

## **2008-2009 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

### **Maureen Whitesell- President**

Maureen joined the board in 2004 and has sat as Secretary, Treasurer and finally as Chair from 2007 to present. Maureen's employment history has been in the field of business management and that of supporting children with disabilities in a variety of ways, including involvement with the YWCA of Edmonton for the past 7 years as a Coordinator and a Contractor. She is currently self-employed in this field. Due to her own personal experience in this area, Maureen is a strong advocate and is constantly seeking innovative ways to provide support to children with disabilities in order for them to attain their full potential. She is also the liaison between Community Options and Edmonton Regional Coalition for Inclusive Education (ERC) who has made significant gains towards integration. Maureen believes very strongly in the Mission and Vision of Community Options and is dedicated to completing another term on the Board of Directors along with her valued colleagues.

### **Patricia Semeniuk-Past President**

Pat has had a long and varied career as an advocate on behalf of the education of children. She has been principal of Inglewood, Aldergrove, Alex Taylor and Julia Kiniski schools. Pat served as an Early Childhood consultant with Edmonton Public Schools for three years, Principal at Large, and Assistant Superintendent of Consulting Services. She also worked for the Department of Education (Alberta Learning) as a consultant based in Edmonton serving schools throughout northern Alberta. Pat joined the Community Options board in 2001.

### **Tom Lee-Vice-President**

Tom served as a chair of the Hearts of Blue Charity Committee (Alberta Blue Cross' employee charity committee). He originally got involved with Community Options as a supporter of their Hot Lunch Program at Inglewood School. He is quite passionate about volunteerism. Currently, Tom is employed with Capital Health as a Systems Analyst. Tom joined the board in 2005.

### **Sandra Black – Treasurer**

Sandra is passionate about children and has made a career working with children with disabilities through various roles. She has collaborated with Community Options over the years and came to the Community Options Board while on maternity leave from Services to Children with Disabilities (now FSCD). Sandra strongly believes in the core values, mission and vision of Community Options and is thankful for the opportunity to be a part of the team. Sandra joined the board in 2004.

**Jeanine Alexander- Secretary**

Having raised three children (now adults) in Edmonton, Jeanie now considers Edmonton home, and hopes to give back to the Community by serving on the Community Options Board of Directors. She is an educator and her interests are varied and most often include one or more members of her family.

**Heather Kennedy-Plant –Member at Large**

Heather is a passionate community and family advocate. She believes that building strong communities is essential and important work along the path towards transforming the social and structural barriers which interfere with the well being of our children, youth, and families. Heather has worked at the University of Alberta as an advisor and administrator since 1999 and currently holds the position of Cooperative Education Coordinator at the U of A School of Business. She formerly held positions with the University's Faculty of Education and with the U of A International Education Abroad Program. In addition to a Bachelor of Arts Sociology degree from the University of Alberta, Heather has a diploma in Child Psychology, Supervisory Development Certification from the School of Business, and is now working towards a Masters Degree in Educational Policy Studies at the U of A. Joined Board in 2008