

Work Experience



Waqas is a seasoned professional with work experience internationally and with all three orders of Canadian government. Currently, he works in the Policy unit of Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency's regional office in Halifax. Prior to this, he worked in Calgary and Edmonton for three years with Western Economic Diversification Canada in a policy and external relations capacity. He also completed a one year traineeship with the Department of Foreign Affairs (GAC) in 2011 where he rotated between Canadian missions in Doha, Damascus, and Vienna. Prior to his career with the federal government, he was a Manager with the Province of Alberta's Department of Advanced Education and an Advisor with Alberta's Department of Justice. He has also worked with rural municipalities in Alberta on integrated sustainability plans and the Ontario government on land use planning. Waqas' experience also includes working internationally with Canada's partner countries, Ghana and Mongolia, on two separate year-long stints as part of Canada's Official Development Assistance.

Board Experience

I have combined two decades of strategic leadership experience on national NFP boards, including St. Stephen's College (University of Alberta), a degree-granting post secondary institution and World University Service of Canada, one of Canada's best managed charities and Top 100 employers. In addition to this, I am the past Chair of Finance of the Board of Governors of St. Stephen's College and past Chair of Government Relations for the Canadian Art Therapy Association Board. To supplement my leadership experience, I have also completed the Institute of Corporate Director's (ICD) NFP Governance Program and the five Board Fundamentals modules. In addition to the strategic leadership experience, I have an MA in Public and International Affairs from the University of Ottawa, a Bachelors in Environment and Business from the University of Waterloo, and a Graduate Certificate in Project Management from Royal Roads University.

Leadership Style and Giving Back

I would like to give back to my union and leverage my diverse background and experience to support CAPE-ACEP. As a nose in, fingers out leader, I believe the NEC should provide oversight, insight, and foresight and let management manage its affairs. With this model in mind, I believe we can serve our members with fair, effective and timely collective bargaining, representation, advocacy and training.

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