

## Association of Alberta Sexual Assault Services Board of Directors 2021/22

### **Brenda Murdoch - President**

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 the collaborative resource centre for the homeless. Brenda has presented on sexual assault, domestic violence, cultural diversity and the homeless as well as Animal Abuse and the Link to Violent Criminal Behavior.

Brenda is a Certified Forensic and Composite Sketch Artist who worked with victims of sexual assault and other violent crimes, successfully creating images of offenders resulting in numerous identifications, charges and convictions.

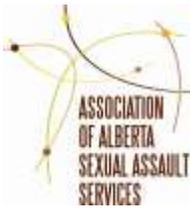
Brenda holds a BSc. in Zoology from the University of Calgary. Prior to policing, she worked at the Chief Medical Examiner's Office assisting with sudden death investigations and she has worked as a manager for the Calgary Health Region. She lives with her partner Mike in Cochrane with their 2 rescued wiener dogs Max and Krystal.

### **Brad Cunningham – Vice President**

Brad moved to Peavine Metis Settlement with his family when he was 11 years old. Brad is married has 5 children and 2 grandchildren. Brad, his brother and a few cousins spoke up about Sexual Violence in 2009. They decided to press charges and went through the court system in 2010. Brad and the guys started a men's healing group with the help and assistance from the High Prairie RCMP and Sexual Assault Center based out of Grande Prairie. (PACE).

Brad became a board member with the Association of Alberta Sexual Assault Services (AASAS) in 2012. Today AASAS has 14 centers across Alberta the provide support and services for Victims of Sexual Violence.

Brad is now travelling across Alberta to share his past as a Victim and how he has learned to speak up, educate and build awareness about Sexual Violence.



With the love and support from his wife and children Brad wants to empower Victims to speak up, gain confidence, build strength to reach out and utilize the supports and services that are available so that we can all live healthier happier lives.

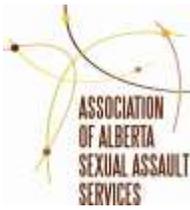
**“This is all about the babies, what are we doing today, tomorrow to know that our babies will live free from harm and violence”**

### **Thorna Lawrence - Treasurer**

Thorna Lawrence was appointed to the Board in March 2021 and serves 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 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 served as Board Member of the Alberta Liquor Gaming and Cannabis Commission for a six year term, chairing the Audit and IT Committees. She holds a Directors designation from the Institute of Corporate Directors.

### **Linda McCracken - Secretary**

Linda McCracken has served as an AASAS Board Member since 2018. After forty-seven years of nursing practice, Linda retired in June 2020. Most of her of years of service were within the emergency care sector here in Alberta. 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 developed & championed healthcare provider training (live and on-line) across the province on universal assessment & response for survivors of domestic & sexual violence/abuse. In 2007 Linda became the Domestic Violence Program Coordinator for AHS-Calgary Zone. Within this role she served as a consultant for frontline staff and various AHS clinical policy/procedures and guideline domestic violence working groups. A key accomplishment was being asked by the AHS Workplace Health & Safety Prevention of Harassment & Violence Program to be the subject



matter expert in the development of a provincial guideline on addressing DV & the Workplace. In advocating for a 'disclosure-friendly'. 'worker-driven' safe work environment, Linda formulated a workplace Domestic Violence Individualized Safety Plan tool for managers & workers to complete together to support preventative measures/protections.

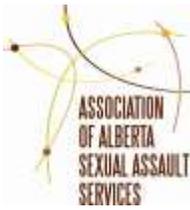
### **John Ferguson**

Assistant Commissioner John Ferguson is a 34-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.



### **Kellie Cummings**

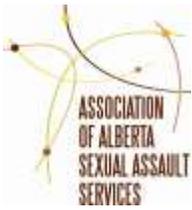
Kellie's passion to work with people living with trauma began at an early age. Her spark was ignited when she became the babysitter for a foster family in Northern Alberta. Since then, Kellie pursued her education in Early Childhood Development, received her Rehabilitation Practitioner Diploma immersed herself with gaining experience and extensive training focusing on family violence, sexual violence, risk assessment, risk management along with providing specialized case management for women and children who have been impacted by all forms of abuse and traumatic events. Kellie has been working within the vulnerable sector for over 20 years and has dedicated the last 16 years working directly with people of all ages impacted by intimate partner violence, abuse, sexual violence, oppression, homelessness and or complex trauma.

Kellie is currently the Director of Partnerships and Relations for Central Alberta Child Advocacy Centre located in Red Deer. She specializes in gender specific violence, sits on a multidisciplinary team, and is recognized as a leader, innovator, and pioneer within this field. Kellie has witnessed firsthand how individuals, families and their communities are affected by family violence, sexual violence, and child abuse. As a survivor of intimate partner violence, she is a strong advocate for raising awareness and public education while helping survivors on their journey of a renewed life. If Kellie is not speaking at events or conferences, you will find her sitting on numerous social justice committees within Central Alberta.

### **Ruth Proulx**

Ruth Proulx is the owner and operator of Mountain View Psychological and the Co-owner of Paramount Psychology & Counselling in Grande Prairie, Alberta where she works as a therapist, facilitator, consultant, clinical supervisor and educator. Ruth is also a sessional instructor of Psychology at Grande Prairie Regional College and at PACE, Grande Prairie's Sexual Assault and Trauma Centre.

After being born and raised in the Northwest Territories, Ruth moved to Alberta on a volleyball and soccer scholarship where she studied both social work and psychology. Due to her passion of both fields, Ruth is now a Registered Social Worker who graduated with a Bachelor of Social Work from the University of Calgary and, she is a Registered Psychologist who graduated with a Master's of Science in Psychology from Walden University.



As a distinguished traumatologist, Ruth specializes in sexual and relational violence, relationships, addictions, attachment as well as rural, remote and Indigenous practice and healing modalities. As a Duke of Edinburgh award recipient, an awarded Canadian humanitarian, and as a Witness to the House of Commons Special Committee on Violence Against Indigenous Women, Ruth has dedicated her career to trauma informed best practice and education.

Besides her professional pursuits, you will find Ruth volunteering her time with many non-profit groups, athletics programs, and philanthropy clubs.