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INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY ISSUES ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Maria Arentsen (Winnipeg) is a professor and researcher at Université de Saint-Boniface specializing in disability studies and has years of active involvement in the field provincially, nationally and abroad. She is a published author of several scientific journals on disability and participates in national conferences. Arentsen sits on the board of directors of St. Amant, and is the recipient of a grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council to work on representations on disability, and serves on the Advisory Committee on Accessibility and Ableism.

Jacqueline Leach (Winnipeg) is an adult living with Apert syndrome. She has experience with various government programs including Community Living disAbility Services and Employment and Income Assistance. Throughout her life, she has had to advocate for services that she needs to live comfortably. In June 2022, she was a panelist at Beyond Limits: Canada's Conference for Diversity & Accessibility.

Scott Smith (Winnipeg) is the director of quality assurance and program development with Pulford Community Living Services Inc. and has 25 years of experience in disability services. He is the past president of Abilities Manitoba, a former board member of Inclusion Winnipeg, and served as a member of the Vulnerable Persons Living with a Mental Disability Task Force. He is also the father of a child with an intellectual disability, and the current vice-president and founder of the Family Advocacy Network of Manitoba.

Suzanne Swanton (Winnipeg) is the executive director of Continuity Care, a role she has held for 16 years. She has 35 years of experience in the disability services sector and has a bachelor's degree in social work. Over her career, she has represented Continuity Care on various committees including Abilities Manitoba, the Children's Coalition, the Community Living disAbility Services Community Engagement Committee and has recently participated in advocacy efforts related to the new Disability Income Support Program, the call for triage protocols and the recognition of essential care partners.

Joni Wilson (Winnipeg) is a member of Peguis First Nation and the mother of a young adult with an intellectual disability. She works at Southern Chiefs' Organization as the Jordan's Principle and wellness services lead and has also worked with the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs, Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak, and Keewatinohk Inniniw Minoayawin. She is a volunteer with the Family Advocacy Network of Manitoba, a board member of St. Amant, a volunteer member of the Community Transition Advisory Committee for the Manitoba Developmental Centre, and the Manitoba representative for the national Jordan's Principle Advisory Committee at the Assembly of First Nations.

Valerie Wolbert (Winnipeg) is the president of People First Manitoba and an adult living with an intellectual disability. She has over 20 years experience working and volunteering in Manitoba's disability community and has served on a number of boards including the Manitoba League of Persons with Disabilities, the Disabled Women's Network, the Association for Community Living (Manitoba) and the Canadian Association for Community Living. She currently serves on the Canadian Museum for Human Rights Inclusive Design Advisory Council and RRC Polytech's disability and community support program's advisory council.

Heidi Wurmman is the assistant deputy minister for corporate services with the Department of Families. She joined the department in 2008 as a policy analyst. In her current role she is responsible for overseeing corporate services for the department, including management of the department's legislative agenda and co-ordinating all strategic, corporate and intergovernmental policy work on behalf of the deputy minister and executive management committee.

Evelyn Yelinek (Swan River) is a former resource co-ordinator with the Department of Families, having worked as a special needs education assistant, employment support program manager, employment insurance counsellor and child and family case manager. Yelinek has volunteered for the Association for Community Living, Canadian Mental Health Association, and she serves as a board member on the Innovative Life Options board. She co-founded and managed a supported employment program that is still functioning today. Yelinek is passionate about advocating for adults living with an intellectual disability and knows first hand both the barriers and opportunities that exist.