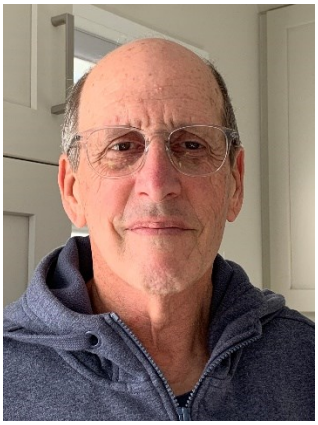
Staff

Cliff Yumansky, Executive Director



Cliff Yumansky has held the position of Executive Director of CoSA Canada since 2021 and comes to this role with a strong leadership background in corrections and criminal justice policy.

From 2007 to 2014 Cliff was Director of Corrections Programs and Community Development for the Department of Public Safety Canada and worked as a senior advisor in corrections policy for the unit since the mid-nineties focusing on high-risk/sex offenders, the national sex offender registry, national flagging system, national office for victims (NVO) and the NVO sustaining grant program.

Prior to working in the federal government, Cliff was Director of Community Programs (serving troubled/at risk youth) for the Youth Services Bureau (YSB) in Ottawa for nearly 10 years. Cliff also worked as a Probation Officer (Adult) for three years for Quebec Ministry of Justice in Gatineau/Hull.

Cliff is based in Port Perry, Ontario, and has spent his retirement working on casual contracts within Public Safety Canada, Correctional Service of Canada, the RCMP. Cliff served as the VP of the CoSA Ottawa Board of Directors from 2016 to 2020 and acting President of the CoSA Ottawa Board before completing his term with the Board.

Board of Directors

Eileen Henderson, Board Chair

Eileen Henderson is a past Restorative Justice Coordinator, Mennonite Central Committee Ontario (MCCO) and Coordinator of Circles of Support and Accountability (COSA) under MCCO. For the past 15 years, she has been privileged to participate in some incredible work that is being done by prison chaplains in Rwanda, Burundi and Democratic Republic of Congo through the work of Just Equipping.

In addition to CoSA Canada, she is actively involved with Dismas Fellowship and Restorative Justice Housing Ontario.

Randy Klassen, Treasurer

Randy Klassen has worked as a pastor (9 years) and a college instructor (biblical and theological studies, 13 years), before taking an opportunity to explore the work of restorative justice. In 2015, he began serving with Mennonite Central Committee (MCC), which also began his association with CoSA as a circle volunteer.

His current role with MCC is within the Indigenous Neighbours program. He is the proud father of four children and seven grandchildren (and counting), and is grateful to live in Saskatoon, close to the heart of Treaty 6 Territory, and in the Homeland of the Métis.

Ben Levin, Secretary

Ben has many years of experience in academia, politics and government. Since his retirement he has done a lot of volunteer work in criminal justice for CoSA and several other organizations in an effort to help shift our system to being based less on emotion and more on real evidence about what enhances public safety and crime prevention.

Laurent Champagne, Director

Trained in Montreal and Rome, Laurent taught theology in Colombia and Panama and is committed to the faithful of the slums and the marginalized. To escape violence in Colombia, Laurent and his wife returned to Canada, and in 2001 Laurent became involved with the Conseil des Églises pour la Justice et la Criminologiedu Québec (CEJCQ) and the Church Council on Justice and Corrections (CCJC), believing in their mission of promoting restorative justice, the rights of prisoners and the reintegration of ex-prisoners.

In 2005, Laurent was appointed Catholic chaplain at the Leclerc Institute and coordinator of the Community Chaplaincy of Montreal (ACM). From 2008 to 2014, he served as a full-time CMA coordinator and community chaplain in transition houses.

Maureen Donegan, Director

Maureen was born and raised in Vancouver. Her professional background in accounting, years in church and community services (including work with pregnant teens, hospital chaplaincy, and direct work with youth on the streets through Covenant House) has given her a broad background for her role as coordinator of BC CoSA (Circle of Support and Accountability). Maureen has held this role since 2003 and currently BC CoSA operates 42 circles with 108 volunteers.

Florence Driedger, Director

Florence was born in Manitoba, completed a MSW in McGill University, Montreal, following a BA in Bethel College, North Newton, Kansas. Following marriage to Otto Driedger, she worked and lived in Saskatchewan.

Florence is currently retired from the Family Service Regina and teaching at University of Regina. She continues to volunteer in Pastoral ministry, Refugee resettlement, justice services and other community-based services in Saskatchewan, internationally and, in particular, in Ukraine where she and Otto have taught and consulted in community-based services for 30+ years.

She and Otto jointly began the CoSA services in Regina in the early 1990s and have served on many boards, and organizations for over 70years.

Angela Gates, Director

Angela has been employed in a variety of roles within the criminal justice system for more than 30 years. She has worked in provincial and federal government as well as in the not-for-profit sector. Angela has been an active member of the restorative justice community in the Atlantic Region since 1998.

Since 2005, Angela has been employed as a Mediator in Cases of Serious Crime within the Restorative Opportunities Program for the Correctional Service of Canada. Angela has sat on several boards, networks and committees over the years including being a founding member of the Canadian Restorative Justice Consortium, CoSA Canada, and the Violence Prevention Network of Southeastern NB.

Susan Love, Director

Susan Love was the Director of Circles of Support and Accountability in Ottawa for 22 years, taking over the reins from her mother, Pat Love, who established it as a ministry of a downtown church in 1998. When Pat secured modest funding from the federal government in 2002, Susan was hired to further develop the program. Susan also served on the CoSA Canada Board of Directors as a Site Representative. Susan is the proud mother of three adult sons and two wonderful grandchildren!