



*LeeCaring*  
COMMUNITIES

---

---

2023-24 COMMUNITY REPORT



---

## MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

This has been a particularly special year for LeeCaring Communities. Twenty years ago, we opened Edmonton Chinatown Care Centre (ECCC); at the very end of 2023 and into 2024, we opened up our second site: HolSome Place. LeeCaring Communities (LCC) has now been entrusted with the care of 232 residents; this is a privilege and a responsibility that we take very seriously.

For the first 20 years, LCC existed exclusively in Chinatown and served almost exclusively residents from Edmonton’s Chinese community. Our commitment to continue providing care that is aligned with Chinese culture remains resolute. While we are aware of the many challenges facing Chinatown, ECCC continues to be a vibrant and caring place and a vital part of Edmonton’s Chinese community. We also know that the needs of this community are changing and that thoughtful choices will have to be made as we prepare for ECCC’s next 20 years.

Construction at HolSome Place was finished in late October 2023. In spite of building through a pandemic, we finished largely on budget with slight delays to the schedule. We wish to thank the Government of Alberta for

the grants that facilitated the development of HolSome Place, RPK Architects for the design, and Stuart Olsen for managing the construction.

Opening HolSome Place has been exciting, full of new challenges, and occasionally even a bit daunting. In preparing for the opening, we were mindful to bring some of the Chinese culture to the new site, starting with the name. HolSome is derived from “hol” as in holistic and “som” which in Chinese is heart. HolSome Place opened on November 28, 2023. This site also provides long-term care, but is different than ECCC in that HolSome residents come from all walks of life and many different cultures. Although this is a bit of a change for LCC, we have been able to draw upon all that we have learned over the past 20 years, while learning some new things as well. Hiring over 150 new staff and welcoming in 136 residents over a four-month period has been challenging, but we are pleased to report that the site, its residents, and staff are starting to settle in. In this report you will hear from one of our first residents.

In this year’s Report to the Community, we



reflect on our past and present the events, initiatives, and challenges that shaped the past year.

In closing, we wish to express our appreciation to the residents, families, and friends at our LeeCaring Communities and to convey our commitment to providing the best possible care experience. Thank you as well to our staff, physicians, and service partners London Drugs, Aramark, Alpha Dog Security, and OSI. We know that providing the best possible care experience requires the combined efforts of the team. Lastly, we wish to thank Alberta Health Services for the collaboration and support they have provided over the past year, particularly as we opened up HolSome Place.

*Dr. Donald Yu, Board Chair  
Truman Severson, Executive Director*







## SAYING GOODBYE TO A “FOUNDING FATHER”

LeeCaring recalls the name of our “founding father,” Dr. Clemens Lee. His guidance, leadership, and unwavering commitment to respectful, loving, culturally appropriate care for Edmonton’s senior community has shaped our past and informs our future. Sadly, on July 26, 2023, we had to say goodbye to Dr. Lee.

Much of the history of LeeCaring Communities and its initial name, Chinatown Multi-level Care Foundation (CMCF), is chronicled by Artur Arruda in *Dr. Clemens Lee: A Lasting Legacy in Health and Seniors Care in Edmonton* (June 2016). Through Dr. Lee’s efforts and the those of other members of Edmonton’s Chinese

community, the CMCF was established and incorporated as a non-profit organization on July 4, 1985. In 1987, it was registered as a charity to allow for more effective fundraising to develop a long-term care facility for Chinese seniors. That same year, Dr. Lee became Chairman of the Foundation, a position he held for nearly 30 years.

The CMCF, with the support of other members of the Chinese community, worked towards its vision of establishing a multi-level care facility in a culturally nurturing environment. By 1987, they had received capital grant approvals from the Government of Alberta to support the construction of a

new long-term care facility in Chinatown. They had also already privately raised enough money to enable the Foundation to acquire nine lots of land in downtown Edmonton to house the new facility. However, the economic downturn of the late 1980s and early 1990s saw the project placed on hold.

Through persistence and perseverance, under Dr. Lee’s leadership, in 2001 the Foundation was finally able to secure all of the necessary grants and approvals to establish Edmonton Chinatown Care Centre, which opened in September 2004. Dr. Lee’s obituary describes Edmonton Chinatown Care Centre as his crowning achievement, and while he was proud of the building that was finally

constructed and opened, he was most proud of the care, kindness, and compassion that residents experience inside its walls to this day.

However, Dr. Lee’s last wish was to construct a new long-term care facility to serve residents outside of Chinatown. His vision was realized when construction of HolSome Place was completed last October. While Dr. Lee was unable to personally witness this achievement, his family was given a private tour of the new facility following his memorial.

LeeCaring Communities is Dr. Lee’s lasting legacy.







The celebration saw LeeCaring's ED Truman Severson and MLA Janice Irwin joining in on drums (centre).



## OUR LEECARING COMMUNITIES

### Edmonton Chinatown Care Centre

ECCC continues to be a vital and vibrant part of Edmonton's Chinese community. We were pleased this year to see the continued return of activities, families, and friends. Of note was a Canada Day drumming celebration sponsored by the National Congress of Chinese Canadians. July 1st saw residents enjoying drumming, Tai Chi, and being a part of a Canada-wide drumming performance.

The year 2024 is a significant year for ECCC as it represents our 20th year of

operation. While it is a vibrant community, the building is beginning to show signs of wear. As a result, we have started a multi-year improvement program. This past year, we replaced all the doors in each resident room, which on its own was an investment of nearly \$500,000. In addition, and with help from many donors, we replaced the window coverings in each resident room. A new air conditioning unit was installed in time for the cooling season and we have started a painting program to refresh the site.

### HolSome Place

On November 28, 2023, a little over two years after starting construction, HolSome Place began to welcome residents. HolSome Place is a 136-bed long-term care program located in Edmonton's MacTaggart neighbourhood. This building is part of Alberta's publicly funded continuing-care system, costing \$52 million to construct. Alberta Health provided a grant of \$17 million that was used to offset the construction cost.

HolSome Place has also benefitted from donations received from family and friends and in honour of Dr. Clemens Lee. These donations have been used to help us furnish the building, purchase planters and furniture for the outdoor spaces, and purchase artwork — creating an environment that is bright and cheerful. The HolSome team has worked very hard to welcome new residents who come from all walks of life.



## HOLSOME THOUGHTS

Opening a new care centre is a unique experience for an organization. On the day the first resident moves in, a community starts to form; one that includes the staff who have been hired and trained, and those first residents and their families. We are pleased to share with you the thoughts and observations of one of our first residents and her spouse.

Nila Chowdhury was among the first residents to call HolSome Place home. Nila’s husband Tapan comes to be with Nila daily and is very involved in her care. He is very much part of the HolSome team. Tapan and Nila agreed to share some of their thoughts about the unique experience of being among the first to move into a new building.

Nila and Tapan have been married for 46 years. They met at the University of Alberta where they were both in the Department of Economics. Nila received a master’s degree in economics and enjoyed a career in the Corporate Budget office of the City of Edmonton, retiring in 2008. Tapan worked for the Government of Alberta and held a variety of positions within Alberta Health. He spent part of his career as Director of Health Audit Development with the Auditor General. Nila and Tapan have two children

and five grandchildren. During their retirement they were frequent travellers.

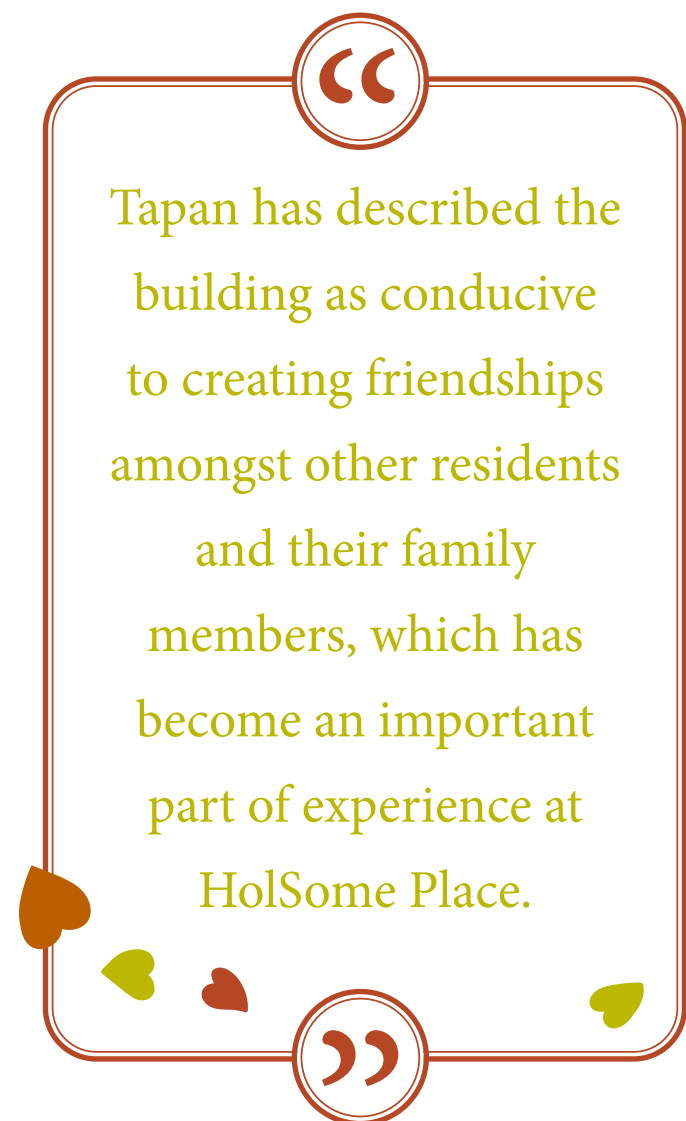
Nila’s journey to long-term care began in late 2020. For a year and a half, she was able to continue to live at home with home-care support. However, in 2022, and after some time at the Glenrose Hospital, Nila moved into a long-term care home. This past January, she was able to relocate to HolSome Place, which is closer to the home she and Tapan shared.

The first thing both Nila and Tapan noticed, and have come to appreciate, is the spacious and private room. They have made Nila’s room her own and decorated it with over 100 pictures. Down the hall from Nila’s room is a lounge area that they have also come to enjoy; it has become a like a living room, a place where they have enjoyed visits with family and friends. The best part of the day for Nila is mealtime, as the quality of the food has been good.

When asked about the changes he has observed since January, Tapan offered that he could see the topsy-turvy nature of starting up a new building when they moved in, but over time has seen the HolSome

community come together, and he now sees a cohesiveness amongst the residents, families, and staff. As he is there almost every day, he has gotten to know many of the staff and occasionally hears about their accomplishments; one of the housekeepers recently shared with him that she had been promoted to a supervisory role. He described the building as conducive to creating friendships amongst other residents and their family members, which has become an important part of experience at HolSome Place.

As part of our discussion, Tapan was asked to share any advice he had as HolSome Place continues to establish itself. He advised that as he is very present at HolSome Place, he can see that there is still some staff turnover that is happening, which has an impact on continuity of care. As well, setting up a café or a tuck shop — another place to go and gather within HolSome Place — would be a benefit to the site. However, notwithstanding the bumps that come along with starting up a new building, Tapan offered his total endorsement of HolSome Place, summing up his thoughts with the word “friendly.”



“Tapan has described the building as conducive to creating friendships amongst other residents and their family members, which has become an important part of experience at HolSome Place.”



## HOLSOME PLACE: A STORY IN PICTURES



1



4



7



2



5



8



3



6



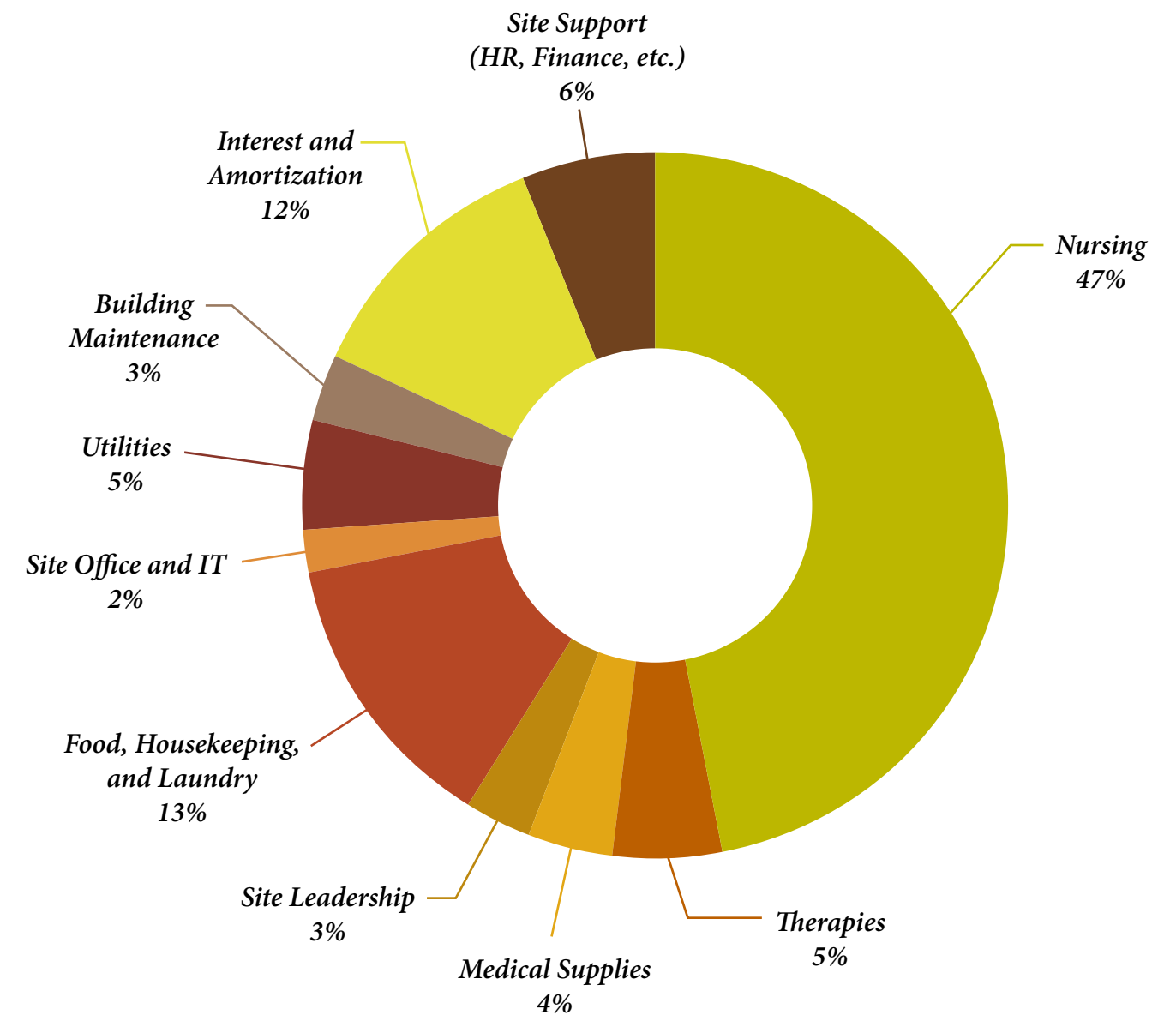
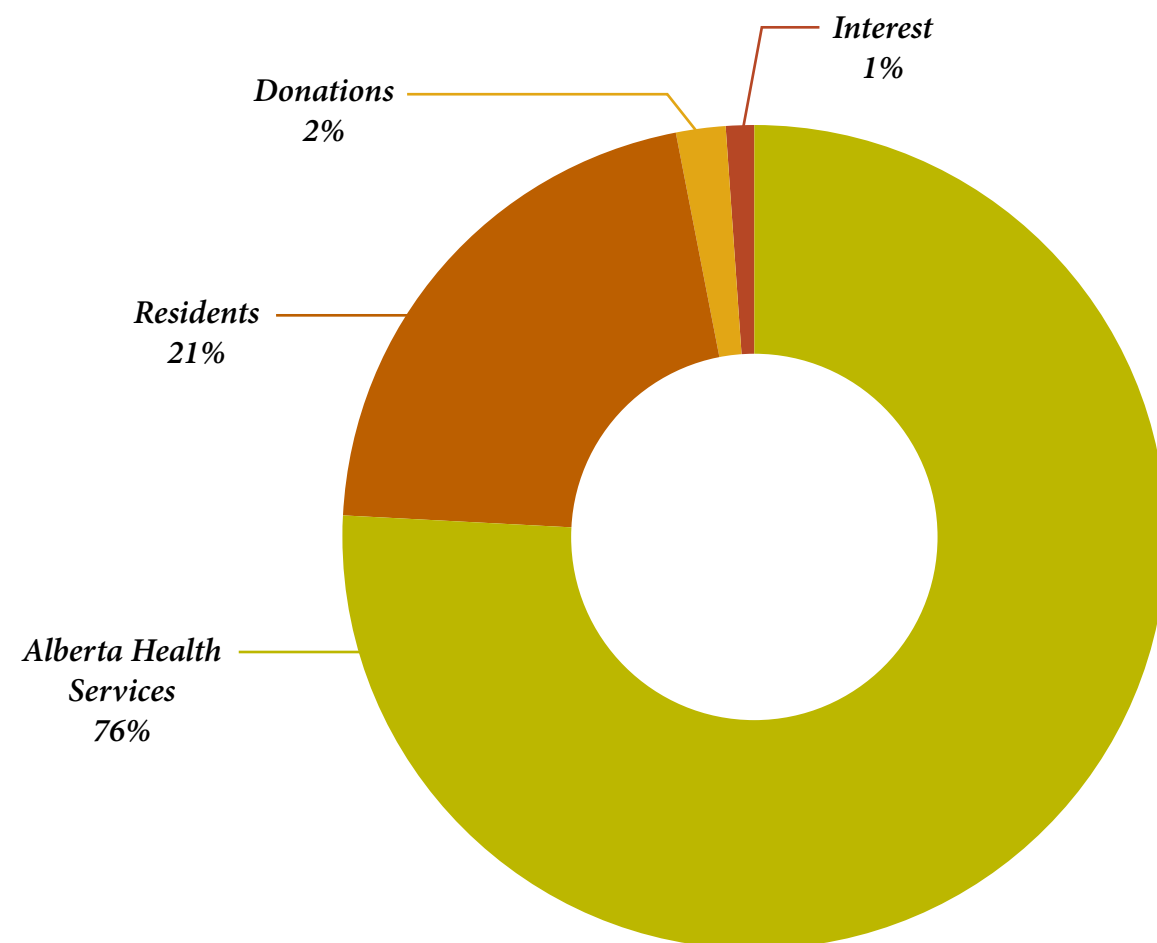
9

1. August 31, 2021
2. December 7, 2021
3. April 18, 2022
4. July 12, 2022
5. October 12, 2022
6. December 13, 2022
7. April 5, 2023
8. July 5, 2023
9. October 18, 2023

## OUR FINANCIAL RESOURCES

When fully occupied, LeeCaring Communities will steward nearly \$26 million of financial resources focused on fulfilling our mission, which is to create resident-focused communities that are

respectful, caring, and compassionate, where residents are encouraged to live each day with purpose and belonging. How our long-term care programs are financed and how these resources are allocated is illustrated below.





---

## LEECARING COMMUNITIES BOARD

LeeCaring Communities is governed by a 10-person volunteer Board, which is appointed by the LeeCaring Communities Trust. This past year, we welcomed Wendy King and Dr. Joyce Lee to the Board.



### Wendy King

Wendy has retired from a 35-year career, which included 21 years in leadership positions in organizations that serve seniors. Her most recent position was Chief Executive Officer for the Canterbury Foundation, a position she held for 10 years. This experience, and positions that she held at St. Michael's Health Group, provided her with extensive knowledge of Alberta's continuing-care system and the wider network of services for seniors. In addition to serving on the LCC Board, Wendy is the current chair of the Edmonton Seniors Coordinating Council.



### Dr. Joyce Lee

Joyce is a Care of the Elderly Physician in the Division of Geriatrics at the University of Alberta Hospital. She is also the Co-Director of the Parkinson Foundation Centre of Excellence at the Kaye Edmonton Clinic. She has had an extensive career as a physician for the elderly. She completed her Doctor of Medicine at the University of Toronto in 2001, after which she completed a Care of the Elderly fellowship at McGill University. Prior to moving to Edmonton, she held a variety of roles at Yee Hong Centre for Geriatric Care in Toronto, and lectured in the Department of Family and Community Medicine at the U of T. She is active in research on Parkinson's disease and innovative concepts in geriatric care.

## Continuing Board Members



### Dr. Donald Yu – Board Chair

Donald has been a Board Director of LeeCaring Communities since 2003, and the Chair since October 2018. He is a practicing endodontist and part of a group of dental specialist clinics in endodontics, periodontics, implants, orthodontics, and prosthodontics.

He was the first Chinese Canadian endodontist in 1981 and the first Chinese Canadian head of endodontics at the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry University of Alberta, 1995–2014. As a Clinical Professor, he has been teaching endodontics since 1981 and has established and contributed to the Endodontics Endowment and the Endodontics Research Funds. He is also the namesake of the Dr. Donald Yu Dental Academic Leadership Award, which is provided by the Edmonton Chinese Bilingual Education Association.

In addition to his volunteer work with LeeCaring Communities, he is currently the president of the National Congress of Chinese Canadians (Edmonton Chapter), whose primary goal is to improve the betterment of Chinese Canadians in diversity, inclusion, equality and ethnoculturism. In January 2023, in recognition of his volunteer work, Donald received The Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee Medal (Alberta).





**Benny Leung – Vice Chair**

Benny has more than 10 years of volunteer service experience in the construction and planning of long-term care facilities in Edmonton. He is retired after over 40 years of professional experience at the senior administrative level for a number of different health-care facilities in Alberta, as well as with the provincial and federal government health departments. Benny has a BA in Biomedical Sciences and a Masters of Health Administration.

Benny has been a Board Director since 2014. He was the past chair from June 2017 to October 2018.



**Darryl Diletzoy – Treasurer**

Darryl is an experienced Senior Financial and Operational Leader having extensive experience in the health-care sector. Darryl’s career experience includes senior finance roles at Capital Care and Alberta Health Services, and 13 years as Chief Financial and Operations Officer at the Alberta Cancer Foundation. In addition to his health-care experience, he is familiar with the governance and management requirements of non-profit charitable organizations. Darryl is currently the Director of Finance and Operations at the Newcomer Centre.

Darryl joined the Board in September 2021.



**Nancy Zhang – Secretary**

Nancy is a Senior Project Manager for the Ministry of Alberta Justice and Solicitor General. Nancy also has experience as a Prosecution Business Strategist, Researcher and Quality Assurance Coordinator. She has a Bachelor of Commerce in Business Economics and Law from the University of Alberta and a Master of Arts in Sociology from Queen’s University.

Nancy has been a Board Director since 2019.



**Winnie Yiu-Young – Director**

Winnie retired from the Alberta Public Service after 32 years of service as the Chief Financial Officer for Alberta Infrastructure and Alberta Transportation, and has many years of executive management experience with the Government of Alberta. Winnie has a Bachelor of Commerce in Finance and Master of Business Administration.

Winnie is the co-founder and President of the Anne Burrows Music Foundation (ABMF). She has been involved with this 100% volunteer-based non-profit for 40 years and has helped raise almost \$1.3 million to support more than 100 students with their post-secondary music education. Winnie is also the co-founder of the Friends of ABMF, the fundraising arm of the music foundation.

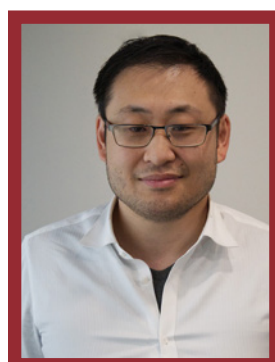
Winnie has been a Board Director since 2014



### **Nancy Tong – Director**

Nancy retired from the Government of Alberta in 2010 after 34 years of service. She spent the last 23 years of her career as a Labour Relations Officer with the Alberta Labour Relations Board. Nancy has a BA (Honours) in English from the University of Hong Kong.

Nancy has logged many volunteer hours at the Edmonton Chinatown Care Centre, serving on the Family Advisory Committee and the Ethics Committee. Nancy has been a Board Director since 2014.



### **Michael Chi – Director**

Michael is the legal counsel for Jaffer Group of Companies. Michael has a Bachelor of Science degree as well as a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Alberta.

Michael has been a Board Director since 2019.



### **Selikke Janes-Kelley – Director**

Selikke has an extensive background in health-care operations through a career that included starting as a general duty nurse, to eventually taking on roles including Director of Child Health and Critical Care for the Royal Alexandra Hospital and Stollery Children's Hospital, Senior Operating Officer – Child Health Program, and Site Executive Director, Royal Alexandra Hospital. Selikke has also held faculty positions at the U of A Faculty of Nursing. She currently also sits on the Board of the Boyle McCauley Health Centre.

Selikke joined the Board in September 2021



### **Truman Severson – Executive Director**

Truman has over 20 years of continuing-care experience in Alberta and British Columbia in the not-for-profit sector. He has held a variety of positions, including President as well as Vice-President, with responsibility for areas including human resources, project development, strategic planning and innovation, and fund development. Truman has a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Alberta, a Bachelor of Social Work from the University of Calgary, and a Master of Business Administration from Royal Roads.

Truman has been serving as the Executive Director of the Foundation since October 2018.



### **Retiring Board Member: Dr. Bing Li**

After eight years of dedicated service, Dr. Bing Li has retired from the LeeCaring Communities Board. Dr. Li provided his expertise on senior care during his tenure on the LCC Board. His knowledge and collaborative demeanor have been valuable assets to the Board. While he has completed his service as a Board Member, we are pleased that he will continue to be a part of the LeeCaring Communities team, as he has now joined the medical staff as one of our physicians at HolSome Place.



---



---

## LEECARING COMMUNITIES TRUST

One of the components of LeeCaring Communities' governance structure is the LeeCaring Communities Trust. The Trust includes three members (Trustees) who are responsible for appointing Board Members to the Foundation. To this end, they work collaboratively with the Foundation Board in evaluating the Board's needs in terms of membership. The Trust provides a checkpoint in ensuring the Board has the diverse skill sets and talents that are needed to effectively govern.



### Jim Saunders

Jim was appointed by the Foundation and brings 45 years of experience in executive health-care management and consulting. He has worked with governments, health-care organizations, regional health authorities, and multinational health-care vendors in Alberta, British Columbia, and Saskatchewan. Positions held include Vice President, Calgary District Hospital Group; President & CEO, Alberta Children's Hospital; President & CEO, Regina Health Region; Interim COO, Corporate Services, Alberta Health Services; Official Administrator, East Central Health Region, Alberta; Official Administrator, WestView Health Authority, Alberta; CEO, Forest Grove Care Center; and Interim CEO, Provincial Health Services Authority, British Columbia.



### Doug Tupper

Doug Tupper was appointed to the Trust by the Chinese Benevolent Association. Doug brings a diverse background through a long career with the Government of Alberta, which included a number of positions in Alberta Environment, including serving as Assistant Deputy Minister from 1998 to 2002. From 2005 to 2010, Doug was the Executive Director of the Edmonton Police Commission. He has brings significant governance experience, having served on the Edmonton Public School Board, including a term as Chair. He is a Commissioner on the Alberta Health Services Utilization and Outcomes Commission and a former member of the Edmonton Board of Health.

### Susan McGillivray

Susan McGillivray is the Senior Program Officer, HR Talent and Workforce Strategies at Alberta Health Services. Susan is a non-practising lawyer and has worked in the health-care sector in progressively senior legal and human resources roles since moving from Saskatchewan to Alberta in 1998. Susan has worked closely with non-profit organizations over the years through previous employment with Provincial Health Authorities of Alberta, where she assisted numerous Alberta continuing-care providers with their labour-relations needs. She holds a Bachelor of Laws from the College of Law at the University of Saskatchewan and is a non-practising member of the Law Societies of Saskatchewan and Alberta.



**LeeCaring**  
COMMUNITIES

9539 - 102A Ave.  
Edmonton, Alberta  
T5H 0G2

[CMLCF@shaw.ca](mailto:CMLCF@shaw.ca)

[LeeCaring.ca](http://LeeCaring.ca)

