

August 15, 2023

Hello, my name is Frank Assu.

I am an Indeterminate EC-06 Senior Program Policy Analyst at Transport Canada.

Who am I?

I am a member of the We Wai Kai first nation, of the Kwakwaka'wakw tribes of British Columbia. I was raised and trained to be a cultural leader and historian in my community and am an accomplished singer and dancer. I am an experienced public servant who excels in creating and guiding innovative approaches to complex problem spaces. Federal departmental champion for key initiatives such as Canada's Free Agents, FlexGC, and Faces of the GC, as well as Regional Co-Manager of GovernexVI, and a member of the Federal Youth Network.

Additionally, I am a bisexual male who has recently come out and am proud to be a member of the 2SLGBTQI+ community.

What I do

As of August 2023, I am currently on assignment with Heritage Canada, working on the Many Voices One Mind project. Since I joined Canada's Free Agents in August 2018, I have taken on increasingly demanding and complex roles with Indigenous Services Canada (ISC), Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC), Public Service and Procurement Canada (PSPC), Canada School of Public Service (CSPS), and Service Canada (SC). I have developed guidance for national implementation of hybrid and flexible work arrangement strategies; drafted a five-year national fire prevention strategy for First Nation Communities. As well, I have provided strategic advice and recommendations to senior management (director level and above); and developed and maintained positive relationships with internal and external networks within the public service and external to the public service.

Over the past five years, the majority of my passion projects and work assignments have been focused on advocacy for regional employees, remote/telework, and training. As a Free Agent, I have had the opportunity to bring forward ideas for the future of work and help improve processes in the GoC. I have worked remotely for five years (since August 2018) and I have worked primarily for NCR teams since December 2018. The past year with ever-evolving return to the office mandates and mandated presence minimums have alarmed me; I question whether public service senior management has forgotten the lessons we learned over the past three years. I worry that we are regressing back to an NCR-centric, in-person reliant model of work; a way of working that is not innovative, forward thinking, progressive, or inclusive.

Where I come from

My work experience has included policy and programs, but also operations and implementation. From 2014-2018 I worked with Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) as a Border Services Officer. Working across several modes of transportation (air, highway, marine, and rail) I was responsible for upholding over 100 Acts and Regulations relating to the processing of people and goods across the Canadian border. As a member of the CBSA I became a specialist in both regulatory enforcement and policy interpretation. From 2009-2014, I was a Search and Rescue Deckhand with the Canadian Coast Guard, where I performed duties that aided people, ships, or other craft which were, or were feared to be, in distress or imminent danger.

Interests

I am passionate about working openly and transparently. I also enjoy and am successful assisting diverse groups with consensus and relationship building.

I love being involved with things and over the past few years, I have also been asked to sit on various panels such as the BC Innovation Fair, Canada School of Public Service Virtual Power Chat, and Federal Youth Network Learning Series, and the BC Federal Council Virtual National Public Service Week events.

Unions can achieve great things together. During my time with CBSA (2016-18) I was a CIU Steward where I gained foundational knowledge of union processes. I know that I have a lot to contribute to CAPE. As an EC Director with my Indigenous identity, Regional and Remote/Telework advocacy, and my lived experience in diverse communities.

Thank you for your support and consideration.

Frank Assu