



## An introduction of the individuals who put their name forward for a seat on the Board of Directors for the 2022-23 fiscal year

### Heather Swystun

#### Current Chair

Heather has a passion for wilderness and all that it has to teach. One of her most influential conservation experiences was being a part of a Porcupine Caribou campaign. She facilitated a canoe trip with Gwich'in youth down the Bell/Porcupine River. The large gathering with Old Crow community members at the confluence of the rivers, showed her the power of conservation campaigns and their lasting impact on indigenous youth. Heather brings over 27 years of experience living north of 60. Like many, she has gained a wealth of knowledge from Indigenous friends across the north. An Environmental Scientist, Natural Resources Manager, and Outdoor Educator by training, Heather is committed to supporting the incredible work of CPAWS staff.

### Charlotte Rentmeister

#### Current Vice Chair

Charlotte was born and raised in the back country of the Yukon Territory, has been exploring the rivers and the mountains for as long as she can remember, and is passionate about making sure the Yukon stays wild. She graduated from the University of Ottawa with a Bachelor of Science with Honours in Environmental Sciences in 2018, and is currently working at a local environmental consulting company. Charlotte became a board member in 2020 with a special interest in gaining a better understanding of different environmental approaches from multiple perspectives.

### Sidey Deska-Gauthier

#### Current Secretary

Sidey first moved to Yukon four years ago where, like many before her, she fell in love with its mountains, rivers, and forests. Sidey holds a Master's degree in political science from the University of Guelph and is currently working in community-based research and community economic development with the several Canadian post-secondary institutions and the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyak Dun. Prior to pursuing a career in research, Sidey was a wilderness canoe guide for 8 years, and led youth-development trips across Canada. She passionately believes in the capacity of land-based experiences to empower youth and to inspire agency, self-reflection, and empathy as they transition into adulthood. As a board member of CPAWS Yukon, Sidey is excited to apply her passion for protected spaces into a focus on collaborative conservation.

### Bobbi Rose Koe

#### Current Director

Bobbi Rose Koe is Teetl'it Gwich'in (meaning People of the headwaters), was raised in Fort McPherson (NWT) and now resides in Whitehorse. She found her passion for the Gwich'in way of life on the land; the culture, traditions, values, stories, history and people by just being out on the land with her family and friends – where she feels at home and lives her best life. Once, while attending a meeting about the

Peel Watershed with her grandfathers, Robert Alexie Sr. and Abraham Koe Sr., Bobbi Rose was encouraged by them to speak for Gwich'in people, the people out on the land, the land, animals, fish, water and the future generations. Since then, she's been advocating for environmental issues, especially concerning the Peel River Watershed and Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

In 2015, she paddled the Wind River with CPAWS Yukon and four other youth. Inspired by the journey, Bobbi Rose and her fellow paddlers created Youth of the Peel Society: an organization committed to hosting canoe trips in the Peel Watershed and sharing on-the-land experiences with other youth. Bobbi Rose believes every youth should experience being out on the land, spending time with their elders and learning as much as they can. She is the owner and operator of Dinjii Zhuh Adventures, a company that provides customized on the land programming to youth and communities, and employs Indigenous guides. Bobbi Rose is known for her stories, her laughter, her passion and care for each and every person she meets, esp. making sure her clients are well taken off.

### Erik Val

#### Current Past-Chair

Erik has worked for Inuit and First Nations organizations and the federal and territorial governments in Ontario, Northern Quebec, Nunavut, the Northwest Territories and the Yukon. With degrees in biogeography and resource management, Erik has undertaken community based research in Inuit land use, offshore fisheries/petroleum management and socio-economic impact assessment. He has worked for Parks Canada in various positions including Chief of Socio-Economic Research (Ontario) and Superintendent of Nahanni National Park Reserve. He has also worked for the Yukon Government as the Director of the Yukon Protected Areas Strategy (YPAS) Secretariat and as the Director of Yukon Parks, where he oversaw the operation of Yukon campgrounds and guided the implementation of park management plans for Tombstone and Fishing Branch Territorial Parks until he retired in 2011.

### Jill Pangman

#### Current Director

Jill has over 30 years of experience as a wilderness guide, outdoor educator, biologist, naturalist, and conservationist. Her passion is in exploring wild places and sharing these experiences with others. She recognizes the capacity of wilderness sojourns to rejuvenate and inspire, and to deepen our connection to the natural world as well as to ourselves. She found an outlet through board positions at various Yukon NGOs organizations as well as through her company Sila Sojourns, to speak out on behalf of the natural world. She has done this through active engagement in protected areas campaigns, lending a conservation voice to tourism industry concerns, or through sharing her insights, and laughter, with fellow wilderness travelers.

### Joel Luet

#### Current Director

Joel has lived in the Yukon for over 20 years, became a CPAWS board member in 2006 and has been committed environmentalist for most of his life. He has had the good fortune to travel in some of the wild places of Canada and the Yukon and knows in his head, heart and gut that we need to keep as much of the remaining wild areas as possible as they are for the future of the planet.

### Sandy Johnston

#### Current Director

Having spent the last 40 years living, working and exploring the Yukon, Sandy has a deep passion for the land, water and air and have a good understanding of the challenges of conserving them. He was raised in Peterborough, Ontario and from an early age, ventured out on the land with his grandfather, parents and two sisters in their vintage Peterborough cedar strip canoes. As a teenager, his summers were spent canoeing the backwoods of Ontario and Quebec guiding trips in Algonquin and La Verendrye parks. In 1972, he and his partner Lois moved North and made Yukon their home, eventually raising two boys. Sandy's work as a biologist with Fisheries and Oceans Canada from 1972 until 2010 carried him to all corners of the Yukon, including projects along the north coast of the Yukon, and in the Yukon, Alsek, Tatshenshini, Taku, and Stikine watersheds. He was deeply involved in the twenty-year Canada-US negotiations leading to the Pacific Salmon Treaty and Yukon Salmon Agreement. His work also gave him numerous opportunities to work with First Nations and implement the UFA.

## Ceileigh Burns

### New

Ceileigh (she/her) was raised in Prince Rupert, British Columbia. She grew up in a family of fisherpeople and has been fish obsessed since she was toddler. Ceileigh moved around different parts of the Pacific Northwest, eventually moving to the Northwest Territories for a summer contract... and stayed for 8+ years. She moved to Whitehorse in February of this year and has fallen madly in love, the combination of the northern community and the mountains appears to be the perfect blend. Ceileigh has a Technical Diploma in Recreation, Fish and Wildlife and has been working in the environmental sector since 2012. Both in conservation education and environmental consulting. Ceileigh loves to work with people.

## Safwan Aziz Khan

### New

Safwan Khan is a public policy professional with over a decade of experience in social policy and international development. He has worked with governments, NGOs, and the United Nations in South Asia, UK, Australia, and Middle East. He is currently based in the Yukon, eager to share his time with and learn from the beautiful north of 60 communities.