

## 2018 CCI-LEX AGM

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS



## JILLIAN GAMEZ *PRESIDENT*



Jillian Gamez is CCI-LEX's President and in her fifth year with the Board. Outside of her role with CCI-LEX, she's a lawyer at Weir Bowen LLP, practicing in the areas of civil litigation, wills and estates, and real estate. She has taught "Law for the Layperson" classes with Metro Continuing

Education and presented several workshops to non-profit organizations. Jill is also an active volunteer with the Canadian Bar Association and Workshop West Playwrights' Theatre. In her spare time, she enjoys reading, as well as hiking and skiing in the mountains.

## BENJAMIN DEBOER *VICE PRESIDENT*



Benjamin deBoer joined the Board of Directors in 2015. After serving as Treasurer for the past two years, he is the Vice President-elect for 2018. Ben works as Manager of Finance for a mid-size Edmonton-based company and holds a Certified Management Accountant

(CMA) designation. He regularly volunteers with the Edmonton Fringe Festival and is working towards a Masters degree in business at the University of Alberta. Ben likes spending time on patios in the summer months and shredding the slopes in the winter.

## SHANNON LEBLANC *SECRETARY*



Shannon Leblanc is entering her third year on the Board and is Secretary-elect. She has nearly seven years of volunteering experience in the LEX program and eagerly jumped at the opportunity to contribute to the organization as a whole. As a Program Coordinator for the Facilities

and Operations department at the University of Alberta, Shannon brings experience in policy and strategic planning. She is also a co-founder of a new non-profit society, the Edmonton Tool Library that promotes the sharing economy by lending tools at affordable prices. Shannon enjoys cooking vegetarian food, and running and cycling in the River Valley. If she could travel anywhere in the world, she would choose Italy or Ireland.

## OMOYEMI TIMSON *TREASURER*



Omoyemi Timson joins the board this year as Treasurer-elect. Outside of CCI-LEX, she works as Senior Economist at Alberta Health, specializing in the analysis of health expenditure and utilization and helping to inform senior level decision making, programs, and policies within

the ministry. Having previously volunteered at Goodwill Alberta, Omoyemi hopes to use her energy and skills to help CCI-LEX in their ongoing mission to welcome Canada's newcomers and provide them with the space and tools necessary to build intercultural connections in their community. In her spare time, Omoyemi enjoys photography, video games, and reading, and she hopes to one day travel to Japan.

## NAFISA BOWEN *DIRECTOR*



Entering her fourth year on the Board, Nafisa Bowen served as Vice President this past year. She will be Chair of the Fund Development & Community Engagement Committee for 2018-2019. Nafisa works as a Development Officer, Major Gifts with the Stollery Children's Hospital Foundation.

She holds a Bachelor of Science from the University of Alberta and is a Certified Fund Raising Executive. She enjoys running, yoga, and being a mom to her little boy. Her favourite part about being on the Board is helping people connect and build stronger communities.

## DEBJANI PODDAR *DIRECTOR*



Debjani Poddar has been on the Board since November 2016 as a Director and serves as Chair of the Human Resources Committee. Debjani has worked and volunteered extensively with refugees and decided to join the CCI-LEX board to continue empowering newcomers and

contributing to the community and the school. She studied law at the University of Ottawa and currently works as a Counsel and Official Languages Coordinator for Canada's Department of Justice. She has been involved with the Loran Scholars Foundation and the Advocate's Society. Debjani loves trivia, visual arts, and travel, and hopes to visit Cape Town, South Africa.

## DIANA CRETU *DIRECTOR*



Diana Cretu joined our Board in 2017 as a Director and is an active member of the Fund Development & Community Engagement Committee. As a previous International Student and recent Permanent Resident, Diana has long advocated for the rights of individuals coming from

multicultural backgrounds and believes that having a good handle on the English language enables and empowers individuals. Diana has studied a multitude of subjects, including visual arts and design and social innovation, and has worked with immigrants and youth alike to aid in their employment placement and career development. In her free time, Diana continues to learn, teach, and volunteer, and also does archery. She dreams of going to Morocco.

## TONY PAYNE *DIRECTOR*



Tony Payne joined the Board at the beginning of last year as a Director and is a Member of the Finance Committee. An immigrant himself, Tony has experienced the process of learning English as a second language and adjusting to life in a new country, and he wants to give back to a community

and organization that helps people in this way. He studied accounting, business, and IT and currently works as Vice President of Information Technology. Tony plays rugby, goes camping, and watches movies.

## KELSEY CAMPBELL *DIRECTOR*



Kelsey Campbell joins our Board after volunteering as a LEX instructor since September of last year. Kelsey received her Bachelor of Journalism from Ryerson University and currently works as a journalist and talk radio producer for 630 CHED radio, as well as an announcer on CISN Country

103.9. She aspires to one day volunteer in a developing country, and in the meantime she enjoys running with her dogs, dancing, and spending endless hours around the campfire.

## EMEKA EKWOSIMBA *DIRECTOR*



Emeka Ekwosimba joins our Board this year, eager to be part of an institution that continues to support new immigrants to learn, grow, and be successful in their new community. He holds Masters degrees in both International Affairs and Business Administration, working as an

Assistant Director at the Alberta Ministry of Economic Development and Trade. Emeka loves playing soccer, dancing salsa, and reading. His next travels will take him to India since he is fascinated by its people, culture, and innovation.

## MIKE MANDZIUK *DIRECTOR*



Mike Mandziuk is also new to our Board this year. Having married into a family of Korean immigrants, Mike knows firsthand the challenges that new Canadians face when they lack English language skills. He is a professional engineer and a member of APEGA, and currently owns and operates a

small oilfield service company. Mike enjoys flying and motorcycling, as well as beekeeping. He has studied Spanish and wishes to travel to South America so he can practice his language skills in real life situations.