronto Police, Nick Memme. She has shared a platform with UN women President Almas Juwani and honoured with the Leadership Award at the Immigrant Talk Show Awards; and received the Education Award from the Black Women Moving Forward.



Michael Laframboise

Designated Communities Director, Indigenous Peoples

Michael is a 51-year-old Algonquin Metis IPHA. He was diagnosed HIV-positive on October 17, 1998. He is a graduate of PLDI. Michael has been involved with The Aids Committee of Ottawa (ACO) for many years: first, as a volunteer in the mid 80s, and as a client since early 2000's. He also volunteers at Camp Journey (formerly known as Camp Snowy Owl) as a camp counselor for young boys. He is also the ACO's Official feather and bundle carrier. And he is also the leather ambassador (MR PLOW 2014) for the Snowblower festival, which is a health and wellness festival put on by ACO every year.

Michael is also currently involved with the Niikaniganaw project as a knowledge carrier and as a member of its planning committee. He attends Opening Doors in Gananoque regularly and helps facilitate the "Acknowledging our Losses" workshop, and he attends the CAAN AGM almost annually as a representative for Ottawa. In addition to all of this, Michael currently serves as President of the Ottawa Knights, a leather and denim organization, and he is the current title holder BOOTBLACK OTTAWA 2020 and 2021. Michael says, "As an Indigenous person living with HIV, I feel that Indigenous people need a voice and need to be heard... I am not afraid of a challenge, and I am a fast learner. I also have a voice and am not afraid to use it."



Kimberly Samson
At-Large Director

Since 2011-2019 I have volunteered with HIV Community Link cooking Friday lunches, going to Activity nights which included condom packing for handing out, administration duties ie stuffing envelopes, making swag bags for events, attending events, completed Peer Training Course 2017. Was also a speaker for the Education of HIV. In 2016-2018 I sat on the Alberta Funding Consortium on HIV and STBBI's. In 2016 till present I sit on the Positive Voices Caucus with the Alberta Community Council on HIV. Since 2018 I am one of the founding members of the Calgary HIV Social Society where I am Secretary/Treasurer/Event Planner/Peer Researcher. In 2019 I became a Peer Research Associate for the Alberta Stigma Index Project which is part of the National Stigma Index with Community Based Research. Through both the Alberta Stigma Index and the Calgary HIV Social Society I have done numerous Education Presentations. I really want to help people living with HIV to first get their basic needs met and then build community to help with both stigma and isolation. I enjoy walking my dog Lyric, listening to and attending live Blues/Rock music, and the great outdoors. I would like to help the Canadian Positive Peoples Network build our HIV Community across Canada and to Educate the General Public about how we can end transmission of HIV for future generations.



Jeff Potts
Executive Director

In personal life, Jeff Potts is a 53-year-old gay man, father to five, and grandfather to four. Jeff is aging with HIV having received a once-fateful diagnosis in the early 90s, and he joined a second survivors' community after a stroke at Thanksgiving 2016, and a second in January 2018.

His life's work found him at CATIE in 1994, and, from there, he held key public service positions in the infectious disease portfolios at Health Canada, Correctional Service Canada, and the Public Health Agency of Canada. Today, Jeff is honoured to continue in his community service and humbled by his current role as the Canadian Positive People Network's Executive Director.

In life and in life's pursuits, Jeff shares a simple objective with Helen Keller. She once said, "I long to accomplish great and noble tasks, but it is my chief duty to accomplish humble tasks as though they were great and noble. The world is moved along, not only by the mighty shoves of its heroes, but also by the aggregate of the tiny pushes of each honest worker."