



Team Members

Anne-Marie Edgar

Executive Director



Anne-Marie Edgar is the executive director for Make A Change Canada and has been with the organization since 2007. Reporting to the Board of Directors, she is responsible for the overall management of our programs and the effective administration of the organization. With a Master in Business Administration and Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, Anne-Marie has led the organization through the development and implementation of two strategic plans. Her professional background includes working directly with people living with disabilities, leading and completing several large instructional design projects, and overseeing and operating several businesses. With prior experience owning and operating a construction firm and as a management consultant, Anne-Marie knows first-hand the challenges in establishing a viable business. Anne-Marie has in-depth experience in workshop facilitation and the employment services sector. While working in the information technology field Anne-Marie developed online training, conducted training sessions, and managed courseware development teams. Clients included the U.S. Navy, U.S. Army, Transport Canada, BNR, TRW, Workers' Compensation Board of BC, and Sprint. Anne-Marie calls Nelson, British Columbia, home. In her down time she enjoys weight training, skiing, and attending live performances locally and in neighbouring communities. Family pets to Anne-Marie and her son are Samy and Snowy, their two cuddly guinea pigs.

Mary Alton

Program Manager



When you call Make A Change Canada, Mary is often the friendly voice you hear at the end of the telephone line. Mary has been with Make A Change Canada since 2008, bringing a wealth of experience in employment services, client care, and health services to our organization. As program manager, Mary oversees the daily operation of our programs and the quality and delivery of client services. Highly approachable and enthusiastic, Mary is a great listener and dedicates herself to coordinating between team members and clients to support positive individual outcomes for all our clients. Mary enjoys her role immensely and is a strong believer in the benefit that continuing education provides. Mary holds a Diploma in Massage Therapy and certifications in Life Skills Coaching and E-Business Management with additional studies in Psychology, Pharmacology, Public Health, Counselling, and Small Business Management. Mary currently lives in Grand-Barachois, New Brunswick, where she enjoys reading a good book, spending time outdoors, and quality time with friends and family. Mary has two adorable rescue dogs named Irina and Hope.

Rory Case

Online Community and Content Coordinator



Rory is the guru behind the scenes at Make A Change Canada, who keeps our web content up to date and online events running seamlessly. Rory graduated, with honours, from the Selkirk College Independent Digital Film Program in 2010. She has several years' experience working in the film industry as a camera operator for live production and video editor for promotional videos and documentaries. Rory continued her education in 2015 and obtained her Office Administration Certification through distance learning. She has since used her combined love for technology and practical office skills in several industries including marketing, travel, legal, and communications. Rory was born and raised in rural Nakusp, British Columbia, but lived in Toronto, Ontario, for three years where she interned at a nonprofit, assisting with online community programming, and then moved on to work in experiential marketing at a fast-paced downtown firm. A Kootenay girl at heart, Rory returned to the mountains last year to be closer to her family. As an avid ice hockey player, Rory has played and refereed recreational and competitive hockey for the last 20 years. This has taken her across Canada and even overseas to compete. As a self-proclaimed wanderer, in less active times you can find Rory cooking up a storm, snapping photos, and enjoying all that nature has to offer.

Jen Callow

Program Outreach and Communications Specialist



Jen brings a wealth of experience to her role at Make A Change Canada. She diligently works her magic behind the scenes to keep Make A Change Canada's many projects on track, and assists with all aspects of client intake. Jen's diverse skills include administration and front-line service delivery for small business and nonprofit organizations, through to corporations and universities, both in Canada and abroad. With an extensive background working with individuals living with disabilities and those facing other barriers to employment, Jen genuinely enjoys connecting with diverse groups of people. As an entrepreneur, Jen has worked as a tutor and an editor. Currently, Jen is developing her business as a visual artist/performer. Her passion involves seeing people succeed and helping to motivate them beyond what they believe is possible. A graduate of the University of Victoria with a Bachelor of Arts (with honours), Jen is a lifelong learner. She also is a traveller at heart previously living and working in Victoria, British Columbia; Toronto, Ontario; and even Dublin, Ireland. Currently Jen calls Nelson, British Columbia, home. Jen has recently returned to Make A Change Canada as part of our virtual team, and we are all thrilled she is back. In her free time Jen enjoys a variety of activities including pickleball, RhythmDance, visual art making, and (her ultimate creative passion) clowning.

Doug Tardif

Team Leader - Bilingual (Mon-Thurs)



As part of our senior management team, Doug has been working as a business coach in the nonprofit sector for 15 years, and 11 of those with Make A Change Canada. Doug is highly skilled at one-on-one coaching, group facilitation, and delivering online webinars. With his extensive background in the financial, publishing, and manufacturing sectors, and through his work with foreign governments, Doug brings a wealth of business expertise to his role and, to date, has helped more than 500 individuals achieve their goal of self-employment. Major projects Doug has led include the implementation of integrated business systems for a chain of Canadian newspapers and the development of protocols for online banking systems and ATMs. During the 1990s Doug worked with the government of the Cayman Islands developing tourism projects. He has also travelled extensively as the International Y2K Consultant to the United Nations. As someone who enjoys giving back, Doug has volunteered his skills and time with several national organizations and service clubs. Through his production company, Doug offers on-camera training and corporate video services. Doug has appeared in a number of commercials, has a lengthy stage performance portfolio, and has produced, directed, and acted in a number of films and corporate videos. Recently, Doug relocated from Ontario to New Brunswick, now living in a charming Francophone village alongside the St. John River.

Chantal Orr

Business Advisor (Mon-Thurs)



Chantal holds a Bachelor of Commerce degree from the University of Victoria with a specialization in International Business. She has unique expertise in entrepreneurship, small business marketing, event production, business sustainability, and coaching. Equipped with significant international experience, Chantal worked previously within the marketing department at the Bosch worldwide headquarters in Stuttgart, Germany. Chantal has also co-founded an international NGO, co-founded and managed a successful sustainability and marketing consulting firm, and has worked with established entrepreneurs from around the globe building leadership programs focused on personal transformation. At Make A Change Canada Chantal has coached over 200 aspiring entrepreneurs in achieving their goal of self-employment. Chantal also plays a key role in collaborating on strategic initiatives, especially those involving partnership development and marketing. Chantal is originally from Nelson, British Columbia, and currently resides in the nearby community of Revelstoke. With a relentless appetite for adventure and athletics, Chantal's passions include backcountry skiing, trail running, travelling to wild places, and climbing mountains. She recently completed an avalanche and mountaineering safety course, adding to her diverse repertoire of credentials. "Dante" is Chantal's very affectionate and quirky French bulldog and her regular sidekick.

Louise Doyle

Business Advisor - Bilingual (Mon-Thurs)



Louise has extensive experience working in the nonprofit sector as a business coach and manager of self-employment programs. Over the past 16 years Louise has helped more than 500 aspiring entrepreneurs achieve their dreams of self-employment. Louise is passionate about inspiring the inner entrepreneur and has a talent for supporting individuals and helping them stay focused on their vision as they develop their business plans. Having overcome a serious health diagnosis herself, Louise knows firsthand the struggles and challenges involved in reestablishing a career. Prior to business coaching, Louise worked for 18 years in the publishing industry in Vancouver and northern Alberta, where she was co-owner and publisher of a local newspaper. Public relations, production, and management were a large part of Louise's role, and she earned significant recognition with her award-winning graphic designs. An adventurer at heart, Louise is passionate about the 13th century. As a published author, Louise has travelled twice to Montségur, France, to conduct research for her book *The Last Cathar*, published in 2015. Louise is now writing the sequel to this book, to be released during 2019. If that was not accomplishment enough, Louise is also a talented fabric and textile artist. Customers throughout the United States and as far away as the United Kingdom and Argentina have purchased her exquisite silk wall hangings. Louise currently resides in Innisfil, Ontario, where she enjoys spending time with her four grandchildren and her dog, Stoker.

Tara Thom Burnett

Employment Facilitator (Mon-Thurs)



As an employment services specialist with an extensive background in human services, career counselling, and communications, Tara brings 10 years of valuable experience to Make A Change Canada. Throughout her career, Tara has helped hundreds of job seekers find meaningful employment and training opportunities. Tara holds a Diploma in Human Services with a Citation in Mental Health and Addictions from Selkirk College and a Bachelor of Arts in Professional Communication from Royal Roads University. A committed lifelong learner, Tara enjoys attending professional development workshops and integrates cutting-edge practices into her counselling sessions to improve the job search experience for our program participants. Drawing on her strong entrepreneurial side, Tara also owns a communications consulting firm: [The Time to Write Communication Solutions](#). In her spare time, Tara enjoys writing poetry and creative non-fiction. Other interests include graphic design, mountain biking, kickboxing, birdwatching, and exploring the great outdoors. Tara's love of nature comes from her time spent working at a bird rescue facility, one of her most memorable jobs to date. Originally from Prince George and the Lower Mainland of British Columbia, Tara now resides in Nelson, British Columbia.

George Papazian

Instructional Team Lead



George is a user experience (UX) focused programmer who has been teaching open source web technologies for over 20 years. In addition to his role as instructional team lead at Make A Change Canada, George also teaches second year undergraduate courses at Emily Carr University (ECU) in Vancouver, British Columbia, and holds the position of faculty lead of the Interaction Design Essentials Certificate Program, also at ECU. George's students have gone on to win design awards and work for companies such as Yahoo!, Electronic Arts (FIFA Project), Microsoft, and Amazon. Always looking to stay relevant in the ever-evolving field of web technologies, George runs his own UX design practice, [Opto Media & Web Technologies](#), a company specializing in building intuitive web interfaces. Students at Make A Change Canada benefit from George's professional experience in the technology sector, along with his focus on providing quality instruction and guidance. George has travelled far and wide to many corners of the world where he has enjoyed sipping a coffee in Lviv, Ukraine, delivering coding workshops in Yerevan, Armenia, and finding his way out of a labyrinth of heat soaked ruins in Pafos, Cyprus. Closer to home, George can be found partaking in the odd anthropological observation on the humans of Vancouver or riding his bike from point A to point B.

Colin Keane

Teaching Assistant/Instructor



Colin is the newest member of our educational team, joining Make A Change Canada as an instructor in 2017. Prior to this, Colin worked with us as a programmer and peer tutor. Colin resides in Surrey, British Columbia, and has worked in the tech sector for over 25 years. His educational credentials include several certificates and diplomas spanning the following areas: computer programming, information technology and management, and web design and optimization. Colin also owns [Keane Computing Solutions](#), a tech firm specializing in web development and web programming and is known for building "massive" websites. Students appreciate the wealth of knowledge and practical experience Colin brings to his role and his focus on the success of students needing assistance and support. Colin exemplifies our guiding principles through the dedicated service he provides to students in our programs. When he isn't deep into problem solving or teaching students new skills, Colin enjoys travelling and especially going on cruises. With his great sense of humour, don't be surprised if you hear Colin crack a joke or two.