

Inclusive Housing Solutions Lab National Community of Practice

Member Profiles

Planned Lifetime Advocacy Network (PLAN)

Rebecca Pauls – Executive Director

Rebecca Pauls is an enthusiastic leader and creative facilitator with a broad range of experiences in community development and collaboration with people who have disabilities. She is passionate about seeing the unique gifts each of person has, and is convinced that our communities will be stronger, safer and more resilient when each of us is contributing and recognized for our gifts.

As a mother to four children, Rebecca also has a deep appreciation for the roles that family and friends play in our lives, and is committed to connecting people with other people and places around them.

Rebecca is the Executive Director of Planned Lifetime Advocacy Network (PLAN), a Vancouver-based social enterprise that partners with families and people facing social isolation to secure their future by mobilizing relationships and leveraging community assets. Since joining PLAN six years ago, Rebecca has led a complete re-design of programming to integrate principles of person centred planning, ABCD, narrative therapy and independent facilitation. After demonstrating the strength and flexibility of this community approach, Rebecca is regularly invited to consult with organizations about how it can be scaled and applied to population groups across North America.

In a career that's taken her to communities across Canada and internationally to places such as Ethiopia, Zimbabwe and Guatemala, Rebecca has chosen to settle in Vancouver, British Columbia. She and her partner currently reside in the Gastown neighbourhood, a community known as a hub of social innovation and for its immense diversity.

Planned Lifetime Advocacy Network (PLAN) is family-led charitable organization dedicated to building inclusive communities for all citizens.

PLAN was founded in 1989 by parents who wanted to ensure their children could live a good life and contribute to their communities.

While our founders were initially focused on their children with disabilities, the five components we use to define a good life are universal – loving friends and family, a home of one's own, financial security, participating in decision making and the ability to contribute their unique gifts.

Like our founders, PLAN families are focussed on the best way to support sons and daughters who have disabilities. These courageous parents acknowledge that one day they will need to pass on their responsibilities to someone else. The question was, "Who?"

For those who have a child or a relative with a disability this question – "Who will take care of our children when we are gone?" is real and pressing. The families who founded PLAN searched and discovered solutions to securing the future for loved ones with disabilities.

Over time, the question changed from an 'after-we're-gone' focus and recognized that planning for the future changes the present. PLAN has evolved to find the many answers to: What does a good life look like for our relatives with disabilities?

Together with families and people with disabilities, we answer these questions by:

- building personal support networks that empower contribution and citizenship
- implementing plans to ensure loved ones with disabilities are safe and secure for their lifetime
- bringing together a network of families to provide mutual support and learning opportunities
- You can also learn more about two of the ways we partner with families: Lifetime Membership & PLAN's Family Network.

Tamarack Insitutute

Heather Keam - Team Lead / Seniors Manager of Cities, Cities Deepening Community, Vibrant Communities

Heather is happy to be part of the Vibrant Communities team as the Team Lead for Cities Deepening Community practice. Before this position she was a Manager in the Learning Centre where she organized Community of Practices, learning opportunities, tools and resources for community change. Heather brings over 13 years of public health knowledge to this position and 17 years of experience generating action at a grassroots level using ABCD and Collective Impact.

Heather is a lifelong learner and has just recently got her certificate in Knowledge Mobilization from the University of Guelph. She has a Bachelor's degree in Health Studies from Brock University, a Graduate diploma in Nutritional Science from Canberra University, Australia, a Graduate Diploma in Health Promotion from Canadore College.

Heather loves guiding groups through the community development process of planning, engagement, implementation, and sustainability of local community efforts. Heather has presented at several provincial, national and international conferences regarding her work on walkable communities and building healthy communities.

The Tamarack Institute develops and supports collaborative strategies that engage citizens and institutions to solve major community issues across Canada and beyond. Our belief is that when we are effective in strengthening community capacity to engage citizens, lead collaboratively, deepen community and end poverty, our work contributes to the building of peace and a more equitable society.

Trinity Centres Foundation

Graham Singh – CEO

For nearly 15 years, Graham been involved in finding new vocations for church buildings. He provided leadership for 4 projects in the UK and Canada, including at the Trinity Centres Foundation's pilot site, St Jax Montreal. Graham's doctoral research and practical work in this subject inform much of the

Foundation's approach. Prior to his work with church buildings as a minister in the Anglican church, Graham worked within the global advertising sector in London, England. He is a graduate of the University of Western Ontario, St Mellitus College (via Cambridge University / Ridley Hall) and the London School of Economics. He is fluent in French and English.

The Trinity Centres Foundation was established in 2018 as a pan-Canadian charitable organization with the goal of lovingly preserving, restoring and repurposing underutilized churches into dynamic spaces for dialogue and interaction accessible for multiple uses to a multiplicity of different individuals and groups.

Applying a new social business model that generates both societal and economic value, the Foundation is committed to enabling churches to continue to bring about positive change, while maintaining a secure financial future. In the process, innovative new ways will be found to deliver services, while advancing social inclusion and revitalizing communities and local neighbourhoods.

WE TRANSFORM CHURCH PROPERTIES FOR COMMUNITY IMPACT

WHY Churches are in crisis. Cities are in need.

HOW We assemble, fund and operate transformation projects, city by city.

WHO Our unique team of 50+ of architects, planners, finance specialists, faith, community and government leaders represent the most diverse and experienced team in Canada.

L'Arche Canada

John Guido - Outreach and Partnership Coordinator

John is the Outreach and Partnership Coordinator for L'Arche Canada. A member of the Impact and Innovation team, John is the coordinator of the Leading Change project focused on strengthening the role of persons with intellectual disabilities as co-learners and co-leaders in and beyond L'Arche. John has been a member of L'Arche Daybreak and Toronto for over 35 years, carrying a variety of leadership roles.

The Mission of **L'Arche** is to:

Make known the gifts of people with intellectual disabilities, revealed through mutually transforming relationships.

Foster an environment in community that responds to the changing dreams and needs of our members, while being faithful to the vision and core values of our founding story.

Engage in our diverse cultures, working together toward a more human society.

L'Arche demonstrates that with friendship, belonging, and the opportunity to contribute their gifts, people with intellectual disabilities flourish and their lives make a difference. They take a variety of valued roles – employees, volunteers, leaders, artists, teachers, friends, and family – contributing to the lives of their families, friends and communities.

Living with difference and vulnerability is challenging, yet L'Arche demonstrates that when all people, including the most marginalized, take their place, society becomes more human – more colourful, welcoming, creative, compassionate, and joyful.

The Vision of L'Arche is rooted in relationship and belonging:

- Mutual care, respect, and compassion between people with and without intellectual disabilities
- Sharing ordinary, daily life with all its joys and sorrows
- Living, working, learning, and celebrating together in communities of belonging
- Transforming our lives as we embrace our gifts and imperfections
- Recognizing that we need each other and are better together
- A model of inclusion, a way of peace, and a sign of hope for our world.

The L'Arche relational model breaks down barriers between those who give and those who receive supports. It replaces society's emphasis on independence that leaves so many people lonely, with interdependence where each person flourishes as they contribute their gifts for the good of others.

Catalyst Community Developments Society

Maura Chestnutt - VP Strategic Initiatives

Maura Chestnutt is a consultant and former Vice President, Strategic Initiatives at Catalyst Community Developments Society, where she oversaw a variety of functions including property management, accounting, and internal operations. Maura holds several decades of experience as a senior administrative professional in for-profit, government, and non-profit sectors. Maura's passion for and keen commitment to developing community was evidenced by her creation and management of Catalyst's "Community Connections" program, which addressed social isolation in multi-unit residential projects and her efforts to build internal capacity in other organizations operating within the community housing sector.

Catalyst is a BC-based not-for-profit real estate developer, dedicated to building vibrant, affordable, and inspiring rental properties for living and working.

Our Mission - We build community by developing, owning, and operating vibrant, affordable, and inspiring places to live and work.

Our Vision - Everyone has an open door to a home and community that improves their wellbeing and access to opportunity.

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC)

Giovanni De Benedictis – Advisor, Client Development and Partnerships

Giovanni De Benedictis joined CMHC in July 2009 and currently occupies the role of Advisor on CMHC's Client Development and Partnerships team, whose mandates are to mobilize non-governmental funds for the creation and preservation of affordable housing in Canada and to help affordable housing providers develop more capacity in this space. Prior to being an Advisor, Giovanni occupied various roles at CMHC including Homeowner insurance underwriting and client relationship managements, Multi-Unit Underwriting and Multi-Unit client relationship management and development for the Province of Québec. Before Joining CMHC, he was working for various financial institutions in real estate financing. Giovanni has over 15 years of experience in residential and commercial (Multi-Unit) real estate financing and has a Bachelor of Commerce and Finance from Concordia University

CMHC exists for a single reason: to make housing affordable for everyone in Canada. We know that housing helps people stay employed, do better in school and participate more fully in society. Housing affordability and a stable housing finance system support a stronger, safer Canada where everyone can live with dignity.

Affordable housing for all is an ambitious goal, and we can't do it alone. We're mobilizing the expertise and energy of governments, non-profits, lenders, developers, social entrepreneurs and co-ops to create the future of housing. Canada's first-ever National Housing Strategy is just one example. Together, we're removing barriers to ensure that no one is left behind.

Groupe Conseil en Développement de l'Habitation (Groupe CDH)

Murielle Kwendé - General Manager

Murielle Kwendé has accumulated a great deal of experience as a project manager and trainer, both in the field of international cooperation (with OXFAM and CUSO) and at CDH Group. Employed by CDH since 2009, her work allows her to concretize her thirst for social justice and equity. Access to adequate housing at a reasonable cost is a lever to get out of poverty. Making groups autonomous and able to carry out their projects is also part of what motivates her. Among its notable achievements, the Village Cloverdale Housing Cooperative, the largest of its kind in Quebec, stands out, having been involved with it for nearly a decade.

Groupe CDH, is a social economy enterprise dedicated to the realization of community real estate projects, mainly for the benefit of housing cooperatives and non-profit housing organizations.

Recognized in the field of community real estate with its expertise of nearly 45 years, Groupe CDH has completed nearly 8,000 housing units in the Montreal metropolitan area since 1976.

IRIS Institute for Research and Development on Inclusion and Society

Samuel Ragot - Senior Policy Analyst & Researcher

Before joining IRIS, Samuel worked as a policy analyst for the Quebec Intellectual Disability Society for almost 4 years. During that time, he worked on several major policy pieces, including the creation of a basic income program in Quebec and the reform of the province's guardianship system. In this work, as well as through years of student and social involvement, Samuel is dedicated to furthering social justice

in society. Through his role at IRIS, Samuel aims to accelerate the development of better social policies for people with intellectual disability and their families across Canada. Samuel is a political science (MA) and bioethics (short program) graduate.

Informed by the systemic exclusion that people with intellectual and other disabilities and marginalized groups face, **IRIS** works to seed and support transformative social development.

Guided by principles of full inclusion and human rights, we conduct research to identify issues and policy options, foster social innovation to re-imagine inclusion, and strengthen capacity and leadership for transformative change.

Since 2017, our work takes place across four strategic priority areas:

Advancing the Right to Legal Capacity

Developing Safe and Inclusive Communities

Robust Safeguards for Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD)

Accessible & Inclusive Supports & Services