

2025 VA Slate of Nominees Bios

Annand Ollivierre holds a BSc in Human Ecology from the U of A and is a father, a husband, an engaged citizen, an optimist, and is the Edmonton Team Lead and Service Designer with J5 Design Studio . His experiences have shaped his capacity to be a bridge-builder and through his work, he uses a holistic perspective that encourages collaboration and empowers organizations to apply new frameworks, methods, and tools for greater impact. He cares about bringing together many perspectives and doing the messy work of digging in and discovering what is holding complex challenges in place. He believes that through this work what is discovered newly is our collective human capacity and know-how to build solutions that shift and transform systems for the better.

Brian Boucher, a proud Indigenous man from Fort McKay First Nations, recently moved to Edmonton in hopes of providing his family to a life of both personal and professional prosperity. During his time in Fort McMurray, he developed many talents and connections that could provide an asset to many organizations. His personal beliefs originate from his culture's strong sense of community and the importance of family, which further embedded into his person from his mother, who holds a distinguished position in the wellbeing of Indigenous people within Treaty 8. From labor to equipment operation, to providing financial audit at a big 4 firm, Brian developed his outlook through experience. His family, although from Fort McKay, was raised in the rural town of St. Paul, and worked, participated, and promoted programs such of those operated by the Mannawanis Friendship Centre and local food bank. He strongly believes that a sense of belonging of community starts from those that promote the idea of community through organization of programs directed to community members. Whether these programs deal with sustenance of mind, body, or soul; they should be promoted and fostered through positive diversity that is the basis of our great nation.

Rooted in rural Alberta and driven by a passion for community, **Doray Veno** brings over 30 years of experience across government, private, and nonprofit sectors. As Executive Director of Lynks – Harvest Sky Services and Supports Society (formerly Hanna Learning Centre) since 2011, she's lead a dynamic team delivering programs in learning, employment, community development, and the voluntary sector. A lifelong learner and advocate for rural resilience, Doray holds a BA in Recreation Administration – Community Development from the University of Alberta. Her career has included roles as a business owner, rancher, paramedic, municipal councillor, and regional convener, all grounded in a deep belief in building capacity and connection across communities.

Scott Pileckas has spent over 30 years in global nonprofit work, specializing in crisis counseling and humanitarian aid. Starting his volunteer journey at age 10 in Southern

California, he has since worked across North America and Europe, helping communities through disasters and personal crises. Now based in Alberta, Scott supports police officers and emergency service workers while leading initiatives to strengthen the volunteer sector, including a hotline for Indigenous Canadians affected by residential school abuses. His academic achievements are equally impressive, beginning university at age 10 and later earning advanced degrees in the sciences, leading to his membership in the Royal Society of Chemistry. Growing up in Death Valley, California, shaped his deep appreciation for life's essentials and fueled his commitment to nonprofits addressing food security and disaster relief. His work in Alberta includes supporting organizations like Food Banks Alberta, the Canadian Red Cross, and the Jasper Community Team Society, alongside launching community fridges in the UK to provide meals for families in need. Personally, Scott enjoys hiking at Grassi Lakes with his wife and remains dedicated to fostering strong and compassionate communities.