



## 2021 Board of Directors Applicants

**#1 - Name:** Mehenz Moutusi (she/her) - Tenant Member (End of the Rainbow)

### 1) Why are you interested in serving as a Board Member for CommunityWise?

To guide, learn about, and support CommunityWise's initiatives to do anti-racist and equitable work for our community.

### 2) What are your perspectives and/or experiences that you will bring to the Board?

My professional and personal values align with CommunityWise's. I will bring lived experiences and minority perspectives to the table. I am familiar with the population and the non-profit sector, which will allow me to weigh in on making conscious decisions that will impact the community and service users.

### 3) Please check area(s) of knowledge/skills you feel you can bring to further our mission

- Nonprofit law/legal issues
- Real estate/commercial leasing
- Diversity/inclusion/equity
- Policy development
- Public relations
- Human resources
- Governance
- Financial/accounting
- Fund development
- Facility management
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**4) What area(s) of knowledge/skills do you want to gain through being a Board Member for CommunityWise?**

Would love to gain more knowledge around policy development and governance.

**5) What group(s), organization(s), or community(ies) do you represent, participate in, or identify with(both inside and outside of CommunityWise)?**

I am part of the Muslim South Asian community - specifically Bangladeshi; as well, the LGBTQ+ community. I'm with the End of the Rainbow foundation in the CommunityWise building. I do also identify with the immigrant community, and work with Centre for Newcomers.

**6) Anti-Racist Organizational Change (AROC) is a current grounding framework of CommunityWise. What do you hope to contribute to this work? What do you hope to learn?**

I will hopefully be able to contribute my experience in working with immigrants, vulnerable LGBTQ+ populations, and my lived experiences as a racialized individual within and outside of my racialized community in Canada and in my home country. I hope to learn more on perspectives of indigenous populations and other minority populations that's not South Asian.

**7) Building accountability to Indigenous communities is a focus of CommunityWise's AROC work. Tell us a bit about your current understanding of decolonization.**

My understanding of decolonization is the independence of a people who have been suppressed, oppressed, and thrown out of harmony by a forceful, intrusive, and dominating people. My part in this decolonizing process is to be an ally to the indigenous community, supporting them where there are gaps, and empowering them to take back their power and harmony.

**8) Please share any additional information you feel is important in considering your application as a Board candidate.**

I'm very much looking forward to learning so much and embracing this experience.

**9) Please include a short (one paragraph) biography below.**

My name is Mehenaz. My knowledge and experiences revolve in the psychology and social work field within the non-profit sector. I'm passionate about knowledge and expanding my horizons in terms of personal well-being and professional abilities. Currently I'm working with End of the Rainbow Foundation and Centre for Newcomers. I enjoy mental health and behavioural sciences.

**#2 - Name:** Chelsey Morton (she/her) - Tenant Member (Calgary Narrative Collective)

**1) Why are you interested in serving as a Board Member for CommunityWise?**

As a member of the Calgary Narrative Collective I have had the chance to be at CommunityWise. The space is so wonderful and I know that doesn't happen without hours of labour, advocacy, thinking and equity practices. Why would I not want to be part of this kind of community?!

**2) What are your perspectives and/or experiences that you will bring to the Board?**

My work outside the home is as a narrative therapist - the practice I have developed over the span of my professional career has become focused on narrative therapy - which is a therapy that seeks to view the problems people are up against in light of the inequitable systems and structures in our culture. Perhaps this experience will be helpful in some way. I have also worked in the non-profit sector for many years and have a general sense of what non-profits are up against in terms of sustainable Finances and human resources.

**3) Please check area(s) of knowledge/skills you feel you can bring to further our mission.**

Nonprofit law/legal issues

Real estate/commercial leasing

Diversity/inclusion/equity

Policy development

Public relations

Human resources

Governance

Financial/accounting

Fund development

Facility management

Other: my experience as a narrative therapist

**4) What area(s) of knowledge/skills do you want to gain through being a Board Member for CommunityWise?**

I would value the experience of being a participant in a board that values equity (anti-racism), consensus based decision making and decolonizing practices. I also believe that serving on a board will be a worthwhile experience in and of itself where I will uncover and rediscover new and old knowledges and skills!

**5) What group(s), organization(s), or community(ies) do you represent, participate in, or identify with(both inside and outside of CommunityWise)?**

I work with the Calgary Narrative Collective (Tenant Member). Otherwise white gal settler.

**6) Anti-Racist Organizational Change (AROC) is a current grounding framework of CommunityWise. What do you hope to contribute to this work? What do you hope to learn?**

As a white person I hope to contribute to a space where BIPOC voices are centered and my influence can be used to further the reach of this community in Calgary. I hope to learn all things possible about my own biases around supremacy so as to dismantle them thoughtfully and be a better community member by accounting for my own history, actions, and ideas.

**7) Building accountability to Indigenous communities is a focus of CommunityWise's AROC work. Tell us a bit about your current understanding of decolonization.**

My understanding is that settler colonization is an ongoing powerful force in the lives of Indigenous communities (MMIW, boil water advisories, treaty rights and oil and gas development). Decolonization is a practice of understanding the ongoing effects of colonization and making actions to elevate and appreciate indigenous ways of knowing, living and artistry. Decolonization requires centering the voices of indigenous folks and all of their lived experiences- what they have been up against, how they have resisted and responded, the inventions that have survived colonization and the innovations for healing and reconciliation.

**8) Please share any additional information you feel is important in considering your application as a Board candidate.**

It would be an honour to serve on the board of communitywise.

**9) Please include a short (one paragraph) biography below.**

I am Chelsey (she/her) and I care about how to support the growth of a more curious and interesting city - one that has been home to me and my family for a long time. I work as a psychologist in a small private practice and alongside the brilliant minds of the folks at the Calgary Narrative Collective. I have always wanted to learn the stories that shape people's lives and the shaping they do to life inside their own story. I really like making things with my hands - art, crafts, food, and making messes and my heart is most alive when I am laughing in the sun with beloved people.

**#3 - Name:** Stefica Turuk - Associate Member (Alex Homebase)

**1) Why are you interested in serving as a Board Member for CommunityWise?**

Expand my learning of non-profit governance. Challenge my existing beliefs. Support my community.

**2) What are your perspectives and/or experiences that you will bring to the Board?**

Nonprofit management degree. Almost 15 years non-profit career experience - both management and front-line levels. 10+ years working with marginalized populations.

**3) Please check area(s) of knowledge/skills you feel you can bring to further our mission.**

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Nonprofit law/legal issues

Real estate/commercial leasing

Diversity/inclusion/equity

Policy development

Public relations

Human resources

Governance

Financial/accounting

Fund development

Facility management

Other: .....

**4) What area(s) of knowledge/skills do you want to gain through being a Board Member for CommunityWise?**

Expand my nonprofit management and governance experience/knowledge. Identify and address biases I still hold as a cis-gender, able-bodied, white woman.

**5) What group(s), organization(s), or community(ies) do you represent, participate in, or identify with(both inside and outside of CommunityWise)?**

HomeBase (The Alex Community Health Centre), TIC (Trauma-Informed Care) Collective, Bowness Community Association, AA, Yoga in Bowness, CCVA (Council for Certification in Volunteer Administration)

**6) Anti-Racist Organizational Change (AROC) is a current grounding framework of CommunityWise. What do you hope to contribute to this work? What do you hope to learn?**

I have a lot to learn. As a white woman, who holds immense privilege as a result, I am keen to learn more about how I use this privilege (and power) to better support BIPOC communities.

**7) Building accountability to Indigenous communities is a focus of CommunityWise's AROC work. Tell us a bit about your current understanding of decolonization.**

We have a lot of work to do. Our systems, culture and norms are still very much rooted in colonialism. The harms that settlers inflicted on Indigenous communities continue, and not until settlers acknowledge and address racist beliefs and practices, will any meaningful change take place.

**8) Please share any additional information you feel is important in considering your application as a Board candidate. N/A**

**9) Please include a short (one paragraph) biography below.**

Relationship builder. Compassionate advocate. Trauma-informed practitioner. Volunteer engagement pro. Avid thrifter. Amateur gardener. Mountain stroller. Sometimes yoga teacher.