

Action Canada – Whitehorse, YK, September 2023

Learning Goals & Study Tour Agenda

Objectifs d'Apprentissage & Programme du Voyage d'Étude

Learning Goals

Upon completion of the Action Canada Fellowship,

- Canada:
 - Fellows will be able to apply knowledge of major sectors, institutions, issues, and regions of Canada to deepen their understanding of current issues and policy decisions.
- Policy:
 - Fellows will be able to explain the complexity of policymaking in Canada, a country with great diversity in needs and interests.
 - Fellows will create effective and responsive policy recommendations.
- Leadership:
 - Fellows will demonstrate the following leadership skills: active listening, powerful questions, being present.
 - Fellows will show confidence in their ability to have an impact within their community/country.
- Connection:
 - Fellows will establish close ties to peers with diverse viewpoints from across the country, sectors, backgrounds, and generations. They will support each other to turn their ideas into action.

Objectifs d'apprentissage

A l'issue du programme d'Action Canada,

- Canada:
 - Les Fellows seront en mesure d'appliquer leurs connaissances des principaux secteurs, institutions, enjeux et régions du Canada afin d'approfondir leur compréhension des enjeux actuels et des décisions politiques.
- Politique:
 - Les Fellows seront en mesure d'expliquer la complexité de l'élaboration des politiques au Canada, un pays où les besoins et les intérêts sont très diversifiés.
 - Les Fellows seront en mesure de formuler des recommandations efficaces et adaptées en matière de politique.
- Leadership:
 - Les Fellows feront preuve des compétences suivantes en matière de leadership : écoute active, questions pertinentes, présence.
 - Les Fellows montreront qu'ils ont confiance en leur capacité à avoir un impact au sein de leur communauté ou de leur pays.
- Connection:
 - Les Fellows établiront des liens étroits avec des pairs aux points de vue divers, issus de tout le pays, de tous les secteurs, de tous les milieux et de toutes les générations. Ils se soutiendront mutuellement pour transformer leurs idées en actions.

Study Tour Agenda | Agenda de la visite d'étude

Time/Heure (EST/HNA)		Tuesday, September 19 / Mardi, le 19 septembre	
Arrivals			
<i>Location / Lieu: Sternwheeler Hotel and Conference Centre (201 Wood St)</i>			
15:05-16:15	For every commercial flight, the hotel offers a shuttle bearing the Sternwheeler logo, situated at the airport to transport guests to the hotel Pour chaque vol commercial, l'hôtel propose une navette portant le logo Sternwheeler, située à l'aéroport, pour transporter les clients jusqu'à l'hôtel.		
	<u>Note:</u> Please sign up to take the airport shuttle for the 23 rd if your flight leaves at 8:20am. You should arrive at the airport 90 minutes before your flight departure time Note : Veuillez vous inscrire pour prendre la navette de l'aéroport pour le 23 si votre vol part à 8h20. Vous devez arriver à l'aéroport 90 minutes avant l'heure de départ de votre vol.		
Welcome Circle & Terms of Engagement			
Speaker: Sara-Christine Gemson '15			
Land Acknowledgement: Alexandra Nychuk			
17:30-19:00	<i>Location / Lieu: Sternwheeler Hotel and Conference Centre (201 Wood St)</i>		
	Warm welcome, review of guidelines and "terms of engagement", exchange on how teams are considering task force proposal feedback Accueil, rappel des recommandations et des "conditions d'engagement", échange sur la manière dont les équipes prennent en compte les commentaires de la proposition de projet du groupe de travail.		
Dinner Souper			
19:30	<i>Location: 506 All Day Grill (506 Main St)</i>		
Time/Heure (EST/HNA)		Wednesday, September 20 / Mercredi, le 20 septembre	
		<u>Instagram takeover:</u> Japman Bajaj	
Breakfast Déjeuner			
Until 8:00am	Fellows, mentors and staff are free to explore Whitehorse spots for breakfast Vous êtes libres d'explorer les restos locaux pour le déjeuner.		
Bus Transport			
8:00-8:50	<i>Time: ~ 50 minutes</i>		
CANADA - Carcross Visit			
Host(s): Ashley Carvill and James Baker			
Land Acknowledgement: Madison Rilling			
Discussant Lead: James Chan			
9:00-14:00	<i>Location: Carcross/Tagish First Nation - Carcross Clanroom</i>		
	Immersion in the rich cultural heritage and traditions of the Carcross Tigit First Nation, and a tour, all designed to provide a deeper understanding of this vibrant community. Lunch will be provided on site Immersion dans le riche patrimoine culturel et les traditions de la Première nation Carcross Tigit, ainsi qu'une visite guidée, toutes conçues pour permettre une meilleure compréhension de cette communauté dynamique. Le dîner sera fourni sur place.		

14:00-15:00	Bus Transport <i>Time: ~ 55 minutes</i>
15:00-16:45	POLICY - Air North Visit Speaker: Erik (Rick) Neilsen Discussant Lead: Dale Arcand-Morin <i>Location: Air North Building (150 Condor Rd)</i> <p>Discussion on the importance of reducing the carbon footprint in the aviation sector and an exploration of Air North's sustainability approach. Tour of Air North facilities. Discussion sur l'importance de la réduction de l'empreinte carbone dans le secteur de l'aviation et exploration de l'approche d'Air North en matière de développement durable. Visite des installations d'Air North.</p>
16:45-17:30	LEADERSHIP - End of Day Reflection Speaker: Sara-Christine Gemson '15 <i>Location: Air North Building (150 Condor Rd)</i>
17:30-18:00	Dinner Souper <i>Location: Air North Building (150 Condor Rd)</i>
18:00-18:15	Bus Transport <i>Time: ~ 15 minutes</i>
After 18:15	CONNECTION – Task Force Work time <p>The Fellows are free to work on their task force projects wherever they prefer. Les Fellows sont libres de travailler sur leur projet où ils le souhaitent.</p>
Time/Heure (EST/HNA)	Thursday, September 21 / Jeudi, le 21 septembre Instagram takeover: Melissa O'Rourke
Free	Breakfast Déjeuner <p>Fellows, mentors and staff are free to explore Whitehorse spots for breakfast Vous êtes libres d'explorer les restos locaux pour le déjeuner.</p>
7:40	Transport Public <p>15-minute bus ride via Route 5: Takhini Lobird & Copper Ridge (click here for fares & purchase locations)</p> <p>Note: Buses depart every hour (from City Hall to YU: 6:40am to 8:40pm) Remarque : les bus partent toutes les heures (de l'hôtel de ville à YU : de 6h40 à 20h40).</p>
9:00-10:15	POLITIQUES – Présentation de Yukon Energy Intervenants : Judy Booth, Eric Labrecque, and Hudson Lucier and Sara French-Rooke <p>Reconnaissance du territoire: André Moreau <u>Note:</u> The Yukon University is situated in the Traditional territory of the Kwanlin Dün First Nation and the Ta'an Kwäch'än Council.</p> <p><i>Lieu: Yukon University C-WING - Room C1530</i> Click here for a map of Yukon University</p> Responsable de la discussion : Justine Lalande
10:30-12:30	LEADERSHIP - Leadership session: Values and Purpose Intervenante : Suzanne Nault <i>Lieu: Yukon University (C-WING - Room C1530, Lower Level)</i>

	One of the most critical decisions we face is choosing the type of leader we aspire to be. Explore your leadership aspirations, defining values, purpose, and your current presence. <u>Take your notebooks!</u> L'une des décisions les plus importantes que nous ayons à prendre est de choisir le type de leader que nous aspirons à être. Explorez vos aspirations en matière de leadership, les valeurs qui vous définissent, votre objectif et votre présence actuelle. <u>Prenez vos blocs-notes !</u>
12:30-13:45	Lunch Diner <i>Lieu: Yukon University, HillTop Bistro (C-WING - Room C2100, Upper Level)</i>
13:45-15:30	CANADA – Public Indigenous Lecture on Economic Reconciliation Intervenants : Victoria B. Fred, Justin Ferbey Responsable de la discussion : Alexandra Nychuk <i>Lieu: Yukon University Lecture Hall (A-WING - Room A2206, Upper Level)</i> Self-Determination: A Fundamental Element of Economic Reconciliation <i>L'autodétermination : Un Élément Fondamental de la Réconciliation Économique</i> Keynote followed by Q&A Intervenants suivis de questions-réponses
15:40-16:30	LEADERSHIP - Réflexion Intervenante : Sara French-Rooke <i>Lieu: Yukon University C-WING - Room C1530</i>
16:51-17:06	Transport Public The bus will pass by Yukon University at 4:51 PM
18:00	LEADERSHIP - Hon. Jeanie McLean Intervenante : Hon. Jeanie McLean Responsable de la discussion : Paul Bailey <i>Lieu: Lounge at Tony's Pasta and Seafood - Inside Sternwheeler Hotel and Conference Centre (201 Wood St)</i> The Deputy Premier will talk about current day challenges facing the Yukon and her own leadership journey into politics La vice-première ministre parlera des défis actuels auxquels le Yukon est confronté et de son propre parcours en politique.
Time/Heure (EST/HNA)	Friday, September 22 / Vendredi, le 22 septembre <u>Instagram takeover:</u> Joey Coleman
Until 7:30	Breakfast Déjeuner Fellows, mentors and staff are free to explore Whitehorse spots for breakfast Vous êtes libres d'explorer les restos locaux pour le déjeuner
7:30 YT-9:00 AT	Bus Transport <i>Gather at the hotel's front entrance and remember to bring your passport.</i>
9:00-11:30 AT	CONNECTION – Alaska Tour Speaker: Jim Coates Land Acknowledgement: Michelle Bailey Discussant Lead: Tiffany Prete Walking tour of main sites, followed by free exploration Visite à pied des principaux sites, suivie d'une exploration libre.
11:30-14:30 AT	POLICY - Alaska Commercial Company Speaker: Kyle Hill Discussant Lead: Megan Johnson <i>Location: Skagway Visitors Center (205 Broadway)</i> Presentation focusing on northern transportation, which will include comparisons of policies and their respective outcomes in Alaska and Northern Canada. Additionally, a tour of the Alaska Commercial Company store. Lunch will be provided on site

	Présentation axée sur les transports dans le Nord, qui comprendra des comparaisons des politiques et de leurs résultats respectifs en Alaska et dans le Nord du Canada. De même, une visite du magasin de l'Alaska Commercial Company est prévue. Le déjeuner sera fourni sur place.
14:30-15:00 AT	LEADERSHIP - End of day reflection Speaker: Sara-Christine Gemson '15 <i>Location: Skagway Visitors Center (205 Broadway)</i>
15:00 AT-18:30 YT	Bus Transport
18:30- 21:00	CONNECTION - Alumni gathering <i>Location: Residence of Ben Sanders</i>
21:00	Bus Transport
Time/Heure (EST/HNA)	Saturday, September 23 / Samedi, le 23 septembre
6:30am	Departure / Départ Airport Shuttle: Hotel guests must sign up at the front desk for the shuttle to take them to the airport Note: Please sign up when checking in on the 19 th ! Navette aéroport : Les clients de l'hôtel doivent s'inscrire à la réception pour que la navette les emmène à l'aéroport. Remarque : veuillez-vous inscrire lors de votre enregistrement le 19 !

Action Canada – Voyage d'étude à Whitehorse, Septembre 2023

Speakers, Guests, Mentors, and Staff

Wednesday, September 20 / Mercredi, le 20 septembre

Carcross/Tagish First Nation



ASHLEY CARVILL

Ashley Carvill was born into a family of leaders within the Carcross/Tagish First Nation (C/TFN). Ashley learned very early to engrain all that she does with her traditional teachings and her culture, which she holds in very high regards. She began with her professional career at the Correctional Centre where she was employed as a Correctional Officer. It was while working here that Ashley realized that she had an opportunity to help others in a different capacity, by being part of a positive change within systems that need it the most. She made a career shift to the Government of Carcross/Tagish First Nation where she could help impact the changes where they were needed, on the ground and in the communities.

In her 8 years within the Government of C/TFN she has worked her way through different departments and programs where she brings her professional experience and passion for equality. Ashley's past rolls as Family Program Manager for the Health and Wellness department and the Implementation Manager for the Governance department have provided her with a variety of skillsets that helped in obtaining her current role as the Acting Director of Governance.

JAMES BAKER

James Baker is the Executive Director of Carcross/Tagish First Nation

Air North



Erik (Rick) Neilsen '06

Rick was born and raised in the Yukon Territory and has made his home here ever since. He is passionate about learning and making a difference. He is a tradesman, commercial fixed & rotary wing pilot - an entrepreneur with businesses in both Yukon and Alaska. He has served as a director and chairman of both the Whitehorse and Yukon Chambers of Commerce and has been active on important public policy initiatives. He is a staunch advocate for trades training for young Canadians and he is the past chairman of the Yukon Apprenticeship Advisory Board and the Inter-

provincial Alliance of Apprenticeship Board Chairs. Rick was a founding member of the Canadian Apprenticeship Forum.

Rick has served as Chief of Staff to two Yukon premiers and is an Action Canada Alumni (06.)

Currently Rick is the Chief Operating Officer of Air North, Yukon's Airline and Chairman of the MacBride Museum Society.

He lives with Maureen, his beautiful wife of 36 years on their farm just north of Whitehorse where they grow forage crops.

They have three children: Connor, Kai and Brooke.

Thursday, September 21 / Jeudi, le 21 septembre

Yukon Energy Presentation



SARA FRENCH-ROOKE '22

Sara French is a graduate of Queen's University and attended the Bader International Study Centre in East Sussex, England. She currently serves as a Senior Negotiator with Aboriginal Relations within the Yukon government. Previously, she worked on behalf of a number of Indigenous groups across the Circumpolar Arctic on capacity-building, strategic planning, and policy development. She also was the Director of Northern Programs at The Gordon Foundation, leading the Jane Glassco Northern Fellowship.

Sara has travelled extensively throughout the communities of the Circumpolar Arctic and across Canada. She resides on the Traditional Territories of the Kwalin Dün First Nation and Ta'an Kwäch'än Council in Whitehorse, Yukon with her three children. Sara is passionate about building an inclusive, progressive, and innovative Canada, where her family has made their home since the 1600s.



HUDSON LUCIER

Hudson Lucier is a born and raised Yukoner, who through his professional endeavours seeks to support the development of the Yukon's economy. He is a graduate of the Okanagan School of Business and is currently employed as a Senior Policy Analyst with Yukon Development Corporation, where he leads funding programs to support the development of renewable energy projects. Hudson is an avid athlete having competed at the national level in cross country skiing and he is currently the Head Coach for the Yukon Cycling Association.

Hudson Lucier is the Senior Policy Analyst at Yukon Development Corporation.



JUDITH BOOTH

Judith Booth is currently holding the position of Manager in the Low Carbon Transition Unit, Energy, Mines and Resources, at Yukon Energy. Before her current role, Judith worked as the Director of Regulatory Services at the Yukon Liquor Corporation.

With an academic background in cannabis genomics and biochemistry, she earned her PhD in Genome Sciences/Genomics. Her doctoral research project was dedicated to unraveling the intricate mechanisms by which cannabis plants produce their valuable metabolites. Prior to her PhD, Judith pursued studies in Biology and Botany at Dalhousie University, where her coursework delved into biochemistry, evolutionary biology, and the history and philosophy of science.

Her interests extend to the realm of cannabis science and the intriguing intersection of science, medicine, and drug policy. Judith is fueled by a deep passion for scientific education and engaging in public outreach initiatives.



ERIC LABRECQUE

Eric has a robust background in renewable energy research, beginning at Carleton University's Solar Energy Systems Laboratory and later at Nova Scotia's Fundy Ocean Research Centre for Energy. He then became a key member of the Northern Energy Innovation team and managed a groundbreaking electric thermal storage (ETS) demonstration project in northern Canada.

Eric holds a Bachelor's degree in Sustainable and Renewable Energy Engineering and two Master's degrees—one in Small Scale Run-of-River Hydropower from Carleton University and another in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Brunswick.

As a dedicated northern energy researcher, he excels in bridging the gap between technical and non-technical stakeholders and is committed to empowering Indigenous communities with clean energy solutions. Currently, Eric serves as a Demand Side Management EIT at Yukon Energy, continuing his impactful work in the field of sustainable energy.

Leadership session: Values and Purpose



SUZANNE NAULT

Throughout her career, as an executive coach, leader and psychologist, Suzanne has focused on helping leaders achieve positive sustainable change for themselves, their employees and their teams. For the past forty years, she has worked with leaders from various levels of government and Fortune 500 companies in Canada and around the world.

Since 2018, Suzanne has been supporting the leadership development of Fellows enrolled in the Action Canada Fellowship program through teaching and peer coaching. In 2007, the University of Ottawa launched a program in Public Sector Management and

Governance to prepare public sector leaders to assume senior positions. From the onset of this program, Suzanne has been contributing to their development through lectures, individual customized coaching program, and peer coaching. She is a well-sought speaker on topics of resilience, and transition, particularly retirement and military to civilian life.

Prior to founding her own firm in 1998, she worked for Health Canada and the Communications Security Establishment Canada as Head of the Counselling and Advisory Program and as Senior Consultant in Innovative and Quality Services. Suzanne is certified as a professional integral coach by New Ventures West, California, and the International Coaching Federation, in Conversational Intelligence™ and Story Coaching™. She is a licensed psychologist with Ordre des psychologues du Québec. Her academic background includes a Master's degree in clinical psychology (University of Ottawa), a B.A. in psychology (University of Ottawa).

Suzanne is co-author of the #1 international best seller "The Expert Success Solution: Get Solid Results in 22 Areas of Business and Life". She is fluently bilingual (English, French).

Public Indigenous Lecture on Economic Reconciliation



GÀGALA-ĀĪĀTKO - NADIA JOE

Gàgala is a member of the crow clan from the champagne & aishihik first nations and the daughter of dā ké (dave joe) and niketko (mary jane joe).

She has spent the past 14+ years working as an environmental professional and supporting indigenous communities across canada advancing their rights and interests in water security through various water co-management initiatives. A gordon foundation jane

glassco northern fellow and trudeau foundation mentor, gāgala has dedicated her professional career to applying respectful and practical ways to protect indigenous knowledge and heritage. As a child of the yukon land claims movement, she was raised by a river and loved into leadership by the many elders, leaders, mentors of the nłe?kepmx and southern tutchone-tingit peoples.

Joe assumed her duties as the new associate vice-president of indigenous engagement and partnerships at yukon university in 2023



VICTORIA B. FRED

Victoria Fred is an Independent Associate Counsel in Whitehorse, Yukon, known for her expertise in administrative law, Indigenous law, and trusts, particularly in the context of Yukon First Nation issues.

She holds a B.A. from the University of Victoria and an LL.B. from the same institution.

Her accomplishments include: Playing a key role in implementing Yukon First Nation Final and Self Government Agreements; Shaping legislation guided by Indigenous law; values, and customs, Extensive experience in the Duty to Consult; Expertise in First Nation trusts, constitutions, and intergovernmental relations; Serving as a legal counsel for the Teslin Tlingit, Council who signed the first Administration of Justice Agreement in Canada on February 21, 2011; Council and chief negotiator for Kwanlin Dün administration of justice negotiations since June 2012; Acting as a protector for various trusts, including Little Salmon/Carmacks Trust and Providing political and legal advice to the AFN Yukon Regional Chief.

Victoria is a Tlingit and a member of the Gaanaxtei.di Clan, deeply connected to her cultural heritage. She actively participates in her community and holds memberships in professional organizations.

As notable engagements, she presented at the Pacific Business and Law Institute – Indigenous Self-Government 2023 and at the CBA Aboriginal Law Symposium in 2022.

Victoria Fred is a respected legal professional dedicated to advancing Indigenous rights and self-governance in Yukon.



JUSTIN FERBEY '07

Justin Ferbey is the Deputy Minister for the Executive Council and Cabinet Secretary. He is concurrently also President and Chief Executive Officer of the Yukon Housing Corporation. Previously, he was a federal fiscal advisor in the British Columbia treaty process, the senior executive of the Carcross Tagish First Nation self-government, the chair of a tripartite ratification committee that oversaw the Carcross Tagish First Nations' vote to become a self-governing First Nation, and the CEO of his community's First Nation economic development corporation.

Justin was a federal appointee to the Joint Public Advisory Committee of the North American Agreement for Environmental Cooperation, and has served on local and national boards. Justin is the recipient of the British Columbia Lieutenant Governor's silver medal for academic achievement and community service. In 2018 he received a Meritorious Service Medal from the Governor General for his efforts in his First Nation community as well as being recognized in 2019 from both his alma mater, in Lethbridge and Liverpool, as a distinguished alumnus.

He holds a Bachelor's degree in neuroscience, an MBA from the University of Liverpool, has certification in conflict resolution and commerce, and is an alumnus of Action Canada and the US State Department's International Visitor Leadership Program. He has been a frequent speaker at many national conferences involving First Nation economic development and governance and has written articles for the Globe and Mail on indigenous self-government.

Leadership Dinner



THE HONORABLE JEANIE MCLEAN

The Hon. Jeanie McLean was first elected to the Yukon Legislative Assembly in the general election for the 34th Legislative Assembly on November 7, 2016. She was re-elected in the general election for the 35th Legislative Assembly on April 12, 2021.

The Hon. Jeanie McLean was first appointed to the Executive Council of Yukon (Cabinet) on December 3, 2016. She is currently Minister of Education and Minister responsible for the Women and Gender Equity Directorate. During the 34th Legislative Assembly she served as Minister of Tourism and Culture, Minister responsible for Women's Directorate and Minister Responsible for Yukon Workers Compensation Health and Safety Board.

On January 14, 2023, it was announced that the Hon. Jeanie McLean would serve as Deputy Premier.

The Hon. Jeanie McLean is currently a member of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts. She was appointed to the committee by Order of the House on May 17, 2021. During the 34th Legislative Assembly, she was a member of the Standing Committee on Appointments to Major Government Boards and Committees.

The Hon. Jeanie McLean was previously known as the Hon. Jeanie Dendys. She changed her surname in September 2020.

Friday, September 22 / Vendredi, le 22 septembre

Skagway



KYLE HILL '10

Kyle Hill is the Co-Founder and former Executive Director of Teach For Canada.

Born and raised in the small community of Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, Kyle's K-12 teachers played a profound and formative role in his life, and his passion for education is driven by the impact his own education had on his development.

In 2014, Kyle sat on the Nova Scotia Minister's Panel on Education, which undertook a once-in-a-generation review of the province's education system. Since 2011, he has been a member of the Board of Directors of SEVEC, a charitable organization which funds 5000 youth exchanges throughout Canada each year. He was a volunteer summer school teacher in Jamaica (2008) and Ukraine (2009).

Kyle's professional background is deeply rooted in mathematics and the natural sciences. He has B.Sc. in Physics and Mathematics from Mount Allison University, and a M.Sc. and Ph.D. in medical physics from the University of Oxford, where he studied as a Rhodes Scholar. His Ph.D. research enabled early-stage diagnosis of lung diseases such as emphysema and pulmonary fibrosis. From 2011-2014, Kyle used his mathematical background as a Consultant and Project Leader at the Boston Consulting Group in Toronto. Kyle is the President of Alaska Commercial Company, The North West Company.



JIM COATES

Jim Coates is the founder of Kryotek Arctic Innovation. Kryotek develops and commercializes new tools and products for climate change adaptation. These range from compact drill rigs used by major mining companies for battery mineral exploration to wildfire and flood sensors to geophysical earth-imaging techniques.

His academic research and early fieldwork dealt with the impacts of permafrost thaw and wildfire in and around the Yukon's Klondike Goldfields as well as climate change impacts on Arctic infrastructure.

His professional life has been relentlessly practical, managing over 300 remote projects ranging from arctic climate change studies with Parks Canada to installing earthquake sensors among the highest mountains in North America with the US Geological Survey's EarthScope group. He serves as a senior technical advisor to several boutique engineering companies who deal with high arctic and alpine permafrost geohazards.

Film work has included on-screen roles for National Geographic and BBC documentaries in Siberia and Canada. He is a member of the Conservation Advisory Board for Colossal Biosciences, a Texas computational biotechnology company working to de-extinct the woolly mammoth. He lives in Whitehorse, Yukon with his wife Astrid and dog Banjo.

Dinner and Alumni gathering



JEAN-SÉBASTIEN BLAIS '20

Born in Montreal on April 29, 1978, Jean-Sébastien Blais holds a master's degree in political science from Université Laval and has pursued research at international institutions. In 2021, he completed certificates in negotiation and administrative justice.

Relocating to the Yukon in 2009, he contributed to the Council of Yukon First Nations before joining the territorial public service in 2011. In 2021, he became the Director of Corporate Services for the Yukon Region at the Department of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada.

Jean-Sébastien actively engages with his community, holding positions like vice-president of the Association franco-yukonnaise and serving as a school trustee and council of commissioners president for the Commission scolaire francophone du Yukon (CSFY). He has also represented CSFY on the board of

directors of the Fédération nationale des conseils scolaires (FNCSF) and served as its second vice-president from 2019 to 2021.

Additionally, Jean-Sébastien has served on boards including the Yukon Human Rights Commission. He currently sits on the boards of the Yukon Liquor Corporation and Action Canada. In 2020, he was named a Fellow of Action Canada by the Public Policy Forum and recognized by Francopresse as one of the ten influential personalities of the Canadian Francophonie. He was elected to the board of directors of Action Canada in 2023.

Jean-Sébastien is married to Dorothy Williams, a teacher, and they are proud parents of three children.



BENJAMIN SANDERS '22

From the Canadarm to the BlackBerry to CERN, as a Waterloo engineer, Ben has contributed to some of Canada's most advanced technology both at home and abroad. As a seasoned Silicon Valley entrepreneur, Ben has also helped build 4 venture-backed tech startups.

And as a government geek, he's helped advance policy within 3 government space agencies, 2 divisions of the UN, the Canadian Urban Institute, Banff Forum, and the Yukon Government. Thrilled to be a new dad, Ben and his family live together in an off-grid home (100% solar) near Whitehorse.

INDSPIRE



JULIE WILDGOOSE

Julie Wildgoose joined Indspire in August of 2021. As the Director of Programs & Student Success she is responsible for its Building Brighter Futures: Bursaries, Scholarships & Awards program, the Research and Impact Unit, Teach for Tomorrow: Indigenous Educator Apprenticeship Program, and the Rivers to Success: Mentoring Indigenous Students program. Julie was the Founder and Chief Engagement Officer at The Power Factory, a marketing and engagement-strategy agency established in 2008, the Energy Solutions Expo, and TPF Energy, an engineering consulting firm. During this time, she helped execute the Aboriginal Outreach Program on

behalf of the Independent Electricity Systems Operator. Prior to this, she spent time in professional motorsports consulting and executing consumer engagement strategies on behalf of several General Motors brands and with other Fortune 500 companies producing multiple across-North America college/vocation campus tours on their behalf. Julie is a habitual entrepreneur, also launching other charitable initiatives to assist marginalized women and COOLR, a cooler bag manufacturer that donates all profits to athletes competing in non-mainstream sports. She is currently pursuing her MBA in Coaching, Mentoring, and Leadership at St. John York University.

MENTORS



RACHEL WERNICK

Rachel Wernick retired from the federal public service in May 2023 after a distinguished career as an executive in policy and program design that culminated in her role as Senior Assistant Deputy Minister of Skills and Employment at Employment and Social Development Canada. She led reforms to the Youth Employment Strategy, the Skills for Success program, and the co-development of the Indigenous Skills and Employment Training program. Her leadership extended to the establishment of the Future Skills Center, an independent center for skills innovation and research.

Rachel is one of Canada's leading practitioners in social and employment policy having gained experience in a variety of executive roles at Canadian Heritage, the Privy Council Office, Citizenship and Immigration Canada, and Public Works and Government Services. Rachel's passion for policy excellence resulted in her appointment as Co-Champion of the Clerk's Policy Community initiative; a role she held for five years.

Rachel's expertise includes workforce development, skills innovation, the future of work, skills and employment for marginalized populations and gender and diversity analysis. Rachel is a strong proponent of the benefit of user-driven design and has a proven ability to lead multi-partner collaboration to take something from policy idea or challenge through to actionable options for implementation.



KRIS FREDERICKSON '04

Kris is the Director of Sustainability at Keyera, one of Canada's largest midstream energy companies, where he leads a team to enable best-in-class environmental, social and governance performance through strategic alignment, implementing best practices in sustainability, and stakeholder engagement. He has also held sustainability roles with Suncor Energy and the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency.

Kris has undergraduate and masters degrees in Biosystems Engineering from the University of Manitoba and an MBA in Indigenous Business & Leadership from Simon Fraser University's Beedie School of Business. He is also an Indspire Laureate and Action Canada Fellow.

In addition to work, Kris is an active volunteer, most recently as a member of the Board of Governors for the University of Calgary where held the positions of Vice-Chair of the Board and Chair of the Environment, Health, Safety and Sustainability Committee.



MATT DECOURCEY '12

Matt DeCoursey is a public policy leader, community builder, and former Member of Parliament with extensive experience advising decision makers at the local, national, and international level. He is Head of Corporate Affairs with InterKnowlogy, where he leads the organization's strategic initiatives and growth opportunities.

His knowledge of politics and public affairs, experience developing strategic partnerships, and ability to shape and influence policy, has helped him advise international NGO's, post-secondary leaders, and Canada's ministers of finance, foreign affairs, and immigration.

As Member of Parliament for Fredericton from 2015 to 2019, Matt secured federal investment to expand critical transport and trade infrastructure, advance preventative healthcare, and significantly increase the population and workforce of New Brunswick. He has worked with vulnerable children in the global south and represented Canada in such fora as the United Nations Security Council and the Organization for Cooperation and Security in Europe.

Fluent in English and French, Matt is an accomplished athlete, coach and official at the collegiate level, an adjunct professor, and mentor and member of Canada's leading public policy and leadership development Fellowship—Action Canada. He is also a Senior Fellow with the Pearson Centre for Progressive Policy and incoming President of the Canadian Association of Former Parliamentarians. Matt is published on issues including healthy aging, research and innovation,

workforce growth and immigration, and child rights. He has established and built multiple platforms that foster substantive dialogue and learning to support the socio-economic success of Canadians, and to advance the wellbeing of marginalized persons around the world.

A proud New Brunswicker, he now lives in Peterborough, Ontario, with his wife, Maryam, and their infant son. He enjoys soccer, golf, running, and sampling the flavours at the occasional craft brewery.

ACTION CANADA STAFF



SARA-CHRISTINE GEMSON '15

Sara-Christine Gemson has worked in journalism, communications, and non-profit management.

She was previously Vice-President of Programs and Director Communications at Teach For Canada, a non-profit that partners with remote First Nations to recruit, prepare and support educators.

Sara-Christine also worked as a TV, radio and digital journalist for many years, primarily for Radio-Canada in Toronto and Regina. She was also an Aga Khan journalism fellow in Kenya, where she wrote for the Daily Nation.


Sara-Christine completed a B.A. in Philosophy and Communications at the University of Ottawa and an M.Phil in Comparative Government at Oxford University. She is an Action Canada alumna.



ANNE MATIO

Anne is a bilingual FR/EN leader with over ten years of experience in project management, program development and strategic partnerships. She holds a bachelor's degree in Biochemistry and a master's in Biotechnology & Management. Her skills have led her to work in many fields, including Federal agencies, Corporations and nonprofit organizations.

Anne has always been a go-getter. Her passion is purposeful vision planning, relationship building, designing and implementing effective program processes to maximize impact. She is known as a creative problem solver who combines the results-driven mindset of global corporations with the community-centered focus of nonprofit

	<p>organizations. Anne knows how to get things done efficiently without sacrificing quality.</p> <p>After building a solid management foundation with a Fortune 500 company, Unilever, Anne made a deliberate career shift to expand her exposure and lend her skills to the nonprofit sector. One of Anne's proudest achievements was overhauling the communications and brand strategy for Canada International Black Women Excellence.</p>
	<p>SAFIYA ABDI</p> <p>Safiya is the Program Coordinator at Action Canada and the PPF Academy. She is a bilingual young professional and graduated from the University of Ottawa in November 2022 where she received her bachelor's degree in International Studies and Modern Languages.</p> <p>She has developed experience in program coordination and strategic communications having worked as the VP of Communications at the student association, UO World Vision and as a Program and Research Support Officer at the international NGO, SIHA Network, where she researched and analyzed global trends for communications and educational materials.</p> <p>Prior to joining the Public Policy Forum, Safiya worked at the Bank of Canada as a Guide where she provided and interpreted educational information on the Canadian economy and the role of the central bank in maintaining national financial stability. She has also worked at the AMA Community Centre in Ottawa where she actively contributed to community program development and the facilitation of educational workshops for youth, adults and new immigrants to Canada.</p>

Reading list | Liste de Lecture

Please review the reading list: <https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/7y8c0y3wpela79w9lvmf6/Reading-list-Liste-de-lectures.docx?rlkey=waa4ujfuae03nsx9qwij8xa0m&dl=0>

➤ Land Acknowledgement

[Guide to Acknowledging First Peoples & Traditional Territory | CAUT](https://raventrust.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/LandAcknowledgementGuide.pdf)
<https://raventrust.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/LandAcknowledgementGuide.pdf>