

# DIRECTOR BIOGRAPHIES

# Director Biographies

## **Anton Solomon**

Economic Development

Director of Labour Market Development

Anton is the Director of Labour Market Development, Yukon Economic Development. He has been working in employment and adult training programs in Yukon since 1997, beginning as a front counter service clerk for employment insurance. He has been involved in labour market program design since 2000.

He holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts (Drama) from the University of Saskatchewan and is an acknowledged subject matter expert on the Yukon Labour Market. He is also a Certified Adult Trainer and has 30 years of experience as an actor, director and teacher in live theatre.

# Director Biographies

## **Bryna Cable**

### Environment

Director of Environmental Protection  
and Assessment Branch

Bryna Cable is Director of Environmental Protection & Assessment Branch and has been with Yukon's Department of Environment since 2019. In this role, she is responsible for environmental assessment, compliance and inspections, regulation and permitting, and contaminated sites management. Procurement needs include: technical reviews for projects seeking Environment Act permits, lab sampling support for compliance, and phase 1,2 and remediation planning for contaminated sites.

Before joining Yukon Government, Bryna worked in various positions in municipal and non-government organizations, as well as being an independent consultant. She has over 20 years of experience in environmental policy development, with a particular focus on waste management and recycling.

Bryna holds a Masters in Environmental Practice from Royal Roads University. She resides in Whitehorse Yukon and respectfully acknowledges she works and plays within the traditional territory of the people of Kwanlin Dun First Nation and the Ta'an Kwäch'än Council.

# Director Biographies

## **Darren Stahl**

Energy, Mines and Resources

Director of Assessment and  
Abandoned Mines Branch

Darren comes from a residential and social housing construction/project management background. After 15 years with Yukon Housing Corporation, Darren joined the Department of Energy Mines and Resources, with the Assessment and Abandoned Mines Branch where he leads a team of professional and dedicated technical staff to protect the environment, people and property at Yukon's abandoned mine sites.

The team works collaboratively with Yukon First Nations, Canada and industry to assess the risks associated with each site (environmental and economic risks), develop mitigation strategies and implement those strategies working towards reclamation and closure.

# Director Biographies

## **Darryl Froese**

Highways and Public Works

Manager of Capital Infrastructure  
Office

Darryl has spent the majority of his career in the construction sector. Starting off in the residential housing field, he earned his Red Seal for Carpentry before joining the Yukon Government where he quickly earned a reputation for implementing challenging and unique projects. Whether it was about figuring out how to reduce Radon levels in commercial buildings, implementing green energy projects, or constructing a fibre-optic line through wetlands, permafrost, two Territories, and eight First Nation's Traditional Territory, he's always looking for the next challenge to tackle.

He is one of the directors in the Capital Infrastructure Delivery Office and is responsible for the implementation of the Dempster Fibre Project as well as the procurement and First Nation Relations for the Nisutlin Bay Bridge Replacement and Erik Nielsen Whitehorse Airport Runway Replacement.

# Director Biographies

## **Denis Desjardins**

Yukon Hospital Corporation

Manager of Material Management

Denis Desjardins has over 20 years' experience in the supply chain management field in both private and public sectors, with a primary focus on the Healthcare sector. Denis joined the Yukon Hospital in May 2016 where he is responsible for all Capital Procurement activities and leads the Material Management Department who is responsible for all YHC procurement and inventory management activities, including support to all HSS health programs throughout the Territory.

Denis also represented Yukon's healthcare sector as a member of the Public Health of Canada's Logistics Advisory Committee responsible for the inventory management and distribution of PPE and vaccine supplies during the COVID pandemic.

# Director Biographies

## **Eduardo Lafforgue**

Tourism & Culture

Director of Tourism

Eduardo R. Lafforgue is the Director of Tourism at the Department of Tourism & Culture. The Tourism Branch is the DMO (Destination Management/Marketing Organization) working towards sustainable and inclusive tourism development of one of the best recognized tourism destination brands in Canada. For more than 30 years his career expanded over Real Estate Development, Tourism, Cultural, Leisure and Hospitality industries. He has held top management and board positions in several international companies, including Intrawest, Indra and La Caisse de Depot.

Eduardo has advised important public and private investment and development groups and multilateral organizations in the tourism sector, as UNWTO, United Nations World Tourism Organization, IFC – WB (International Financial Corporation – World Bank) as well as the various Tourism Boards and Ministries in projects in 30 countries in Europe, Canada, South America, the Caribbean, Northern Africa, the Middle East and India. He stands out for his long experience in international and multi cultural projects, he is committed to sustainable, inclusive development practices and the respect and giveback to local communities.

He is a member of the Panel of Experts at World Tourism Barometer of the UNWTO, TIAO Policy Committee and Bravo Niagara Board of Directors.

# Director Biographies

## **Katie Munroe**

Highways and Public Works

Director of Transportation Engineering  
Branch

Katie Munroe joined Transportation Engineering Branch (TEB) in 2022. TEB's core mandate is to deliver capital projects related to Yukon's highways and bridges. This work includes project planning, design, procurement, permitting and contract management. Katie's prior roles in Yukon Government have included being the Director at the Procurement Support Centre and being a project manager with the department of Community Services.

Before joining the public sector, she spent her first nine years in the Yukon working in the private sector as both an employee and a small business owner.



# Director Biographies

## **Katy Mead**

Highways and Public Works

Director of Supply Services Branch

Katy has worked in Yukon government at Highways and Public Works since 2017, first as part of the Procurement Improvement Team. She moved on to work as Advisor Strategic Initiatives with Supply Services, then Manager of fleet, mail and travel services.

Currently, as director of supply services, Katy is responsible for oversight of a diverse supply and sourcing portfolio, supporting all Yukon government departments. Areas of spend include ground and air transportation, goods and print purchasing, mail/courier services and asset disposal. She is always keen to leverage procurement to shift the needle on our sustainable economy, such as adding zero-emission vehicles to Yukon government's fleet and increasing local goods purchases.

Born and raised in the Yukon, Katy has an active interest in a healthy environment and loves sharing her pragmatic optimism about emerging sustainability options. She holds degrees from the University of Alaska Fairbanks in Business and Russian Studies/Economics.

# Director Biographies

## **Keara Hlewka**

Whitehorse Chamber of Commerce

Director of Operations

Keara Hlewka has called Whitehorse home for most of her life. After receiving her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in New Media from the University of Lethbridge, Alberta she moved back to Whitehorse in 2009 and is honoured to live, work and play on the traditional Territories of the Kwanlin Dün First Nation and the Ta'an Kwäch'än Council. As a small business owner and having worked in the private sector for more than 20 years, Keara has a passion for entrepreneurship and a wealth of knowledge about the local Whitehorse business community.

She is currently the Director of Operations for the Whitehorse Chamber of Commerce. In this role she supports and advocates for member businesses and organizations, and promotes entrepreneurship through the Chambers programs and services. All Whitehorse Chamber of Commerce initiatives aim to contribute to the economic and social well-being of the local Whitehorse business community.

# Director Biographies

## **Laura Prentice**

Community Services

Director of Land Development

Laura Prentice has more than 15 years' experience in Community Services, working in senior positions with Land Development, Infrastructure and Community Affairs, including 6 years as Director of Land Development. Laura holds a civil engineering degree and has led a range of projects, policy and strategic initiatives in both the public and private sector and has worked on community-based projects in all three territories and internationally.

Laura likes to build bridges – always trying to bring a solutions-oriented, collaborative approach to her work.

# Director Biographies

## **Lester Balsillie**

Yukon Housing Corporation

Director of Capital Development and  
Maintenance

Lester is the Director of the Capital Development and Maintenance (CDM) branch of Yukon Housing Corporation (YHC). He has been in this role for 18 months and has worked at YHC for 9 years. Lester's background is in construction with over 30 years of working in the trades as a certified carpenter and private contractor before moving into project management with HPW for 6 years prior to joining YHC in 2014.

Lester has held the position of Manager of both Maintenance and Capital Development before taking on the current role as Director of CDM. CDM is responsible for planning and tendering of all capital projects for YHC including new builds, major renovations and repairs as well as maintenance for over 900 YHC units across the Yukon. CDM also completes energy upgrades, radon testing and mitigation and managing hazardous material testing and abatement. Lester has worked with all levels of municipal, First Nations and YG departments on various projects and planning throughout the territory. Lester's career with HPW and YHC has resulted in building relationships with many local architects, engineers, consultants, contractors and First Nations.

# Director Biographies

## **Luzelle Nagel**

Yukon Liquor Corporation

Chief Financial Officer

Luzelle Nagel has over 13 years' finance experience with Yukon Government organizations including Yukon Housing and Yukon University. Luzelle leads the finance and information management branches that also manages the assets, records and risk as well as procurement services for the Yukon Liquor Corporation. The corporation is responsible for the purchase, distribution and responsible sale of both liquor and cannabis products in the Yukon.

# Director Biographies

## **Madelon Wilson**

Highways and Public Works

Director of Facilities Management

Madelon Wilson joined Property Management as the Director of Facilities Management in September 2021; where she is responsible for the delivery of operational and maintenance services for all Government of Yukon owned facilities across the territory. Facilities Management provides routine and emergency maintenance services, including plumbing, electrical, carpentry and HVAC, as well as operational services such as custodial, asset security and grounds maintenance.

# Director Biographies

## **Mark Burns**

Highways and Public Works

Director of eServices for Citizens

Mark Burns is the Director of eServices for Citizens, in Highways and Public Works (HPW), Information and Communications Technology Division. He works with departments all across government to deliver modern online services to the public.

By providing the tools, techniques, design process, and technical solutions to support organizational web publishing, transactional services, digital citizen engagement and open data services, eServices for Citizens Branch is leading the modernization of service delivery at Yukon Government.

# Director Biographies

## **Meaghan Griffin**

Highways and Public Works

Director of Procurement Support  
Centre

Meaghan Griffin joined Procurement Supports Centre as the Director in August 2022. In this role, Meaghan works with all of government to deliver procurement advice, training and development, and ensure quality public tenders are processed through the PS Centre. Prior to becoming the director, Meaghan worked in various roles at PS Centre and HPW.



# Director Biographies

## **Michael Zuccarini**

Highways and Public Works

Director of Capital Development

Michael is the director of the Capital Development Branch in the Property Management Division. The branch undertakes building-related capital maintenance and major construction projects on behalf of Yukon Government departments. The branch is responsible for delivering a large portion of the 5-year capital plan, focusing on design and construction services for maintenance, energy retrofits, and new builds. Capital Development issues a number of public and invitational tenders as well as request for proposals for various consulting and construction projects across the territory.

Michael studied mechanical engineering at the University of British Columbia and he is currently licensed as a professional engineer with Engineers Yukon.

# Director Biographies

## **Mike Szczesniak**

Procurement Assistance Canada

Procurement Ambassador

With 15 years of contracting experience as a buyer at Public Services and Procurement Canada, Mike Szczesniak joined Procurement Assistance Canada in 2022 to help bridge the industry-buyer-policy divide by empowering Canadian entrepreneurs with the knowledge they need to succeed in federal government procurement while also advocating for procurement reform based on the simple premise that it shouldn't be difficult to do business with the Government of Canada.

Formerly known as the Office of Small and Medium Enterprises, Procurement Assistance Canada was created as part of Public Services and Procurement Canada to support smaller and diverse businesses in the federal procurement process. Its role is to engage with businesses to assist and inform them on how to sell their goods and services to the Government of Canada, and to work to reduce procurement barriers in an effort to ensure fairness in the process.

Whether it's through seminars, workshops, or one-on-one conversations, Mike looks forward to helping your business reach its full potential with the Government of Canada.

# Director Biographies

## **Nick Rodger**

Highways and Public Works

Director of Major Projects Branch

Nick Rodger is the director of the Major Projects Branch in the Property Management Division. The branch undertakes major capital building construction projects on behalf of Yukon Government departments. The branch is responsible for delivering a good portion of the 5-year capital plan, focusing on design and construction services for new buildings.

Major Projects also manages the implementation of green energy projects on Yukon Government buildings working towards reducing the GHG Emissions from Yukon Government buildings. Types of projects include new schools, new health centers, district heating systems, etc. Major Projects mainly issues large public tenders for consulting and construction projects on building projects across the territory.

# Director Biographies

## **Rebecca Turpin**

Environment

Director of Climate Change Secretariat

Rebecca Turpin is the Director, Climate Change Secretariat, for the Government of Yukon, Canada. She and her team of professionals and scientists lead all climate change-related policy including Yukon's climate, energy and green economy strategy, Our Clean Future. They also develop and implement strategies, programs and initiatives in support of reaching Yukon's climate change goals.

Rebecca has a long-standing career in the federal and territorial public service in the fields of science and technology, wildlife, protected areas and environmental assessments. Rebecca believes that courage, authenticity and trust are important leadership qualities. She holds a PhD in Geography, and was recently named one of Canada's Clean50 Honorees for 2023.

Reverse Trade Show  
November 2023 Director Biographies

