

SHAUNA SYLVESTER is a founder and Executive Director of IMPACS – the Institute for Media, Policy and Civil Society, a charitable organization with offices in Vancouver and Toronto. In her role as Executive Director, she is responsible for delivering IMPACS international media programmes, which includes projects in Cambodia, Afghanistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, the Middle East and Guyana. She also oversees the Communication Centre, Canada's first non-profit public relations and training centre, and the Charities and Democracy project, a national initiative aimed at changing the law governing charities in Canada.



Shauna has served on dozens of boards and committees at the local, national and international level. Currently she serves as B.C.'s member to the Voluntary Sector Forum and as a founding member of the B.C. Social Economy roundtable. In 2003, she was elected to the Board of Directors of VanCity Credit Union, and appointed to the board of the VanCity Capital Corporation. She served on many credit union committees including VanCity's Financial Policy, Audit, and Conduct Review Committees.

In 2001, Shauna served as the Co-chair of the 4th Civicus World Assembly in Vancouver, a quadrennial meeting of over 1500 foundations and non-profit organizations from around the globe. In 1998, she was appointed by Order-in-Council to the B.C. Assessment Authority, a crown corporation, and was Vice-Chair of the Policy and Audit Committee. She has also served as a board member of the Vancouver Folk Music Festival, the Community Development Institute, the Interagency Coalition on AIDS and Development and the Hollyhock Leadership Institute.

Prior to founding IMPACS in 1997, Shauna worked for fifteen years with a wide range of non-profit organizations, businesses, and educational institutions in Canada and abroad including CUSO, the International Development Education Resources Association, and Canada World Youth. She organized the Canadian preparatory meeting for the UN Conference on Women in Beijing and served on the Canadian delegation to the Prepcom IV of the Rio Summit on environment and development.

Shauna has written and edited several publications related to social and environmental issues and has provided policy advice to governments and foundations on subjects as varied as forestry, peacebuilding and AIDS.

Shauna holds a Masters in Management from McGill University (the McConnell Program for National Voluntary Sector Leaders), and a Bachelor of Arts from Simon Fraser University. She is an avid traveler and has lived and worked in Bolivia, Ecuador, Indonesia and most countries of South Asia. In 2005, she was honoured with an Outstanding Alumni Award from SFU for her community service work.

In 2003, Shauna was recognized as one of Canada's Top 40 Under 40 in the Globe and Mail after receiving a similar award in 2000 by Business in Vancouver Magazine.

Shauna lives in Vancouver with her husband Ross Gentleman, her 10 year-old daughter Rowan, and her 16 year-old step-son Neil.