

Association of Alberta Sexual Assault Services Board of Directors 2018/19

Thorna Lawrence - President

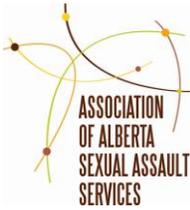
Thorna Lawrence was appointed to the Board in April 2015 and served as the Board's Treasurer. Thorna has extensive consulting and business systems experience in Alberta's private sector and has specialized in business analysis and strategic management and consulting since 1987, working for Alberta's technology and energy sectors. She has operated T.L. Lawrence Consulting since 2005, and has served in consulting roles at Trimac Transportation, Pason Systems, Teck Coal, and Deloitte Touche.

She holds a degree in Economics from the University of Calgary and a Chartered Professional Accountant, Chartered Accountant designation from the Chartered Professional Accountants of Alberta. A strong supporter of volunteer initiatives, she has served as the Chair of the Calgary Communities Against Sexual Abuse Board for fifteen years and as both treasurer and board member with the United Way of Calgary and Area. She also holds a Directors designation from the Institute of Corporate Directors.

Bill Walker – Vice-President

Bill Walker is currently a Municipal and Emergency Management Consultant with Transitional Solutions Inc. which provides management consulting to municipal and other clients and has served as the CAO for the Town of Beaverlodge. Bill previously worked with the City of Grande Prairie for over 40 years and during this time served in the capacity of Fire-fighter, Lieutenant, Chief Fire Prevention Officer, Deputy Fire Chief, Fire Chief, and Manager of Protective & Emergency Services, Protective Services Director and Community Safety Director.

Bill holds the professional designation of Certified Local Government Manager (CLGM). His belief in lifelong learning has led to opportunities in a number of different areas. He has instructed a number of courses and seminars and has presented internationally to diverse groups such as the World Burn Congress and the United Arab Emirates Conference on Environment & Disaster Planning as well as to a number of Alberta and local organizations. Bill has served on the Boards of a number of organizations.



Bill is married to Kim and they have 3 children, 12 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren. He is an artist and loves drawing and painting landscapes and people as well as travelling to different areas of the world.

Diane MacIntyre - Treasurer

Diane MacIntyre is a chartered professional accountant and holds a Bachelor of Business Administration from St. Francis Xavier University. She has over 30 years of experience in finance and accounting for public and private companies across Canada. Her career brought her to Alberta over 17 years ago where she currently holds the position of Manager, Financial Planning and Analysis for an oil and gas service company. Diane joined the board as treasurer of AASAS in 2018. She has volunteered and continues to devote time to the Canadian Mental Health Association and the Survivors of Suicide Loss Day.

Brad Cunningham

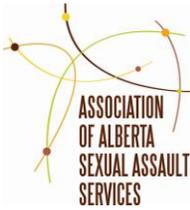
Brad J Cunningham works with the Family and Community Safety Program within the Peavine Metis Settlement, an Indigenous Settlement that supports Metis Culture, Practices, Heritage and Values.

In 2011, Brad started a healing circle for men that were sexually abused as children. Being a survivor of child sexual abuse himself, Brad feels very strongly about this issue and is committed to raising awareness of this crime within his community. Brad would like to continue sharing his life experiences and breaking the silence around this crime, and will continue working towards changing the justice system to be more supportive of sexual abuse and sexual assault survivors. Today Brad works with the Provincial Government in a program called the Family and Community Safety Program.

Brad has completed a Community Safety Plan with the Federal Government and is currently working with the Federal Government to have them provide programs and services that will raise awareness and promote the education when it comes to the prevention of sexual violence, domestic violence and suicide prevention.

John Ferguson

Assistant Commissioner John Ferguson is a 32-year veteran of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and is currently the Alberta RCMP Provincial Criminal Operations Officer. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario.



Assistant Commissioner Ferguson spent his first 24 years in the RCMP working in numerous detachments and units throughout Manitoba performing general duty and federal policing functions at a local, national and international level. His policing experiences in Manitoba were very broad. He worked in both isolated environments with significant geographical areas of responsibility and limited resources, and also fast paced and often volatile municipal environments. With a passion for people and community engagement, he focussed his efforts on building strong relationships with the communities that he served, and built trust and respect amongst the members that he was responsible for.

In 2011, Assistant Commissioner Ferguson was promoted to Superintendent and transferred to Nova Scotia as the Federal Policing Officer responsible for drug enforcement, national security, protective policing and financial crime. In December of 2015, he transferred to Alberta as the Officer in Charge (OIC) of the Grande Prairie Detachment, and shortly after his arrival in Alberta, he was promoted to Chief Superintendent and moved into the position of District Officer for the Western Alberta District.

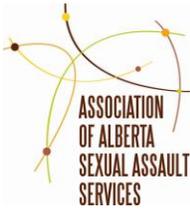
In January of 2018 he was promoted to Assistant Commissioner and transferred into his current position. In this role, Assistant Commissioner Ferguson is responsible and accountable for the overall strategic direction, leadership, and operational oversight of the Core Policing functions of the RCMP in Alberta. He is dedicated to building trust and confidence with the communities served by the RCMP, and has focussed his efforts on community engagement and collaborative partnerships with community groups, stakeholders and other law enforcement, particularly in the areas of rural crime and race relations.

Assistant Commissioner Ferguson and his wife Debra have three children and four grandchildren.

Marilyn Fleger

Marilyn Fleger has dedicated most of her professional life supporting initiatives that work to create a better life for vulnerable women and has over 20 years of experience in the non-profit sector, working in the areas of women's issues, family violence, women in conflict with the law, and poverty. Within this time, she gained tremendous insight of the social issues that women face with poverty and homelessness through her nine years of work in the inner city of Edmonton.

She spent ten years connected with women's shelters while she was the Assistant Director of the Grande Prairie Women's Residence Association; Director of the Camrose Women's Shelter; and Provincial Coordinator of the Alberta Council of Women's Shelters. She also served two years as Chair of the Alberta Advisory Council on Women's Issues; three years with Elizabeth Fry Society addressing issues related to women in conflict with the law and eight years volunteering in the mentoring program at Edmonton Institution for Women. Marilyn is currently retired.



Bill Kaye

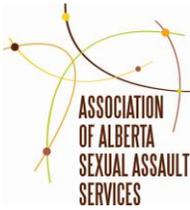
Bill served the City of Lethbridge as a police officer for 35 yrs. Since retiring he has taken on the position of Project Coordinator for the Domestic Violence Action Team in Lethbridge. Bill also sits on the Sexual Violence Action Committee in Lethbridge as well as being the chairperson for the Chinook Sexual Assault Centre.

Bill currently lives in Coaldale Alberta with his wife Patti where they enjoy time outside golfing, paddle boarding, motorcycling and spending time with their two grandchildren.

Linda McCracken

Linda McCracken has 45 years of nursing experience, the majority within the emergency care sector here in Alberta. Over those years her practice evolved to include the clinical forensic aspects of emergency care and authored/published papers on the topic. With a full certificate in Forensic Studies from Mount Royal University and having served as a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner with the Calgary Sexual Assault Response Team, Linda gleaned a clearer understanding on the importance of practicing trauma & violence informed care. Sharing this knowledge & passion, since 2001, Linda has championed healthcare provider training across the province on universal assessment & response for survivors of domestic & sexual violence/abuse. Along with her collaborative partners in Social & Justice she helped develop a Train-the-Trainer curriculum on domestic violence/abuse response for the Calgary Zone Emergency/Urgent Care and Maternal & Child Health portfolios and e-learning modules for both Alberta Health Services (AHS) & Primary Care Network staff. She has had a longstanding relationship with RCMP Victims Services and the Victim Assistance Unit of the Calgary Police Services in providing training to their volunteers on sexual assault response and the intersect of intimate partner sexual violence

In 2007 Linda became the Domestic Violence Program Coordinator for AHS-Calgary Zone. She received the 2012 Government of Alberta Inspiration Award on Leadership in Family Violence Prevention as well as an Honorary Lifetime Award for longtime service and contributions to the National Emergency Nurses Affiliation of Canada (served as a BOD member 1992-1996). In addition, Linda serves as a consultant for frontline staff and various AHS clinical policy/procedures and guideline domestic violence working groups and Workplace Health & Safety required operational practices committees.



Brenda Murdoch

Brenda Murdoch is a recently retired Senior Constable from the Calgary Police Service. She has worked in various units including the Domestic Violence Unit with CONNECT Family & Sexual Abuse Network, the Diversity Resource Team and SORCe (collaborative resource centre for the homeless). Brenda has presented to police recruits, health and the community on sexual assault, domestic violence, cultural diversity and the homeless. She has also presented on Animal Abuse and the Link to Violent Criminal Behavior. Brenda has a passion for working in collaborative environments and developing innovative ways to prevent and respond to sexual assault and domestic violence.

Brenda is a Certified Forensic and Composite Sketch Artist who worked with victims of sexual assault and other violent crimes to successfully create an image of the offender resulting in numerous identifications.

Brenda holds a BSc. in Zoology from the University of Calgary. Prior to policing, she worked at the Chief Medical Examiner's Office assisting with sudden death investigations and she has worked as a manager for the Calgary Health Region. She has volunteered previously in wildlife rehabilitation and served on two related Boards.

Rhonda Steinwand

Rhonda has been a Licensed Practical Nurse in rural Alberta for 32 years and adding. She has dealt with sexual abuse on a personal and professional level and has deeply felt the arrogance and ignorance which led her to put some of her passion into this work. For the past six years she has been fortunate to be on the board of Association of Communities Against Abuse out of Stettler and also the AASAS Board. It is so vital to not only maintain but to obtain as many healthcare related services especially out in our more rural and remote areas. Rhonda wants to help work at breaking the silence and bridge the gap between victim to victory.