

**NORTHWEST** EXPANSION

Advisory  
Committee  
Members





**KENORA**

# Committee Members



## **NICOLE BROWN**

CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER- FSET INC.

For Nicole, there is no greater goal than digital equity, and to this end, she strives to find every opportunity for FSET to contribute transformative technology to society. In addition to having over 15 years of experience in the health care industry, Nicole is a Certified Six Sigma Black Belt possessing an expert understanding of the doctrine's define, measure, analyze, improve, and control (DMAIC) model. Born and raised in Ohio, U.S.A., Nicole has since settled in Kenora, Ontario as a dual citizen, where she resides with her husband and two boys. In her spare time, she enjoys historical novels, cooking, and supporting the greater community through numerous board memberships.

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## **GARTH COLLIER**

PRESIDENT- LAKE OF THE WOODS  
DISTRICT STEWARDSHIP ASSOCIATION

Garth is the president of the Lake of the Woods District Stewardship Association. The Lake of the Woods District Stewardship Association engages and educates for environmental sustainability in the Lake of the Woods region through various programs, initiatives, and events.

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## **ASHLEY HOFFMEISTER**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR- LAKE OF THE WOODS  
DISTRICT STEWARDSHIP ASSOCIATION

Ashley is the Executive Director for the Lake of the Woods District Stewardship Association. Previous to this role, she worked as the Manager of Quality, Risk and Clinical Information at Lake of the Woods District Hospital. She has over 15 years' experience in the non-profit sector in project management, human resources, and quality and process improvement.

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## **TRACEY COUNCILLOR**

ANOKAADAMANG GAKENDAASOWIN PROJECTS  
COORDINATOR- GRAND COUNCIL TREATY #3

Based in the Fort Frances area office, Tracey works within the Education Unit for Grand Council Treaty #3. She has a very diverse background including working as a Youth Coordinator, as a Forest Ecosystem Management Technician, managing data systems, and project management. She is a proud mother to two wonderful children who add brightness to her character.

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## **HELENA DEVINS**

SPECIAL EVENTS/MATIOWSKI FARMERS  
MARKET COORDINATOR- CITY OF KENORA

Helena is the Matiowski Farmers' Market/Special Events Coordinator for the City of Kenora, and a former Recreation Activities Coordinator for the City of Ottawa. Her community involvement includes assisting events within the City of Kenora throughout the year, serving as a board member of the Lake of the Woods Art Community and she is a member of the Science North's Board of Trustees.

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## **DR. EMILY DRAKE**

Dr. Drake has many specialties within Kenora's medical community. These include family medicine, as a hospitalist, emergency, operating room assisting, First Nations community visits and care as well as teaching NOSM University students as a preceptor.

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## **TANIS FISHER**

LITERACY LEAD- BIMOSE TRIBAL COUNCIL

Tanis has almost 40 years in the educational field including as a primary classroom teacher, reading recovery teacher, literacy coach and special assignment oral language teacher. In her current role she travels to five Anishinaabe Student Achievement communities to work with teachers and principals. She enjoys both summer and winter activities in the Kenora area including hiking, fishing, gardening, kayaking and snow machining. She also enjoys travelling and spending time with her grandchild and husband.

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## **TERESA GALLIK**

CHAIR- KENORA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Teresa is currently a trustee with the Kenora Catholic District School Board and has just completed her fifth year as Chair. She is also the Finance Assistant with the Kenora Association for Community Living. She spent many years as the Manager of the Kenora Travelodge and Clarion Lakeside Inn and Conference Centre And was involved with the Kenora Hospitality Alliance and served as their Chair.

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## **HEATHER GROPP**

CHAIR OF NW EXPANSION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Heather is the Community Development Officer with the Township of Sioux Narrows-Nestor Falls. Previous roles include Tourism Development Officer with the City of Kenora, and Director of Exhibits and Educational programming at the Manitoba Children's Museum, and is also a member of Science North's Board of Trustees.

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## **LUCAS KING**

TERRITORIAL PLANNING UNIT DIRECTOR-  
GRAND COUNCIL TREATY 3

Lucas is the Territorial Planning Unit Director with Grand Council Treaty 3, previously working with the organization as a Water Resource Specialist. He is also a Director with the Lake of the Woods District Stewardship Association.

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## **RON MALASHEWSKI**

PRESIDENT- CLIFF LAKE CAPITAL  
CONSULTANT- NORTHERN ONTARIO ANGELS

Ron has a rich background in sciences, engineering, business and entrepreneurship. He has run his current company Cliff Lake Capital since 1998. He is a Consultant for Northern Ontario Angels and volunteers with the Kenora and District Chamber of Commerce, previously serving as their President.

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## **CINDY MELENCHENKO**

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING LEAD- KENORA  
CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Cindy is the Experiential Learning Lead with the Kenora Catholic District School Board. Cindy's passion for teaching goes beyond the classroom, giving students unforgettable educational experiences. She is deeply involved in the Kenora community through public educational programs as well as volunteer work.

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## **JOSH NELSON**

TOURISM AND RECREATION MANAGER -  
CITY OF KENORA

Josh is the Tourism and Recreation Manager for the City of Kenora. His responsibilities include overseeing the Discovery Centre, White Cap Pavillion, Matiowski Farmer's market, all other tourism projects, and the city's recreation facilities and programming.

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## **CHRIS THORNE**

VP CORPORATE DEVELOPMENT -  
TITAN CONTRACTORS

Chris is a Partner and Vice President with Para Partners, as well as Vice President of Corporate Development with Titan Contractors in Kenora. His previous experience includes 3 years in Corporate Finance/Banking with Roynat Capital; and 5 years prior to that in Public Accounting with KPMG LLP in both the Assurance and Tax practices. Chris is also the Treasurer of the Board for Toba Centre for Children and Youth; Director of the Board for Copperfin Credit Union; and Member of the Finance Committee for Kenora Lake of the Woods Regional Community Foundation.

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## **DAVE STEPANIK**

NUMERACY LEAD-  
BIMOSE TRIBAL COUNCIL

Boozhoo Everyone. I am a lifelong resident of the Kenora area who enjoys everything the local environment has to offer. Both summer and winter activities are enjoyed with my favorite being cruising and fishing Eagle Lake where we have a family cabin. I have been with Bimose Tribal Council as a Numeracy Lead for 8 Plus years. Previous to that I have 20 years of experience as an Educator with the local school board and 15 years as a Technician with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. My diverse background allows me to bring a varied perspective to our group sessions and I am extremely excited to see the Science North Expansion at the Discovery Centre coming to fruition and the opportunities it will provide out local area.

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**THUNDER BAY**

Committee  
Members



## **SCOTT BRADLEY**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR-  
THUNDER BAY MUSEUM

Scott is the Executive Director of the Thunder Bay Historical Museum Society. He has over 20 years' experience in the museum field having previously worked for the National Museum of the United States Air Force . Scott is also involved at the committee level with the Ontario Historical Society, the Ontario Museum Association, and Tourism Thunder Bay. He is also a contract lecturer at Lakehead University, long time medieval reenactor, and has a love for the outdoors.

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## **ANDREW CALDERON**

CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER-  
WAYFAST

Andrew is the Chief Operating Officer with Wayfast. He Andrew has also volunteered for many years in an Advisory role with Science North, Confederation College's International Business Management Program, and the Northwest Innovation Centre.

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## **THERA CHICOINE**

MEMBER RELATIONS- THUNDER BAY  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Thera is responsible for Member Relations for the Thunder Bay Chamber of Commerce, connecting members with Chamber experiences, networks and services to help them reach their goals. She has a rich background in the marketing and advertising industry.

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## **ELLIOTT CROMARTY**

INDIGENOUS HERITAGE PROGRAM  
COORDINATOR - FORT WILLIAM  
HISTORICAL PARK

Elliott is the Indigenous Heritage Program Coordinator at Fort William Historical Park. He began his journey learning about Anishinaabe culture and history as a student working at the Fort and has had the good fortune of developing skills in birch craft, drum and rattle making, snowshoe weaving, among others, over the years. Elliott works with school boards, community groups, and agencies to develop and host Indigenous education programs, special events, and workshops. He teaches the interpretive staff about Anishinaabe life during the fur trade and how to interact with visitors, encouraging them to share the culture to people from many walks of life.

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## **MICHAEL DEJONG**

CURATOR/ ARCHIVIST -  
THUNDER BAY MUSEUM

Michael deJong is the Curator & Archivist of the Thunder Bay Historical Museum Society, having served in that role since 2017. In this role he oversees the Museum's collection and exhibits program, as well as the Society's archival records. Prior to this role he worked in a variety of local and regional museums in southern Ontario.

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## **TESA FIDDLER**

COORDINATOR OF INDIGENOUS  
EDUCATION- THUNDER BAY CATHOLIC  
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOAR

Tesa Fiddler is Anishinaabe from Kitchinuhmaykoosib Inninuwug, with strong family connections to Muskrat Dam and Onigaming First Nation in Northwestern Ontario. She lives in Thunder Bay with her husband and two children. Tesa is currently the Coordinator of Indigenous Education for the Thunder Bay Catholic District School Board. She has been involved in education for nearly 30 years. Tesa has taught all grades and multiple subject areas in both First Nations and public schools.

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## **LUCY KWIATON**

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## **SARAH LORENOWICH**

MARKETING INTERN- FRIENDS OF THE  
GRAIN ELEVATORS

Sarah Lorenowich is a lifelong resident of Thunder Bay who currently acts as a tourism project assistant for the non-profit historical group Friends of Grain Elevators. In her three years with the group, she has worked on the OHS award-winning Voices of the Grain Trade oral history project, the annual Grain Days family event, the development of a grain-themed musical, and various other community-focused projects that celebrate the illustrious past and present of Thunder Bay's grain industry.

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## **TROY MANGATAL**

ASSOCIATE DEAN, ENGINEERING  
TECHNOLOGY- CONFEDERATION COLLEGE

Troy is an experienced manager, educator, project manager, and computer programmer. He has a demonstrated history of working in higher education, healthcare, municipal, insurance and armed forces industries and is skilled in leadership, teaching, business information systems requirements analysis, software development and project management (PMP).

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## **TINA MARONESE**

DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITIES- THUNDER BAY  
PUBLIC LIBRARY

Tina wears many hats as a member of the Library Management Team. Strategic planning, health and safety, marketing, public relations, special events and fundraising are just a few of her responsibilities within the organization. Tina is incredibly passionate about libraries, and their incredible social value.



## **WAYNE MELVILLE**

DEAN, FACULTY OF EDUCATION -  
LAKEHEAD UNIVERSITY

Dr. Wayne Melville is the Dean of the Faculty of Education at Lakehead University, and a Professor of Science Education. Before migrating to Canada in 2005, he taught science and mathematics in Australian secondary schools for 17 years. He has published 65 refereed journal articles and four books and is a Co-Editor in Chief of the Journal of Science Teacher Education. Outside work, he enjoys hiking, gardening and slowly renovating his century-old home.

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## **TODD MILLER**

TEACHER - LAKEHEAD DISTRICT  
SCHOOL BOARD

Todd Miller is a teacher and former principal with the Lakehead District School Board. Culinary Arts are one of his focuses with students, bringing much experience and knowledge to a teaching kitchen environment.

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## **PAUL PEPE**

DIRECTOR OF TOURISM THUNDER BAY-  
THUNDER BAY CEDC

A lifelong resident of Northwest Ontario, Paul has a passion for the natural environment he's fortunate to call his big back yard and loves sharing the experiences of the Northwest with friends and visitors alike. Prior to his current role, Paul held a number of positions with both the Ministry of Northern Development and the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport at Fort William Historical Park. Paul has also undertaken entrepreneurial endeavors in the accommodation, trucking, contracting and economic development consulting fields over his 30 plus year career in the tourism sector. Paul is the Vice Chair of Attractions Ontario, a member of the TIAO Policy Advisory Committee and Science North's Northwest Expansion Committee, Past Chair of Cruise Ontario and Conference Chair for the 2022 Northern Ontario Tourism Summit.

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## **KARA PRATT**

COORDINATOR-  
WATERFRONT DISTRICT BIA

Kara is the coordinator for the Waterfront District BIA. She works for a Board of Directors, representing 130+ businesses in the Waterfront District of Thunder Bay. This includes our newest Science North- Northwest Expansion Project Office and our preferred site for the Thunder Bay Science Centre- Pool 6.

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## **MICHELE SOLOMON**

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT MANAGER-  
ONTARIO NATIVE WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION  
(ONWA)

Michele has been in her role as Community Development Manager of ONWA since 2018. First elected in 2015, she is now serving her third term as a Councillor for Fort William First Nation. She has an extensive background in mental health and addictions, working in management roles within Dilico Anishinabek Family Care and Health Centre, and with White Cedar Health Care Centre.

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## **SHANNON ZUREVINSKI**

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, CENTRE OF  
EXCELLENCE FOR SUSTAINABLE  
MINING & EXPLORATION GEOLOGY-  
LAKEHEAD UNIVERSITY

Shannon Zurevinski is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Geology, Faculty of Science and Environmental Studies at Lakehead University. She is a Director of the Northwestern Ontario Prospectors Association (NWOPA) and a member of the Mineralogical Association of Canada (MAC), as well as the Institute on Lake Superior Geology (ILSG). She has a passion for the Earth Sciences and enjoys being involved in science outreach in her community. Her hobbies include camping throughout Northwestern Ontario with her family and two dogs.

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## NORTHWEST EXPANSION



To learn more visit

**[NORTHWEST.SCIENCENORTH.CA](http://NORTHWEST.SCIENCENORTH.CA)**

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