

**BIOGRAPHIES OF MINSTER'S ADVISORY GROUP:  
BUILDING AN ACTION PLAN FOR OLDER MANITOBANS****Connie Newman, Chair**

Connie Newman is the executive director and lead consultant for the Manitoba Association of Senior Centres Age-Friendly Manitoba Initiative (MASC-AFI). MASC is a member association currently with 68 member Centres throughout Manitoba. MASC-AFI connects with 92 communities in Manitoba on the Age Friendly pathway.

She is 73 years young and holds a master's degree in education from the University of Manitoba. Newman retired from education in 2004. She was a junior high teacher and principal for 34 years in the St. James Assiniboia School Division. Newman has many connections in Manitoba, Canada and beyond. Her favorite pastime is spending time with her dog Tobe, a companion and friend.

Newman believes in active aging and all that it means. Keeping the mind and body active helps to assist those around her who may need information and support as we all age together. She believes giving back and giving to others is important and we can all give in some form as it makes our Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada a much better place.

**Kevin Scott**

Kevin Scott is a health-care executive with over 30 years of experience working with seniors and younger age groups supporting community-based services, rehabilitation, chronic care and long-term care, along with services for Canadian Forces, veterans and RCMP.

As chief operating officer of Deer Lodge Centre, Middlechurch Home and River Park Gardens, he has worked to improve access to and modification of services in response to the changing needs of Manitobans. Establishing an inclusive, welcoming environment for all guides his decision-making where it is a partnership with those served to determine the best approach.

He has established and supported patient and family advisory councils that have helped change health-care programs and services to better meet client needs, as well as capital developments to improve accessibility. He believes strongly in seniors having a voice in the policies and services that affect their lives.

**Charles Gagné, MPA, MBA, ICD.D**

Charles Gagné has over 35 years of management and consulting experience in the health-care sector. He served as the chief executive officer of Actionmarguerite, a leading long-term care, not-for-profit agency with over 1,000 staff providing health services and programs for seniors living in three long-term care homes, 48 community-based supportive housing units and eight-day programs for frail adults.

Gagné has actively participated in advising health and seniors organizations in areas of policy, governance and operations. He served as a member of the national Advanced Gerontological Education (AGE) Advisory Committee and he was instrumental in implementing the Gentle Persuasive Approaches (GPA) at Actionmarguerite. He also was an active member of the national Senior Quality Leap Initiative (SQLI), a North American consortium of long-term care organizations committed to enhancing the quality of life and quality of care for seniors.

He is past chair of the board of directors of Santé en français du Manitoba and a former board member of the Manitoba Continuing and Long-Term Care Association (LTCAM) and of the Manitoba Association for Residential and Community Housing for the Elderly (MARCHE).

### **Rob Lavin**

Rob Lavin is the executive director of Brandon Seniors for Seniors Co-op. With over 20 years of community economic development involvement, Lavin has built extensive relationship opportunities with the private sector and all levels of government including Indigenous communities and organizations.

Lavin has significant experience and training in leadership, project management and economic development. With Prince 2 project management certification, Lavin has also played key management roles in the implementation of numerous large-scale initiatives throughout Manitoba including high-speed Internet service into 250-plus communities and the action plan implemented for Treasury Board approval on the provincewide Manitoba Public Safety Communications Service (PSCS), replacing the FleetNet system.

### **Randi Gage**

Randi Gage is a retired palliative care and compassionate care specialist with several decades of hands-on care and training program presentation experience. A strong believer in quality health-care and patient-focused end-of-life care, Gage specialized in palliative care through the research, design and presentation of training programs for doctors, nurses and professional caregivers as well as supporting families through compassionate care training programs.

Gage brings to this advisory group an extensive background in cultural and heritage research and writing for various communities within Canada with firsthand experience living and working in cultural diversity of North America, Central America, South America and other locations around the world. Her background as a military veteran with training in biomedical technology and emergency medical care with hazardous materials handling certifications provides her with a wide variety of knowledge.

Gage is the founder of the Day of Recognition and Remembrance for Aboriginal veterans in Canada (Aboriginal Veterans' Day), charter vice-president of the National Aboriginal Veterans Association of Canada, charter secretary-treasurer of the Manitoba Aboriginal Veterans

Association, recipient of the 2016 Minister of Veterans Affairs commendation for exemplary contributions to the care and well-being of veterans, and to the remembrance of the contributions, sacrifices and achievements of veterans.

Gage is the recipient of the 2013 Women of Distinction Award for Volunteerism, Advocacy and Community Enhancement.

### **Doreen Stapleton**

Doreen Stapleton's career has spanned decades and included a variety of roles in public service at the municipal level, in the senior sector at the executive level, as a manager in environmental sciences and as an advocate for people with disabilities. In the seniors sector, Stapleton served on the Coalition for Healthy Aging in Manitoba's Age Friendly Environments Working Group, on the board of directors of the Manitoba Association of Senior Centres and as chair of the Municipality of Harrison Park Age Friendly Initiative.

As municipal councillor for the Rural Municipality of Harrison from 2006 to 2014 and the Municipality of Harrison Park from 2014 to 2018, her roles included deputy reeve and member of the finance committee, and she was responsible for union negotiations and the personnel committee. She was the Sandy Lake Endowment Fund board chair, Rossburn Subdivision Trail Association board vice-chair and chair, and a member of the Sandy Lake Handi-Van committee.

On a personal note, Stapleton is a longtime member of the Order of Eastern Star and a career musician, teacher, composer and adjudicator, entertaining for all occasions and age groups and performing monthly at several personal care homes over the last few decades.

Stapleton and her husband enjoy their home on the north shore of Sandy Lake, close to Riding Mountain National Park.

### **Russel E. Albak, MD, CCFP, FCFP, COE**

Dr. Russel Albak has been a practicing family physician since 1986 in Manitoba and is the medical director of Deer Lodge Centre in Winnipeg.

He has served in many appointments throughout his career including as an occupational health physician with the City of Winnipeg, as examiner with Canadian Civil Aviation Medicine and currently as a lecturer in the department of family medicine at the University of Manitoba. Dr. Albak received his Care of the Elderly professional designation in 2017.

Dr. Albak is the recipient of numerous awards and scholarships, including the Isbister Scholarship for highest standing at the University of Manitoba faculty of science and Dean's Honour Roll.

He is active in personal fitness and enjoys golf, reading and spending time with his family.

### **Mari-Jean Nachtigall**

Mari-Jean Nachtigall is a parent, grandparent and proud Manitoban who was born and raised north of the 54th parallel and continues to have roots in Flin Flon.

After high school graduation, she pursued post-secondary education in Brandon and Winnipeg where she has lived most of her adult life. Nachtigall worked 40-plus years as an administrative professional supporting elected trustees and as the head superintendent of an urban school division in Winnipeg.

She is excited to assist in developing strategies to improve daily living for senior Manitobans and looks forward to contributing her perspective on providing supports for senior caregivers and care recipients, access to publicly funded home-care services, safety for seniors living in public and private accommodation, and accessible public transit and transportation, sidewalks, buildings and public facilities.

Nachtigall is also particularly interested in ensuring accommodations and services for seniors experiencing physical and or mental health challenges, and access to affordable drugs and enhancements to Pharmacare support, particularly concerning drugs essential to maintaining life.

### **Sherry Janzen**

Sherry Janzen's career has spanned over 30 years, focused primarily on caring for the elderly including as a health-care attendant in Saskatchewan, managing a free-standing adult day centre in Kansas and leading Salem Home in Winkler. She graduated with a bachelor of arts degree in gerontology from Wichita State University in Wichita, Kan.

During her tenure at Salem Home and together with the staff, the relationship-centred model of care was developed and implemented. A measurement tool, QUIS-EH-O is used to ensure the residents' lived experience is one where residents find opportunities to flourish. In 2012, the model of care using the measurement instrument received a leading practice designation from Accreditation Canada. Over the years, Salem Home has also developed an expertise in caring for personal care home residents with significant responsive behaviors.

### **Judith G. Bartlett C.M., MD, CCFP, MSc**

Dr. Judith Bartlett is a semi-retired Métis physician and health researcher with decades of experience working with Indigenous Peoples. Her life passion and philosophical base has been creation and use of the holistic Aboriginal Life Promotion Framework. In her career, after returning from northern clinical practice in 1991, Dr. Bartlett spent six years as director of federal Manitoba Region First Nations health programs. She then returned to studies to

complete a master's of science in community health. During this period, she refocused her efforts toward her own Métis community. Completing her master's of science in 2004, she held academic appointments in the University of Manitoba's faculty of medicine as an associate professor and adjunct scientist from 2009 until retiring. Along with research, Dr. Bartlett always did part-time clinical practice, initially as an addictions physician at Health Sciences Centre and later as a family doctor at the Aboriginal Health and Wellness Centre, which she was involved in developing and implementing.

In 2005, to facilitate community-based research, she moved her research program to the Manitoba Métis Federation where she created their health and wellness department that had a policy research focus. She initiated the 2010 provincewide Métis health status report in collaboration with the Manitoba Centre for Health Policy at the University of Manitoba.

Between 2010 and 2015, her department facilitated the Métis and regional health authorities' use of report outcomes in health planning. Additionally, her department produced multiple Métis age and sex-specific research reports on all chronic diseases and cancer, as well as community-based qualitative studies. One such study examined Métis senior and elder needs for aging well in place in rural and remote Métis communities.

### **Felix Walker**

Felix Walker is the executive director of NCN Family and Community Wellness Centre. As part of their services, the centre oversees elder care in the community both at home and at the personal care home. The centre actively supports residents in Nelson House, South Indian Lake, Leaf Rapids and Thompson with offices in Winnipeg and Brandon.