

Gareth Brandt is a freelance artist, itinerant speaker, and independent scholar from Sto:lo Territory in British Columbia. He was a college professor for 22 years and before that a congregational and denominational youth pastor for 14 years. Along with his wife Cynthia, they have lived in 5 Canadian provinces, including Saskatchewan where he completed a post-graduate degree at the Saskatoon Theological Union. Together they have four adult children, three daughters-in-law, and one grandchild.



Heather Peters (she/her) serves as the Peacebuilding Coordinator for Mennonite Central Committee Saskatchewan. Within this role she facilitates classes and workshops in peacebuilding, restorative justice, conflict transformation, abuse response & prevention, and trauma-informed practices. She has been a community educator for 20 years working in schools, churches, prisons, and offices. Heather has provided training in South Korea, Tanzania, South Sudan, Lebanon, UAE, Afghanistan, the United States and throughout Canada. She is a sessional instructor at St. Thomas More College in Peace Studies.

Heather's education has come from degrees in Human Security and Peacebuilding, International Development, and Theology, as well as many life lessons from living around the world and seeking good, interesting relationships from the people that come into her life.



Erika Thogersen is the Constituency Relations and Education Coordinator for Mennonite Central Committee Saskatchewan. In her role, she builds relationships with churches and community groups as well as coordinates educational experiences around peace and justice themes. Erika holds a BA in International Studies from the University of Saskatchewan and an MSc in International Public Administration and Politics from Roskilde University in Denmark.



Amanda Dodge is the Program Director for Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) Saskatchewan, overseeing its local programming. She does community-based work in advocacy, reconciliation and decolonization. Prior to joining MCC in 2017, Amanda practiced poverty law. She has a B.A. in Psychology, a Bachelor of Laws, and a Master of Laws.



Lindi Mpofu is the Communications and Marketing Coordinator for MCC. Originally from southern Africa, she spent several years working with HIV/AIDS organizations in the region before moving to Canada in 2019.

In her current role, Lindi helps connect people in Saskatchewan to MCC's global peace and development work through storytelling, learning tours, and community engagement initiatives. Grounded in her African heritage and faith, she believes that peace grows when we make space for one another's stories and act together for justice.



Dana Krushel is grateful to be an MCC alumna. She initiated the Meadowgreen program in 2004. She reflects on her time at MCC as being formative both personally and professionally. Currently, Dana works as a social worker at the Saskatoon Cancer Center, where she walks alongside women and their families experiencing cancer. Dana is a mom to two boys, a partner to Justin, and last year decided to become a student again. Dana enjoys a warm cup of coffee in the morning, hiking, jumping off docks and being in the trees.



Kaytee Edwards was involved with the Meadowgreen Youth Program from 2010 until 2020, running the program for about 5 of those years. She now works as a Constituency Assistant to the MLA for Saskatoon Eastview Matt Love. She lives just outside the town of Osler with her partner Chris Buhler and is currently spending most of time with her 3 year old Alexander and her 7 month old Felix and her dog Nova.



April Donauer has been the Community Development Coordinator with MCC since 2021 (currently on maternity leave). She has worked with youth for the last 10 years, originally as a teacher. April has been married to Michael for 8 years and they have 3 beautiful and busy kids together.



Kadane Headley is a certified Child and Youth Care practitioner dedicated to supporting the mental health and overall well-being of children and adolescents. With experience across local, provincial, and national youth-serving programs including group homes and in-patient psychiatric care. Kadane brings a compassionate and adaptable approach to her work.

A proud mom, aunt, and mentor, Kadane is passionate about building community and amplifying voices. She values collaboration and connection, striving to enhance the well-being of the children, youth, families, and caregivers she serves.

She holds a Child and Youth Care Counselling Diploma from Mount Royal University, a Bachelor of Child and Youth Care from MacEwan University, and a Master's in Child Life and Pediatric Psychosocial Care from McMaster University.



Shelly Fedrau has a rich and diverse background, combining her academic achievements with practical experience in various fields. As a graduate of the University of Saskatchewan with a BA Advanced in International Studies, she first worked in Communications and Marketing while later transitioning to her passion, working with children and families. While teaching and leading parenting programs, Shelly opened and operated a licensed childcare home for over a decade. She began her work with Saskatoon Public Schools over 20 years ago and has enjoyed the challenges and rewards of working as a Community School Coordinator. The health and wellbeing of children have always been central to Shelly's work. A commitment to family and community and making a significant impact in the lives of children and families in Saskatoon is a driving force in her work.



Chief Sylvia Weenie is a nēhiyaw (Cree) elder from Sweetgrass First Nation. As a residential school survivor, she carries a strong determination to teach the youth of her nation their traditional ways and worldview. To this end she earned a master's degree in education and curriculum development, creating paths for learning Cree culture, history, and language. And with the passing of her husband, Chief Ben Weenie, in 2016, she has taken on leadership for the Stoney Knoll First Nation and their land claim for Reserve 107.



Kimberley Weenie is a proud nēhiyaw woman from Sweetgrass First Nation. As the daughter of the late Chief Ben Weenie, she is keen to carry forward his vision of land and community for the descendants of the Young Chippewayan band. She has also shown leadership in the Following Their Voices educational initiative for Indigenous students in Saskatchewan.



Barb & Wilmer Froese live on a farm near Laird, Saskatchewan. They have three grown children and five grandchildren. Their land bordering Stoney Knoll was earlier owned and farmed by Wilmer's parents. **Barb** is a retired high school teacher who also co-pastored with Wilmer for 22 years, and has worked as a personal support care worker. As part of the Stoney Knoll Historical Committee, she is involved with the ongoing reconciliation work with Stoney Knoll First Nation. Together with Wilmer, she enjoys

hosting groups and individuals who visit the Stoney Knoll Interpretive site near their farm. Barb spends her mornings writing and journalling, reflecting on joys and hopes as well as the struggles and questions experienced from day to day.

Wilmer is a retired grain and dairy farmer and co-pastored churches in the local area. He was instrumental in starting the Good Neighbours Food Centre, a food bank in Rosthern. He provided leadership in setting up storyboards on the Stoney Knoll site, which tell the story of establishing and maintaining peaceful relations with Stoney Knoll First Nation during a land claims settlement. Wilmer enjoys gardening, writing, and the animals on the farm—even their 17 cats. Wilmer has a heart for relationships and bridge-building between people of all backgrounds.



Peter Neufeld, Wol and Nyuol Rou:



Wol Lino Rou



Nyuol Lino Rou

Peter Neufeldt is chair of Grace Mennonite Church of Regina's Ministry of Peace and Service. He has been involved since 1979 in planning and executing the church's private refugee sponsorship programme. The first family, Yen Yee and her 3 sons arrived in Regina on September 18, 1979. By 2005 more that 50 refugee sponsorship files had been opened and over 100 refugees

sponsored. In recent years, Peter and the Grace team have sponsored South Sudanese and Chin (Burmese minority) newcomers, and are waiting for an Ethiopian family.

Refugee sponsorship has continued to be a core focus of Grace Mennonite Church and has helped us to become a multi-cultural church. This has added many blessings to our worship services and to our fellowship.

Wol and Nyuol are brothers who are originally from South Sudan. As a result of the war between Sudan and South Sudan their family fled to the Kakuma Refugee Camp in Kenya and lived there all their lives. As a result of the war they lost both of their parents at a very young age. The children were raised by relatives.

Despite all their hardships, the Rou family maintained their Christian faith. Approximately 60% of the population in South Sudan is Christian. Many of these people also fled to the Kakuma Refugee Camp. The camp consists of approximately 250,000 residents.

Initially Grace Mennonite Church sponsored the females and children of the Rou family in the refugee camp. Arriving in Regina in 2019 were Atong, her 5 children, and Atong's sisters, Adhel and Angeer. After they had been here for one year we applied to sponsor Atong's brothers, Wol and Nyuol, as well as Atong's common-law husband, Garang. The 3 men arrived in Regina in December 2024 just before Christmas.

All 3 of these men have worked hard to adjust to the new culture in Canada and to look for work. Finding employment has been a challenge, but Nyuol found work at Safeway and Wol has a job as a cleaner in one of the Regina malls. Garang found a job in Saskatoon but is coming back to Regina to be near his family.