



# Social Innovation Learning Programme Participant Bios

Social Innovation Learning Programme 2018  
Hosted by the J.W. McConnell Family Foundation  
**May 2018**



## Participant List

<b>Gilles Renaud</b>	Atelier Créatifs
<b>Anie Desrochers</b>	Atelier Créatifs
<b>Shereen Munshi</b>	The Circle
<b>Lauryn Drainie</b>	Co-Power
<b>Aimee Gasparetto</b>	Ecology Action Centre
<b>Satya Ramen</b>	Ecology Action Centre
<b>Mallory Wilson</b>	Entremise
<b>Jonathan Lapalme</b>	Entremise
<b>Daimen Hardie</b>	Forests International
<b>Megan de Graaf</b>	Forests International
<b>Danielle Filion</b>	Leger Foundation
<b>Annie Kidder</b>	People for education
<b>Marika Anthony-Shaw</b>	Plus1
<b>Talia Felber</b>	Plus1
<b>Stéphanie Fontaine</b>	Revivre
<b>Phyllis Novak</b>	Sketch
<b>Rudy Ruttiman</b>	Sketch
<b>Scott Stirrett</b>	Venture for Canada
<b>Juanita Lee Garcia</b>	Venture for Canada
<b>Caro Loutfi</b> (Guest)	Apathy is Boring
<b>Claudine Labelle</b> (Guest)	Fillactive
<b>Allison Reid</b> (Guest)	Montreal Urban Aboriginal Network
<b>Leilani Shaw</b> (Guest)	Montreal Urban Aboriginal Network

## McConnell Foundation

<b>Darcy Riddell</b>	<a href="mailto:driddell@mcconnellfoundation.ca">driddell@mcconnellfoundation.ca</a>
<b>Chad Lubelsky</b>	<a href="mailto:clubelsky@mcconnellfoundation.ca">clubelsky@mcconnellfoundation.ca</a>
<b>Stephen Huddart</b>	<a href="mailto:shuddart@mcconnellfoundation.ca">shuddart@mcconnellfoundation.ca</a>
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<b>Ryan Conway</b>	<a href="mailto:rconway@mcconnellfoundation.ca">rconway@mcconnellfoundation.ca</a>
<b>Niamh Leonard</b>	<a href="mailto:nleonard@mcconnellfoundation.ca">nleonard@mcconnellfoundation.ca</a>

# Participant Biographies

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We also asked participants to provide a two-sentence description of their organisation's mission and a two-sentence description of a scaling challenge they are facing.

*On a demandé aux participant.e.s à fournir une description en deux phrases de la mission de leur organisation et une description en deux phrases d'un défi d'échelle auquel vous êtes confronté.*

## Mallory Wilson

### Entremise

Mallory Wilson is the Co-founder & Director of Finance and Heritage at Entremise. Passionate about developing alternative tools for the conservation of built heritage, Mallory's work centres on transitional urbanism and bridging the gap between cultural and business communities. In 2016, Mallory co-founded Entremise, a non profit enterprise that facilitates transitional projects for vacant buildings. Having studied capital markets and worked as an advisor to high net-worth investors for a private-wealth management firm in Montreal, as of 2014, Mallory works with a variety of heritage actors; architects, public bodies, private owners, and community groups, to develop projects relating to buildings of social and cultural importance for Montrealers. In 2015, Mallory co-founded of the annual heritage festival - Vivre le Patrimoine! - to promote heritage awareness through creative and inclusive activities. Mallory is presently a Commissioner for Culture Montréal's permanent working group, Cadre de Vie, and sits on the steering committee for Quebec's first Social Heritage Trust, Monument. Mallory holds a Bachelor of Classical Studies and Political Science from the University of Ottawa, and a Master of Environmental Design in Conservation of the Built Environment from the University of Montreal.



**Notre mission :** La mission d'Entremise est de créer des espaces abordables à travers la valorisation de bâtiments vacants et le développement de l'urbanisme transitoire pour des villes canadiennes plus justes, durables et résilientes.

**Notre défi d'échelle :** Financing for growing resources and team, where the innovative nature of our project and desire to retain certain values in the organization restricts potential for revenue from projects

## Jonathan Lapalme Entremise

Détenteur d'une maîtrise en Design et écologies urbaines de la Parsons The New School for Design à New York, Jonathan travaille depuis près de dix ans au design de processus et de stratégies en lien avec différents types de problématiques urbaines. Récemment, il a co-fondé Entremise, un organisme à but non lucratif voué faciliter l'usage transitoire des bâtiments vacants, dirigé la création d'une plateforme web collaborative visant à identifier les sites vulnérables avec Héritage Montréal, réalisé un documentaire sur la crise du logement à New York pour l'exposition Uneven Growth au MoMA, et reconceptualisé le rôle des vendeurs de rue en temps de crise afin d'accroître la résilience urbaine avec Street Vendor Project. En tant que consultant, il a aussi contribué comme stratège à plusieurs initiatives touchant la ville intelligente, l'économie circulaire, le droit à la ville et l'architecture de paysage.



**Notre mission :** Connecter des espaces sans personne à des personnes sans espace / Créer des espaces abordables à travers la valorisation de bâtiments vacants et le développement de l'urbanisme transitoire pour des villes canadiennes plus justes, durables et résilientes.

**Notre défi d'échelle :** Landscape / Scaling Deep: Change the way the general population sees vacancy, its causes and potential - System / Scaling Up: Inform and influence the transformation of rules, regulations and incentives surrounding vacancy and transitional uses at different levels of government - Niche innovations / Scaling Out: Find a balance between the continuous improvements from one project to the next, while developing initiatives that are sensitive to their context and allowing new innovations to emerge and/or consolidate at every turn. Additional challenge: creating synergies between these three scaling strategies.

## Scott Stirret

### Venture for Canada

Scott Stirrett is the Founder and CEO of Venture for Canada, which is a national non-profit charity that develops entrepreneurial leadership skills in young people through recruiting, training, and supporting recent graduates to work at Canadian startups. Previously, Scott worked on a cross-product client experience team at Goldman Sachs & Co. in New York City. He is a graduate of Georgetown University's Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service. At Georgetown, he was a weekly columnist for The Hoya, Georgetown's newspaper of record, and interned at The Council on Foreign Relations.

**Our mission:** Venture for Canada (VFC) is a non-profit charity that develops entrepreneurial leadership skills through recruiting, training and supporting recent graduates to work at innovative Canadian SMEs. Program participants learn first hand what is involved with creating a successful Canadian start-up through working for a successful Canadian entrepreneur, and gain the skills, network, and experience to launch their own firms or lead entrepreneurial careers.

**Scaling challenge:** For the first few years of operations, VFC only supported several dozen youth per year. As we begin to work with hundreds of youth each year, we face challenges relating to maintaining program quality for all youth participants in VFC programs.



## Juanita Lee-Garcia Venture for Canada

Juanita's interests lie at the crossroads of education and social innovation. She has experience in Sales, Sales Management in B2C environments and Sales Development inside B2B cloud technology. She has led initiatives to conceptualize, plan and develop pilot projects including the Carleton University Art Gallery Sport and Art Summer Camp as the first Co-Director of the camp. She is a Queen's University Alumni (BFAH and Minor in Art History.) Juanita also holds a Master of Fine Art from Western where she focused on visual theory. Currently she is finishing her Master of Education degree in Leadership, Higher and Adult Education concurrent with Community Development at the University of Toronto. In her free time she visits galleries, makes art, and loves wine tastings.



**Our mission:** The purpose of Venture for Canada is to support the efforts of Advancement of Education and Skill Development of recent graduates of Canadian post-secondary institutions. and creating economic opportunity, by acting as the bridge between studies and the workplace, providing entrepreneurially minded and select candidates a fellowship program, and a connection to the Canadian Startup ecosystem while being invested in continuous community mentorship, training, learning and research across diverse fields for all of its stakeholders and filling the gaps of knowledge for future a more inclusive and resilient Canada.

**Scaling challenge:** We are facing a challenge of scaling our programming to generate self sustaining revenue. As the application process becomes more competitive and the pool of applicants increases we are facing the challenge of supporting all of the application through the process or after they have been rejected.

## Annie Kidder

### People for Education

Annie Kidder has been the Executive Director of People for Education for 22 years. In that role, she has helped to build an organization that is recognized as a leader in advancing public education through research, policy analysis, and public engagement. She has spoken at conferences across Canada, in the US, and around the world.

**Our mission:** Our mission is to strengthen a universal public education system that graduates all young people with the skills and competencies they need to contribute to a fair and prosperous society, and to live happy, healthy, economically secure, civically engaged lives.



## Stéphanie Fontaine Revivre [English]

Stéphanie is a Fellow of the Canadian Institute of Actuaries and cumulates 20 years of career in key leadership roles in investments and employee benefits. Passionate about mental health following her diagnosis of bipolar disorder in 2001, she was first involved as a volunteer with Revivre, and then hired as their J'avance! program director. Her mandate is to make these evidence-based self-management workshops available to thousands of individuals everywhere in Canada and abroad. In 2016, she was named "Face of Mental Illness" by the Canadian Alliance on Mental Illness and Mental Health.

**Our mission:** Revivre is a non-profit organization helping people with anxiety, depression or bipolar disorder and their families. Through their helpline, support groups, self-management workshops, discussion forum and website, Revivre reaches more than 10,000 people per year, and has made a total of 315,000 interventions over 27 years, using their Self-Management Support renown approach.

**Scaling challenge:** Every year, 4 million Canadians are living with a mood or anxiety disorder, but less than half of those affected receive treatment. Drawing on years of experience in support groups and evidence-based data, Revivre has developed a series of Self-Management Support Workshops, called J'avance!, that, if properly scaled, could provide an efficient and replicable solution to bridge the gap to accessing quality services, with the goal of reaching 5,000 participants every year throughout Canada (from the current 1,400 participants per year in 12 Quebec regions).



## Stéphanie Fontaine Revivre [Français]

Fellow de l'Institut canadien des actuaires, Stéphanie Fontaine a occupé des rôles de leader pendant plus de vingt ans en investissement et en avantages sociaux. Passionnée de santé mentale suite à son diagnostic de trouble bipolaire en 2001, elle a d'abord œuvré comme bénévole chez Revivre, avant d'y devenir directrice du programme J'avance! avec comme mandat de rendre disponibles ces ateliers d'autogestion au plus grand nombre possible de personnes partout au Canada et à l'étranger. En 2016, elle a été nommée « Visage de la maladie mentale » par l'Alliance canadienne pour la maladie mentale et la santé mentale.

**Notre mission :** Revivre est un organisme à but non lucratif qui vient en aide aux personnes atteintes de troubles anxieux, dépressifs ou bipolaires et leurs proches. Grâce notamment à sa ligne de soutien, ses groupes d'entraide, ses ateliers d'autogestion, son forum de discussion et son site Web, Revivre aide 10 000 personnes par année, pour un total de 315 000 interventions en 27 ans, en utilisant leur approche désormais réputée : le soutien à l'autogestion.



**Notre défi d'échelle :** Chaque année, 4 millions de Canadiens vivent avec un trouble de l'humeur ou de l'anxiété, mais moins de la moitié des personnes touchées reçoivent un traitement. En s'appuyant sur ses années d'expérience dans les groupes de soutien et les données probantes, Revivre a développé une série d'ateliers de soutien à l'autogestion, le programme J'avance!, un programme qui, s'il est correctement mis à l'échelle, pourrait fournir une solution efficace et répliquable pour combler les besoins en services de qualité, avec l'objectif d'atteindre 5 000 participants chaque année à travers le Canada (à partir des 1 400 participants par année actuels dans 12 régions du Québec).

## Shereen Munshi

### The Circle

Shereen is a first-generation immigrant to Canada migrating with her family from Lusaka, Zambia. Her experiences with wealth disparity and segregation have shaped her outlook on life. She has a compulsion for true equality and cultural preservation. As Communications Manager at The Circle, Shereen is responsible for programming, strategic communications, storytelling, knowledge dissemination and outreach to the key audiences. Shereen holds a Bachelor's degree from The University of Ottawa, with a Major in Communications and Minor in Film Studies.

**Our mission:** The Circle transforms philanthropy and contributes to positive change with Indigenous communities by creating spaces of learning, innovation, relationship-building, co-creation, and activation.

**Scaling challenge:** Related to strategic communication at The Circle, we hope to scale our communications on a national level that mirrors the way we want to be in relationship. We want to cultivate our online audience while maintaining the personal and authentic relationships we hold with peers in the sector. We're hoping to discover ways of striking a balance between wholesome and efficient communications without being too slick and impersonal.

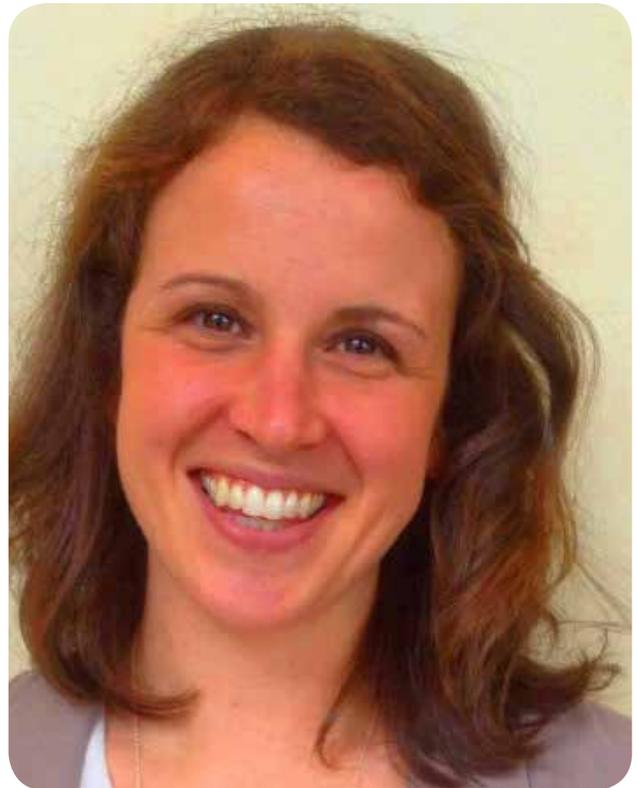


## Aimee Gasparetto Ecology Action Centre

Aimee Gasparetto is a Community Development Professional with over twelve years of experience working both locally and internationally to develop community-based initiatives that promote health, challenge inequalities, and build local economies. Aimee's primary focus is supporting regional and sustainable food system development with expertise in facilitation, food related policy, and program design and evaluation. Aimee is currently working as Senior Coordinator at the Ecology Action Centre, supporting the strategic development of food-related programs and policies in Nova Scotia. Previously, Aimee was the Senior Manager of Community Development at Evergreen in Toronto, leading the development of health promoting initiatives among some of Toronto's most vulnerable populations. In her personal time, Aimee enjoys teaching yoga from her home-based studios and enjoying Nova Scotia's hiking trails with her one year old daughter.

**Our mission:** Ecology Action Centre is a member based environmental charity in Halifax taking leadership on critical issues from biodiversity to climate change to environmental justice. The Food Action team strives to increase access to healthy, sustainable and just food through community food initiatives, cross-sectoral partnerships and action for policy and social change.

**Scaling challenge:** We are having a lot of success in developing cross-sectoral networks of actors aligned for a common purpose. One challenge lies in fostering effective and sustainable shared leadership and moving beyond individual organizational champions / influencers to organizational/institutional commitments.



## Satya Ramen

### Ecology Action Centre

Satya's passion lies in combining community engagement, research and policy change to support civic engagement and social change for healthy, just and sustainable food systems. Her interest in social and environmental justice started over 20 years ago and has ranged from community gardens to energy efficiency and active transportation. Since first joining the Ecology Action Centre as Senior Coordinator in 2015, Satya has found her true calling in policy and systems change. Satya holds a B.Sc. from Dalhousie University and a Magisteriate in Environmental Studies (Urban Planning) from York University with a focus on adult environmental education.

**Our mission:** Ecology Action Centre is a member based environmental charity in Halifax taking leadership on critical issues from biodiversity to climate change to environmental justice. The Food Action team strives to increase access to healthy, sustainable and just food through community food initiatives, cross-sectoral partnerships and action for policy and social change.

**Scaling challenge:** We are having a lot of success in developing cross-sectoral networks of actors aligned for a common purpose. One challenge lies in fostering effective and sustainable shared leadership and moving beyond individual organizational champions/influencers to organizational/institutional commitments.



## Megan de Graaf Community Forests International

As Forests Intl's Forest Ecologist, I manage our Canada Forest Program, including our projects in land acquisition for conservation and forest carbon offsetting, climate-smart forest management, and restoring degraded forests. I also walk the talk as a woodlot owner and farmer in southern NB.

**Our mission:** To fight climate change by empowering rural communities to thrive with nature.

**Scaling challenge:** We've been ahead of the crowd for years, in our work to mitigate the effects of- and adapt to climate change, all while building stronger, more resilient rural communities in Tanzania and in Canada. But even though the rest of the world is finally catching up, we still struggle to get our programs to a scale that will make the needed impact on climate change, and this is primarily a funding issue.



## Daimen Hardie

### Community Forests International

Co-Founder and Executive Director of Community Forests International, working with teams in the Maritimes and Zanzibar to overcome poverty, restore forests, and reverse climate change. I want to build a chamber of commerce to fight climate change.

**Our mission:** To fight climate change by empowering rural communities to thrive with nature.

**Scaling challenge:** We've built everything on personal relationships of trust, which are hard to scale. Recruitment is also a challenge, and market access. We scale by converting our program innovations into standalone enterprises - creative destruction, because once we build up enough capacity on a certain file we end up moving all of that capacity out to launch a new startup.



## Talia Felber PLUS1

Before starting at PLUS1 as Program Manager, in February of this year, Talia spent almost 14 years managing various forms of Production - TV commercials, music festivals, and shows, and most recently visual effects for feature films. As Program Manager at PLUS1, Talia brings with her knowledge of managing projects with various moving parts, being able to streamline processes, and offering ways to bring efficiency and productivity to the company, making her integral to PLUS1's organizational growth.

**Our mission:** PLUS1 builds an ecosystem for change by connecting musical artists and their fans to organizations that bring equity, dignity, and access to the most vulnerable. It starts by adding a \$1 per concert ticket that goes to these organizations. Beyond the dollar, PLUS1 hopes these organizations find their long term partners, and build capacity among artists, to become better advocates for the issues for which they are supporting, and raise awareness to their fanbase (millennials, next generation of change leaders) of pressing problems.



## Anie Desrochers Ateliers créatifs Montréal

Anie Desrochers a fait des études en sciences sociales et communications. Après 6 ans de travail au sein de la Guilde des musiciens et musiciennes du Québec, section local 406 de l'American Federation of Musicians, elle décide de poursuivre son parcours professionnel chez Ateliers créatifs Montréal (ACM) en 2013. Profondément interpellée par la mission de l'organisme, Anie s'implique dans le développement de celui-ci tant au niveau administratif qu'à celui des différents services offerts. Parallèlement, à son travail chez ACM, Anie est également impliquée dans une école de danse et de divertissement, le Studio 88 Swing, à titre de professeur de danse et de danseuse semi-professionnelle.

**Notre mission :** Ateliers créatifs Montréal est un développeur immobilier à but non lucratif qui a pour mandat de développer et protéger des lieux de travail et de création abordables, adéquats et pérennes pour les artistes professionnels en arts visuels, artisans et organismes culturels.



## Gilles Renaud

### Ateliers créatifs Montréal

Ayant à la base une formation en droit, Gilles Renaud a œuvré dans le milieu culturel dès le milieu des années 1990. Pendant près de quinze ans, il a travaillé dans le milieu du cirque, du théâtre, de la danse et de la musique. Depuis 2011, Gilles Renaud est directeur général d'Ateliers créatifs Montréal (ACM), organisme à but non lucratif dont la mission est de développer et préserver des lieux de travail et de création pour les artistes, artisans et organismes culturels sur le territoire de Montréal. Né de la mobilisation citoyenne et du développement local, Ateliers créatifs Montréal répond aujourd'hui aux besoins en lieux de travail de plus de 750 artistes, artisans et organismes culturels, gère 6 projets immobiliers dans 4 arrondissements représentant plus de 300 000 p.c. d'ateliers. Monsieur Renaud a fait partie du Groupe de travail sur les ateliers d'artistes ayant recommandé la création d'un fonds de 12,8M\$ pour le développement d'ateliers, il a siégé au sein de plusieurs conseils d'administration ou tables de concertation pour le milieu culturel et le développement local. Il a également participé à de nombreuses présentations, conférences ou tables rondes dont l'une sur l'économie sociale et le développement immobilier aux Entretiens Jacques Cartier, au Forum sur l'Économie sociale (GSEF) en 2016, ou encore comme panéliste lors de l'événement Métropolis 2017 qui s'est tenue à Montréal.



**Our mission:** Ateliers créatifs Montréal (ACM) is a non-profit real estate developer who's mission is to provide affordable, adequate and sustainable work space for artists, cultural and social economy organisations in Montreal. ACM provides over 300 000 sf of artist's studios in Montreal, for more than 750 artists and organisations.

**Scaling challenge:** ACM is now developing collective spaces (creative hubs, maker space,), equipment, tools and space mutualisation, and also a variety of services to support and enhance artists and organisations work and recognition, and to help create and nourish links with the community. This approach requires additional expertise and resources. This is an important scaling challenge that we are facing.

## Phyllis Novak SKETCH Working Arts

Phyllis Novak is the Founding Artistic Director of SKETCH Working Arts, a 21-year community-engaged arts enterprise based in Toronto, Ontario, engaging young people living on the margins that come from across Canada. Working professionally as an actor, director and artist educator prior to developing SKETCH, she holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts Honours degree from York University in Theatre Performance. SKETCH has won numerous awards, most recently the Ruth Atkinson Hindmarsh Award for Poverty Reduction and Ms. Novak was made a Fellow of the Toronto Arts Council's Inaugural Cultural Leaders Lab in 2015.

**Our mission:** SKETCH is a community engaged arts organization engaging young people 16-29, living homeless, on the margins, navigating poverty, to experience the transformational power of the arts, build leadership and self-sufficiency in the arts, and cultivate social change through the arts.

**Scaling challenge:** Scaling in terms of reach and impact; strategic collaborations and partnerships across sectors; presence in community and being an organization positioned to influence how others embark on arts and social justice, arts and social inclusion, etc. Concurrently budget and programming have been scaling and our infrastructure, policies and practice, our commitment to equity and transformative justice, as well as the resource development to support it all are attempting to keep up.



## Rudy Ruttimann SKETCH Working Arts

Rudy Ruttimann, Executive Director. I am passionate about the power of art in everyone's lives; I am engaged in life and thrive on sharing that with everyone that I work with and it comes alive in my leadership style. I have been with SKETCH for 19 years, through its many stages of growth and capacity.

**Our mission:** SKETCH is a community engaged arts organization engaging young people 16-29, living homeless, on the margins, navigating poverty, to experience the transformational power of the arts, build leadership and self-sufficiency in the arts, and cultivate social change through the arts.

**Scaling challenge:** To provide strong capacity building models that enables younger leaders to be prepared to carry the work forward in a healthy and collaborative ecosystem.



## Lauryn Drainie CoPower

As CoPower's manager of marketing and engagement, Lauryn is helping build a community of individuals investing for profit and planet. Prior to CoPower, Lauryn was Senior Campaigner, and half of Change.org Canada's founding team. She managed strategy, storytelling, and email, while building an impressive track record of winning campaigns on issues ranging from refugee justice, to improving animal welfare at factory farms, to featuring iconic women from Canadian history on our banknotes. After completing her B.A. in environmental policy at the University of Toronto, she worked as lead organizer at the Climate Action Network Canada. She loves train travel and has gone around (almost) the entire world, from England to Vietnam, and from San Francisco to New York.

**Our mission:** CoPower's mission is to unlock the private capital needed to finance Canada's clean energy transition and slow climate change. We're doing this by developing attractive, impactful investment products -- accessible to individuals as well as institutions -- that support the development of distributed clean energy infrastructure projects across Canada.

**Scaling challenge:** As an impact investor, one of CoPower's core challenges is the question of how make investment choices that are true to our mission while operating under external and internal business constraints that force compromise. For example, the projects that best fit our financial criteria are not necessarily those that have the greatest impact - while projects that offer significant impact may bring higher levels of risk.



## Marika Anthony Shaw PLUS1

Marika spent 8 years as a member of Arcade Fire—as a musical collaborator and managing their partnerships with Partners In Health, Kanpe, and other Haitian-led initiatives. While playing on stages around the world Marika could feel the amazing energy of thousands of people coming together to experience something profound. Plus 1 was born from the belief that harnessing that energy and directing it could be a powerful change agent. Marika’s belief in the power of the Plus 1 idea has led her to hang up her touring shoes and work to lead Plus 1 full time.

Marika studied music at McGill University and is on the Board of Directors of Partners In Health Canada and the Board of Trustees of Partners In Health.



## Danielle Filion L'ŒUVRE LÉGER Montreal

Danielle Filion travaille dans l'équipe de la Direction des programmes au Québec de L'ŒUVRE LÉGER depuis 3 ans. Après une quinzaine d'années comme organisatrice communautaire dans le milieu communautaire et dans le réseau public de la santé et des services sociaux ainsi qu'en enseignement, elle décide de poursuivre son parcours professionnel dans le milieu philanthropique. Essentiellement, le travail qu'elle effectue à L'ŒUVRE LÉGER consiste à soutenir des organisations québécoises, tant au niveau financier qu'organisationnel, qui mettent en place des initiatives visant une meilleure inclusion sociale des personnes vulnérables et marginalisées. Danielle possède un baccalauréat et une maîtrise en service social de l'Université de Montréal.

**Notre mission :** Au Québec et ailleurs dans le monde, appuyer les actions communautaires innovantes et mobilisatrice pour le mieux-être des personnes vulnérables ou marginalisées.

**Notre défi d'échelle :** Notre fondation a la chance de soutenir de petites organisations, dont plusieurs développent des programmes ayant un caractère innovant, par exemple dans les domaines de l'itinérance ou des jeunes de la rue. Par leur lien commun avec L'ŒUVRE LÉGER, ces organisations créent un nouvel écosystème. Comment tirer profit de cet écosystème, par exemple au niveau de l'intervention (évaluation/documentation des approches/rayonnement) tout en prenant en compte les particularités et contraintes propres à ces organisations. »



**Leilani Shaw**  
**(Guest - Fireside Chat)**  
Montreal Urban  
Aboriginal Network

Leilani is a Depeche Mode fan who creates & implements communications strategies, in that order.



## Claudine Labelle (Guest – Fireside Chat) FitSpirit / Fillactive

Entrepreneure sociale, Claudine Labelle a créé l'organisme Fillactive pour stimuler une génération d'adolescentes à prendre leur santé en main. Épaulée par de prestigieux partenaires, cette ancienne athlète élite met en place des actions visionnaires qui visent l'augmentation de l'activité physique et de la saine alimentation. L'impact est majeur : jusqu'à maintenant, le mouvement a sensibilisé plus de 125 000 jeunes femmes du Québec et de l'Ontario. En plus du succès de Fillactive, la force déployée par Claudine lui a valu de nombreuses reconnaissances. Elle a maintes fois été reconnue par ses pairs du milieu de la philanthropie et de l'entrepreneuriat social.

**Notre mission :** FitSpirit's mission is to help Canadian girls discover the benefits and the fun of being physically active.



## Allison Reid (Guest – Fireside Chat) Montreal Urban Aboriginal Network

Allison se joint au Réseau avec de l'expérience et des connaissances démontrés en développement communautaire avec des communautés Autochtones urbaines et éloignées. Elle a travaillé avec le Réseau en 2013-2015 lorsqu'elle a coordonné les premières phases du projet "Apprendre du Square Cabot: Développer la stratégie de sécurité urbaine et d'amélioration de la qualité de vie". Depuis ce temps, elle a travaillé pour Fort Nelson First Nation, située dans le nord de la Colombie-Britannique, où elle a contribué aux efforts communautaires pour la gestion des ressources et du territoire.

Elle complète actuellement sa maîtrise en Développement Communautaire de l'Université de Victoria. Elle revient au sein du Réseau comme Coordinatrice.



## Caro Loutfi (Guest – Fireside Chat) Apathy is Boring

Caro is the Executive Director of Apathy is Boring, working in a non-partisan manner and on a national scale to engage Canadian youth in democracy. She started as an intern at Apathy is Boring and took on the national leadership role a year and a half later. She currently sits on the Inspirit Foundation's board, working to inspire pluralism among young Canadians as well as the Darling Foundry, supporting the creation and exhibition of contemporary art. She provides a youth perspective on topics of civic and political engagement and has been featured on CTV News, CBC Radio and Global News among others. She was featured as one of nineteen prominent young Canadians to watch in the We Are Canada CBC series (2017). She was awarded the Walker Humanitarian Award by Concordia University and was named a Canadian Arab to Watch in 2015 by the Canadian Arab Institute.

**Our mission:** Apathy is Boring is a non-partisan, charitable organization that supports and educates youth to be active and contributing citizens in Canada's democracy.

**Scaling challenge:** We are currently scaling our RISE program to new communities as well as expanding into the North, which includes unique challenges. We're working to ensure we provide local opportunities for youth engagement while connecting our hubs across the country.



## **Chad Lubelsky** McConnell Foundation

At McConnell Chad is the program lead for public interest journalism and RECODE - a pan-Canadian initiative to provide Social Innovation tools and opportunities for College and Universities to become drivers of progress and community change.

Prior to joining the Foundation, Chad was the Executive Director of Santropol Roulant; developed leadership and community engagement programs for the Canada Millennium Scholarship Foundation; worked as an Assignment Editor for NBC news in San Francisco; managed global Internet Rights advocacy for the South African based Association for Progressive Communications; and was a Founding Trustee of the Montreal Awesome Foundation.

Chad holds a BA in Communications & Master Degrees in Communications and Leadership.



## Darcy Riddell McConnell Foundation

Darcy Riddell is Director of Strategic Learning with the McConnell Foundation, where she is responsible for developing strategic learning processes that support initiatives with a wide range of social and environmental goals from Reconciliation to healthy food systems to innovative cities to climate change solutions.

Over the last 20 years she has played diverse roles as a strategist, convener, campaigner and facilitator to advance social change and sustainability. She has worked across sectors with non-profits, environmental advocacy organizations, foundations, business, labour, universities and government, bringing a potent mix of strategy, transformative process design and systems thinking to generate innovation.

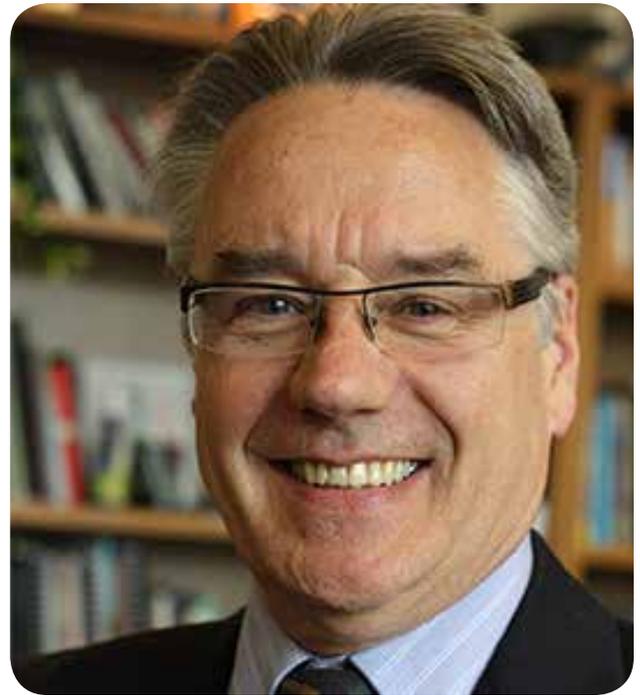
She has a PhD in Social and Ecological Sustainability focused on disruptive innovation in the Great Bear Rainforest and Boreal Forest Agreements, and specifically on the roles individuals can play in transformative change. She has published on evaluation, systems change strategies and scaling up, out and deep. Darcy co-designed and teaches in a Certificate in Social Innovation at SFU in Vancouver, where she lives with her two children.



## **Stephen Huddart** **McConnell Foundation**

Stephen Huddart is President and CEO of The J.W. McConnell Family Foundation, a national private foundation based in Montreal, with additional staff in Vancouver, Toronto and Ottawa.

The Foundation has played a leading role in developing social innovation and impact investing in Canada as a founding partner of Social Innovation Generation (SiG). McConnell's other initiatives include Innoweave, The McConnell Reconciliation Initiative, Cities for People, RECODE and Well Ahead. Stephen serves on the Boards of Pearson College UWC. He is currently a member of the Government of Canada's Social Innovation and Social Finance Strategy Co-Creation Steering Group. Stephen has worked as a social innovator and entrepreneur in the private, public and community sectors.



## Ryan Conway McConnell Foundation

Ryan Conway is the Program Director for Innoweave, an initiative of the J.W. McConnell Family Foundation. His program works directly with coaches, social sector leaders and community organizations to build capacity to use social innovation approaches to enhance impact. Innoweave offers an open, national platform for coaching and granting, as well as several special initiatives run in partnership with provincial and federal governments which focus on specific domains, such as homelessness, newcomer integration and social isolation.

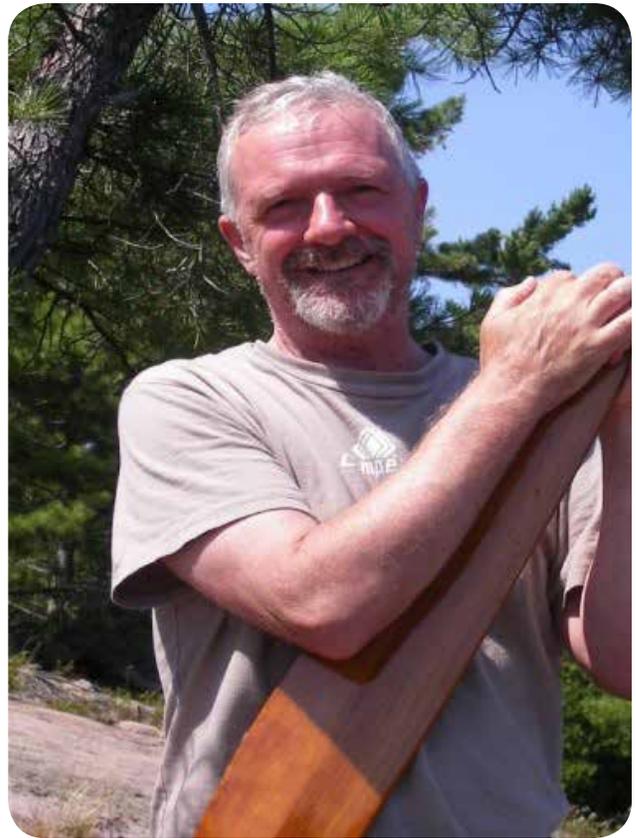
Prior to joining McConnell, Ryan worked for Public Policy Forum, serving as Project Lead for major national projects on pension reform, agricultural policy and innovation policy. He has also worked for the Government of Canada



## John Cawley McConnell Foundation

**English:** John Cawley works at the J.W. McConnell Family Foundation, where he is the Vice President. He has graduate degrees in a range of disciplines from history, to agricultural economics, and management but believes that most of the mysteries of the universe can be understood by the practice of curling. John has over 25 years of work experience in the community sector in Canada and in developing countries as a front-line practitioner, program evaluator, senior leader and board member.

**Français :** John Cawley occupe présentement le poste de Vice-président à la Fondation de la famille J.W. McConnell. Il a œuvré pendant plus de 25 ans dans le secteur communautaire, tant au Canada que dans des pays en développement, à titre de praticien de première ligne, d'évaluateur de programmes et de dirigeant. Titulaire de diplômes universitaires supérieurs en histoire, économie agroalimentaire et en gestion, il croit tout de même que l'on peut percer la plupart des mystères de l'univers par la pratique du curling.



## **Niamh Leonard** **McConnell Foundation**

Niamh Leonard is a Program Officer at the McConnell Foundation, a national private family foundation that applies social innovation and social finance approaches to areas such as reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples, the transition to a low-carbon economy, and the future of cities.

Prior to joining the Foundation, Niamh was the Director of Development at Santropol Roulant, an intergenerational community food hub in Montreal. The common thread through her work is a deep passion for developing economic and financial solutions that lead to better outcomes for people and the planet.

Niamh also chairs the board of directors of Apathy is Boring, a national nonpartisan organization that engages youth as contributing citizens in Canada's democracy. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from McGill University in Psychology and Economics.



