



JILLIAN GAMEZ *PRESIDENT*

Jillian Gamez is in her fourth year on the board and is the President-elect. Outside of her role with CCI-LEX, she's a lawyer, having received both her undergraduate and law degrees at the University of Alberta. She's an active volunteer with the Canadian Bar Association, serving as an organizer for the Annual Law Day in Edmonton and is Vice-Chair of the Civil Litigation subsection for Northern Alberta. She is also active in the theatre community. Jill's hobbies include running, going to movies or plays, and reading. Her favorite travel destination would be the Gold Coast in Australia.

NAFISA BOWEN *VICE PRESIDENT*

Nafisa Bowen joined the CCI-LEX Board of Directors in May 2015. She is the Vice President-elect. Nafisa works as a Development Officer with the Stollery Children's Hospital Foundation and is currently a candidate for City Councillor for Edmonton's Ward 5 in the next municipal election. Nafisa holds a Bachelor of Science and enjoys running, yoga, and being a mom to her little boy. Her favorite part about being on the Board is helping people connect and gain skills while building stronger communities.



BENJAMIN DEBOER *TREASURER*

Benjamin deBoer joined the Board of Directors in May 2015 and is the current Treasurer and lead of the Finance Committee. 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 shreds the slopes in the winter.



SHANNON LEBLANC *SECRETARY*

Shannon Leblanc is entering her second year on the Board as Secretary-elect. She has nearly six years of volunteering experience in the LEX program and eagerly jumped at the opportunity to contribute to the organization as a whole. As a Sustainability 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 today, she would choose Italy or Ireland.



BRIAN KOMBANI *DIRECTOR*

Brian Kombani is new on the Board for 2017. Brian strives to be an active community member wherever he lives. He was eager to join CCI-LEX because he has seen the school make lifelong positive impacts in the lives of students, immigrants, refugees, and visitors to Canada and wishes to be a part of such an integral organization. He has previously volunteered for United Way, Peterborough Down's Syndrome Association, and the Boys and Girls Club of Fort McMurray. Having studied biology and economics at Trent University, Brian now works as a Business Development & Industrial Products Specialist at Tanks-A-Lot Industrial. He enjoys cooking and chess and wants to visit at least one country in each continent.



DEBJANI PODDAR *DIRECTOR*

Debjani Poddar has been on the Board since November 2016 as Director and 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 is our newest Board member, joining as Director and Fund Development Committee Member. 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.



GRACE ZHANG *DIRECTOR*

Grace Zhang is entering her second year on the Board. She took English classes at CCI-LEX in 2010 when she was a new immigrant. After working in the field of career counselling for several years, Grace decided to join the CCI-LEX Board to help other immigrants and refugees achieve their goals in Canada. She is a Payroll Compliance Practitioner and Certified Human Resources Professional Candidate, with eight years of work experience in Human Resources Management and five years of volunteer experience with other non-profit organizations, all significant assets for the Board. Grace enjoys traveling, cooking, and camping with her family. If she could take a trip tomorrow, she would go to Casablanca.



SHARLENE CLARKE *DIRECTOR*

Sharlene Clarke is entering her second year on the Board. She has been a volunteer instructor in the LEX Program since 2013. She decided to join the board to gain governance experience as well as contribute to CCI-LEX in an additional, higher-level manner. Sharlene brings with her a passion for CCI-LEX's work as well as marketing savvy. She has a background in media and publishing, most recently working as Director of Circulation for Venture Publishing. She enjoys running, playing basketball, and spending time with her giant dog Sofie. If she could travel anywhere in the world she would visit Prague or Vienna.



TONY PAYNE *DIRECTOR*

Tony Payne joined the Board at the beginning of this year as Director and 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.

