

# **OSRP Board of Directors Nominee Profile 2023-2024**

**Name: Maria Wallis, Ph.D., MSW, MA,**

## **Educational Degrees, Certificates:**

- Doctorate in Sociology (PhD.), York University
- Master of Social Work (MSW), York University:
- Master of Arts (MA), -Sociology-McMaster University
- Employment Equity in a Public Institution Case Study: City of Toronto.
- Bachelor of Arts (BA), McGill University
- Completed Schulich School of Business Masters Certificate in Project Management, 2019
- Completed Certification to Teach English as a Foreign Language (TEFL)
- Completed 2 years of a 4 year Program with the Toronto Institute for Contemporary Psychoanalysis
- 2020: Started a 3-year, part-time Psychotherapy Program w

## **Skills and Experiences**

### **Counselling and Group Work**

- Counselling one-on-one on issues of mental health, including facilitating mental health workshops
- Worked with 'youth at risk' to provide mentorship-Project with the Ontario Anti-Racism Secretariat o
- Worked on youth projects at the Urban Alliance on Race Relations
- Taught group facilitation skills to Social Service Workers at Sheridan College
- Counselling women experiencing domestic violence
- Co-facilitated Partner Assault Response (PAR) groups for me

### **Managerial Skills/Union Activism**

- Manager of three Programs: Meals on Wheels, Transportation and Seniors Programs (Warden Wood)
- Manager of GBV Project (Settlement and Family Support Services-SAFSS)
- Only Staff/ Coordinator, Slave River Development Impact Zone Society, Fort Smith, Northwest Territories
- Executive Director of The Urban Alliance on Race Relations, Toronto, Supervised 2 full-time staff.
- Only Staff/Coordinator, Development Impact Zone Society, Fort Smith, Northwest Territories
- Volunteer with Children's Aid, Homework Club; Crisis Help Line of Peel, and several non-profit organizations working on feminist, anti-racist and union-related issues.
- Board member of Immigrant Women's Health Center, and South Asian Women's Group.
- Independent Contract Faculty, McMaster University, York University, Wilfrid Laurier, University of Western Ontario, and University of Calgary.
- Independent Researcher for several non-profit agencies in Toronto

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- Elected union executive committee member-Held positions of Vice-President of a unit, Chief Steward, Grievance Officer and member of the Bargaining Team.
- Conducted Program Evaluation, identifying Key Performance Indicators and Program outcomes.

### **Education/Facilitation/Training**

- Conducted Diversity training for Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH); The Ontario Ministry of Corrections and Community Services, Centennial College, and the City of Hamilton.
- Co-facilitated Partner Assault Response (PAR) group with both the Brampton and Mississauga Family Services
- RESEARCH/ COMMUNICATION/POLICY
- Principal Researcher on a Settlement Research Project with the Social Planning Council of Toronto
- Researcher with other non-profit agencies: Women Working with Immigrant Women, Coalition of Visible Minority Women, and The Riverdale Immigrant Women's Center.
- Wrote a successful grant proposal (\$ 8,000) to develop a community economic development plan initiated by the Coalition of Visible Minority Women
- Policy papers and engagement around issues that included Employment Equity, Pay Equity, Employment, Violence against Women, Youth 'at risk', and systemic racism.

### **Leadership**

- Ontario Vice-President of the National Organization of Immigrant and Visible Minority Women of Canada (1995-1996)
- Member of the Racial Equality Advisory Committee—National Strategic Consultation on Racial Equality Issues organized by the Court Challenges Program of Canada (1994)
- Member of the Advisory Committee for Ontario's Anti-Racism Secretariat's "Change Your Future" Program for high school students 'at risk' from across Metro (1995)

### **Experience:**

#### **Registered Social Worker in Private Practice**

- Director of Policy and Strategy, Canadian Association of Social Workers (CASW)
- Social Worker: Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board (DPCDSB)
- Manager, Gender Based Violence Project, Settlement Assistance and Family Support Worker
- Social Worker, Hospitality Workers Training Services (HWTC)
  - One-on-One intake, assessment, and counselling
  - Provide resources and referrals
  - Work with rest of the team at HWTC to achieve goal of rapid employment in the hospitality sector.

#### **Crisis Counsellor, Settlement Assistance and Family Support Services (August/2020-March/2021)**

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- One-on-one counselling on mental health issues,
- Conducting mental health workshops
- Writing Funding Proposals
- Other responsibilities as needed.

### **Project Manager, Health Outcomes| Warden Woods Community Centre/Jan 2020-June 2020**

- Review existing programmes
- Assess programme performance and improve outcome measurements
- Manage some programmes and ensure targets and deliverables are met
- Other responsibilities as needed.