



The Road Home 2010: Speaker Biographies

JD Crookshanks

University of Alberta

JD Crookshanks is a PhD student in political science at the University of Alberta. He has a MA in political science from the University of Ottawa and a BA (hons.) from the University of Manitoba. He has also held research positions in the Manitoba Legislature and the Canadian Parliament.

JD's PhD work looks at the governance of housing in Edmonton and Winnipeg and the extent to which urban Aboriginal people are able to self-govern in those fields.

Justin Lui

University of Alberta

Justin is currently in his fourth year at the University of Alberta studying science and business. As the former chairperson of the City of Edmonton Youth Council, Justin had the privilege to lead Youth Council in implementing the extremely successful Heart 2 Art project, which raised a substantial amount of awareness and funds for Edmonton's inner city. For his three-year tenure on Youth Council, Justin was recognized as one of the *Top 20 Under 20* in Canada.

Justin has had the pleasure of working with a hill-tribes physician in servicing the medical and building needs of the displaced Burmese in Thailand, and is currently engaged in running both the University of Alberta Big Brothers Big Sisters Club and a BBBS mentorship program for Jr. High students. He is also a community representative on NextGen.

Steve Griffin

*Director, Essential Services and Re-Housing
The Mustard Seed Society*

Steve Griffin is the director of essential services and re-housing for The Mustard Seed Society in the city of Calgary.

Steve has served at the Mustard Seed for seven years in positions ranging from front line staff to executive staff and has a definite passion for Housing First initiatives, which move people from a shelter floor to an apartment door once and for all.

Steve is most proud of his three children and three grandchildren who currently live across the world.

Meagan Smith-Windsor

Blue Quills First Nations College Research and Program Evaluation team

Meagan has worked in social justice, research, and writing for fifteen years and has recently moved to the Edmonton area to pursue graduate studies in Social Work at the University of Calgary. She is grateful to support the transformational learning and growth work that Blue Quills does. Meagan lives at Matchean Lake near Onoway.

Bryan Lutes

President, Wood Buffalo Housing and Development Corporation

Megan Richard

Supervisor, DiverseCity Housing

Megan Richard is currently the supervisor of the DiverseCity Housing Initiative. As a registered social worker, Megan has worked with individuals facing multiple mental health and addiction challenges for close to twenty years. Many of the individuals she has worked with in the past have faced significant housing barriers. Her belief in the "Housing First" philosophy has led her to actively participate in the "10 year plan to end Homelessness"

While utilizing a recovery orientated approach, she aspires to assist program participants in becoming welcome, actively engaged and participating in the community of their choice.

Lindsay Gremm

Occupational Therapist, DiverseCity Housing

Lindsay was drawn to the DiverseCity Housing Initiative for its recovery focused innovative approach in assisting people with mental health and criminal justice involvement. In Lindsay's work as an occupational therapist she strives to promote social justice. Her experiences volunteering internationally, studying humanities and social sciences in her undergraduate degree, and occupational therapy in graduate school, as well as working in federal corrections (maximum security institution) furthered her awareness of the marginalization and criminalization of disenfranchised individuals and populations. As part of an interdisciplinary team Lindsay's hopes to continue to build capacity in the community to better respond to the needs of individuals who have mental illness and come into conflict with the law, while promoting safety in the community

Katharina (Kathy) Kovacs Burns, MSc, MHSA, PhD

University of Alberta

Dr. Kovacs Burns coordinates interdisciplinary and interprofessional research, education and practice for the Health and Medical Faculties. Her research interests include evaluation or analysis of community health and social programs and services, policy decision-making processes and influencers, stakeholder engagement in program and policy decisions, and the impact of policies on people generally, and more specifically, vulnerable populations. Most commonly contacted vulnerable populations include people with low income or who are homeless, people with chronic diseases and their caregivers, seniors, youth and women. She has various grants in progress for local, national and international research involving interdisciplinary teams. She has authored numerous articles and teaches in related areas. Her volunteer activities include assisting community organizations to provide supports to those who are vulnerable or disadvantaged. She is currently a Board Director for several community organizations.

Pamela Ralston, BSW, MSc., RSW

University of Calgary

Pam has 30 years of experience, working in various positions with provincial, federal and municipally governments. Pam spent 12 years with a focus on housing and homelessness with the social planning department, City of Red Deer, and focused planning to address and ultimately end homelessness with co-initiating the formation of the Red Deer Mayor's Task Force on Ending Homelessness.

In 2006/2007 Pam was seconded to an Interchange with HRSDC Ottawa, working on the development of enhanced project evaluation and community planning.

She was the Western Cities liaison of the National Housing Research Committee from 2007-2009 and is currently the Alberta representative to the Canadian Housing and Renewal Association (CHRA) serving

as 2nd Vice President on the Board. Pam served on the initial Alberta Secretariat for Action on Homelessness shaping Alberta's Action Plan on Ending Homelessness – Alberta's 10 Year Plan.

She retired from the City of Red Deer and now works as sessional instructor for the University of Calgary, Faculty of Social Work, and with her consulting business, Odyssey Resources.

David Hannis, M.Ed. MSW

Grant MacEwan University

David Hannis recently retired as a full-time social work instructor with Grant MacEwan University. He continues to teach at MacEwan part-time and maintains a strong interest in community development.

David previously worked as a community worker in the UK, as a social planner with the City of Edmonton and as a preventive social services consultant with the Alberta Government. He has co-authored, with Jason Brown, the text *Community Development in Canada*, which was published by Pearson Education. The book will soon be released as a second edition.

Stephen Gaetz

Canadian Homelessness Research Network – York University

Stephen Gaetz is committed to a research agenda that foregrounds social justice and attempts to make research on homelessness relevant to policy and program development. His research on homeless youth has focused on their economic strategies, health, education and legal and justice issues and, more recently, he has focused his attention on the Canadian response to homelessness. He led Canada's first national research conference on homelessness at York University in 2005. Professor Gaetz is the director of the Canadian Homelessness Research Network and the Homeless Hub (<http://www.homelesshub.ca>), a clearing house for homelessness research.

Michael Phair

University of Alberta

Michael Phair is currently director of community relations, external affairs, and is located in the University's Enterprise Square building downtown. He is also an adjunct professor of education and a board member of the University's City-Region Studies Centre.

Previously, Mr. Phair was an elected member of Edmonton's City Council for 15 years, and represented Ward 4, the centre of the city which includes the University. As a member of City Council, Mr. Phair was particularly identified with issues of homelessness and affordable housing, establishment of the Edmonton Arts Council, the support and development of programs for newcomers/immigrants to Edmonton, environmental initiatives including collection and recycling of waste, water conservation, the preservation of natural areas, and ensuring that city buildings meet "green standards."

Pete Ages

Homeward Trust Edmonton

Pete Ages is the manager, landlord relations for Homeward Trust Edmonton. For the past two years, he has been a member with the Edmonton Apartment Association and has attended one Canadian Federation Apartment Association conference. He has been an active member of the Edmonton Bed Bug Project committee, which has been working on tools to place in the community that will give information on bed bugs. These tools will assist property managers, tenants and anyone that is dealing with this pest.

Pete has been an owner/manager of a small building located in the McCauley district of Edmonton, and has been a landlord for over 20 years.

Jock McIntosh

Government of Alberta, Environmental Assurance

Jock McIntosh is a biologist and pesticide specialist with Alberta Environment. He administers provincial pesticide legislation and develops pesticide policies, standards, and programs; addresses issues; provides support to regional staff; and provides pesticide consultation services to a variety of provincial and federal agencies. He is a graduate of the University of Calgary and a member of the Alberta Society of Professional Biologists. Jock is an active member of the Edmonton Bed Bug Project. His interest in environmental science and regulation has spanned over the past 25 years and includes application, research, education and regulatory experience

Sue Fortune:

Boyle McCauley Health Centre

Sue Fortune holds a masters in science with a psychology major and has worked in a variety of mental health facilities. Sue is currently the Program Director of The Alex Pathways To Housing Calgary and oversees both the Mental Health ACT Team as well as the Justice ACT Team. Sue has professional interests in mental illness among marginalized individuals and substance abuse among the homeless.

Dr Krishna Balachandra:

Boyle McCauley Health Centre

Dr. Balachandra completed his medical education at University of Manitoba; psychiatry residency at University of Western Ontario; and addiction psychiatry fellowship at Yale University. In addition to his role at Boyle McCauley Health Centre's Pathways to Housing Edmonton program, he is a front line psychiatrist at Alberta Hospital Edmonton and an assistant clinical professor of psychiatry at the University of Alberta.

Diane Holloway:

Boyle McCauley Health Centre

Diane Holloway is a primary care nurse practitioner at The Alex Pathways to Housing in Calgary. She has earned a bachelor of nursing degree from the University of Calgary and her masters of nursing and nurse practitioner qualification from the University of Athabasca. Diane has worked in cardiovascular intensive care; trauma intensive care; emergency; burn unit; oncology; and labor and delivery. Additionally, she was a nursing instructor at the University of Calgary for the department of nursing for 10 years.

Dr. Cameron Barr:

Boyle McCauley Health Centre

Dr. Cameron Barr, MD, CCFP is a family physician working with Boyle McCauley Health Centre's Pathways to Housing Edmonton program. He has also been working with the Boyle McCauley Health Centre since January of 2009. His practice interests include care of the homeless, chronic pain and addictions. He graduated from the University of Alberta family medicine residency program in 2008, following a medical degree from the University of Alberta in 2006.

Telesa Bucknor:

Boyle McCauley Health Centre

Telisa Bucknor, BSN, is a registered nurse with Boyle McCauley Health Centre's Pathways to Housing team in Edmonton. She has a passion for both physical and emotional health & wellness. She believes that people can and should be empowered to be active participants in their own care. Her experiences have found her teaching at the University of Alberta, contributing to holistic well-being in homecare and assisting clients along the path of rehabilitation at Alberta Hospital Edmonton.

Marliss Taylor

Streetworks

Marliss Taylor is the program manager of the Streetworks Program in Edmonton. She received her diploma in nursing in 1982 and degree in nursing in 1992. After working for 11 years in adult and pediatric intensive care units in Regina, Edmonton and San Antonio, she moved to the high Arctic. There she received her certificate in advanced practice nursing and worked as a nurse practitioner in the community Kugluktuk, and nurse manager in the community of Gjoa Haven, NU. In 1995 she returned to Edmonton as the program manager of the Streetworks program and has worked in harm reduction for the past 15 years.

She has been involved in health promotion/harm reduction initiatives in Siberia and Guyana, as well as with a multitude of local, provincial and national research projects. In 2006 she won the YWCA *Woman of Distinction Award* in health and medicine, and the Nursing Honour Society *Community Leadership Award*.

Alison Casey

Discovery House Family Violence Prevention Society

Alison Casey has been with Discovery House Family Violence Prevention Society's Community Housing program since January 2009; initially as a case manager and, at present, as a case management leader. Alison has a M.A in gender and peace building from the University for Peace in Costa Rica and a B.A in applied linguistics from the University of Victoria.

Alison is passionate about the rights of women and girls around the world and has pursued this work both in Canada and abroad including a one-year placement in Ghana, West Africa where she worked with the Ministry of Education on their girls' education project

Mark Horvath

InvisiblePeople.TV

In 2008, Mark Horvath, now known to many as @hardlynormale, set out to film the stories of America's homeless and share them with as many people as possible. Since then, he has become an internationally recognized activist and ambassador for the millions of individuals and families who reside in shelters, motels, tents along the streets and under highway bridges across the country.

Mark has been featured by the L.A. Times, CNN, CBS, Mashable.com and NPR. He's spoken at a number of conferences and events, including Blog World, Tech@State, Gnomedex, 140 Character Conference, Nonprofit Technology Conference and SxSW. The Huffington Post named him one of 11 Twitter activists you should follow. Youtube gave InvisiblePeople.tv unprecedented exposure allowing Horvath to curate YouTube's homepage for a day. Mark was asked to speak at Twitter, Inc and at charity: water. He has consulted for Los Angeles Police Department and USC Annenberg School for Communication & Journalism among many others.

This past September InvisiblePeople.tv launched We Are Visible. WeAreVisible.com's mission is to give people dealing with poverty and homelessness the tools they need to get online and have a voice. The site teaches them how to sign up for email, open a Twitter account, join Facebook, create a blog and, in general, take advantage of the benefits of online social media. It also has the potential to become a model for virtual case management as it helps build a community among homeless people and support service providers.

Dawne Adkins

Community Capital

Dawne, a registered social worker, has worked at Community Capital for over seven years and believes a budget and good money management skills allow you to control your money as opposed to the money controlling you. Community Capital works with low income families and individuals and is committed to breaking the cycle of poverty through financial education and one to one coaching. While giving priority to lower wealth people, they also recognize that it is not how much money you make; it's how much you spend that really counts. As a result, Community Capital's clients include a wide range of people.

Marion Enow

Edmonton Public Libraries

Marian Enow has a graduated BA in sociology (honours) and BA in women's studies from the University of Windsor, Windsor, Ontario. She also graduated with a master of library and information sciences (MLIS) from Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan. Marian is a community librarian at Stanley A. Milner Library, Edmonton Public Library. She works with inner city organizations and individuals.

Jeannette Waegemakers Schiff

University of Calgary

As co-chair of the Growing Home: National Homeless Conference in 2009, Dr. Waegemakers Schiff sought to bring the issues of homelessness to national attention for multiple service and policy sectors. The challenges for housing and appropriate treatment services for those with serious mental illness have been at the forefront of her professional career. Her work has included examining their housing needs and the most appropriate environment for this housing. She has collaborated on examining housing challenges for those with a history of mental illness who are at high risk of incarceration. She is the Calgary PI for a research project on pandemic preparedness in the homeless community and a member of the HART team which has developed a homeless risk assessment tool.