

Statement of Purpose

Inspire individuals, communities and corporations to achieve their personal, professional and organizational best by fostering genuine connections between people, places, concepts, and goals. Focus on creating dynamic opportunities for the development and application of fresh ideas; facilitating and initiating connections in the spaces between disciplinary silos; and developing capacity in knowledge exchange, collaborative learning, diffusion of innovation and social networking.

Range of interests (in alphabetic order): communication, community engagement, communities of practice, disability issues, education, global health, health service delivery, human rights, information flow, innovation, knowledge networks, leadership, mental health, organizational learning, photography, public health, research models, yoga, women's health.

Current Employment Activities

- **Knowledge Exchange Specialist, Dragonfly Consulting, Inc., Ottawa**
Dragonfly Consulting, Inc offers customized services that focus on the human elements of knowledge exchange, including mobilizing communities, facilitating creative conversations, and fostering organizational and collaborative learning. We offer extensive expertise in the theory and practice of all aspects of knowledge exchange. Our goal is to promote and enhance knowledge sharing and innovation by inspiring passion and cultivating genuine relationships.
- **Certified Yoga Instructor**
Clients can select from a range of styles to create customized private or semi-private classes. Specialize in yoga training for performers, prenatal, post-partum, and at-risk populations (including individuals experiencing physical and emotional challenges). Corporate programs are available upon request.

Formal Educational

- 1999-2001 **Master of Arts, Women's Studies, Dalhousie University***
- Specialization in Health Care Ethics: particular focus on integrating cross-disciplinary approaches to achieving individual and social well-being.
 - Thesis: *In Pursuit of Health: Feminist Reflections on Disability & Medicine*
- *This graduate program was a cross-university initiative involving Dalhousie University, Mount Saint Vincent University and Saint Mary's University. The studies offered a multi-disciplinary approach that allowed the creation of a thesis committee including representation from philosophy, medicine, law, sociology, and anthropology.*
- 1993- 1997 **Honours Bachelor of Science, University of Toronto**
Focused study in Bioethics, Physiology, Anthropology, Zoology and Philosophy.

Select Employment History

HEALTH SERVICES & MANAGEMENT EXPERIENCE

2004 – 2008 **Senior Advisor, Networks & Exchanges**

Canadian Health Services Research Foundation (www.chsrf.ca)

Designed and managed a range of activities to create inter-sector connections through exchange events, knowledge networks and communities of practice. Activities included research and development of network theory, building organizational understanding of networks and exchanges in health services, and seeking out innovative mechanisms to promote evidence-informed decision-making in the health system. Original developments: launched and led two international *Network Leadership Summits* (see [network summit series](#)); through [network notes](#) and [exchange notes](#) consolidated, recorded and shared learnings about these concepts; developed programming for health service training in specific regional contexts across Canada through an initiative entitled [research use weeks](#) ; created a biweekly digest on networks which has transformed into the popular [insight & action newsletter](#). On-going initiatives included: planning, coordinating and facilitating two Invited Exchanges and two Annual Workshops (see [exchange events](#)), and assisted with the launch of a revised internal Central Information Management System.

2002-2004 **Manager, Knowledge Exchange Office**

Centre for Research in Women's Health (www.womensresearch.ca)

Assisted the Vice-President, Research & Inter-Professional Education, in the development of strategy, policy and programs to leverage the value of women's health research by linking all players involved in the production and application of knowledge. Managed all internal and external communications, including corporate branding, Internet, publications, conferences, seminars, and activity reports. Built genuine relationships with researchers, policy makers, health care providers and community groups in the field of women's health (regionally, provincially, nationally and globally). Designed and implemented a successful strategic plan to develop an office that integrates education, research, policy, and communications to ensure a multidimensional and collaborative knowledge exchange model within a gender-based context. Led a dynamic team of staff, students and volunteers: managing the dissemination of research knowledge, research studies on knowledge transfer strategies, as well as institutional membership and partnerships.

1997-1999 & 2001

Coordinator, Volunteer Resources & Community Outreach **Bloorview Macmillan Children's Centre** (www.bloorview.ca)

Responsible for the development, review and monitoring of all aspects of the volunteer experience. In collaboration with volunteer resources team, applied strong human resource skills to recruit, interview and train volunteers. Accountable for managing over 2000 volunteers, as well as the administrative operations of the department. In charge of conducting on-going evaluations in order to assess volunteer performance, program needs, and the departments ability to meet hospital and community objectives. Implemented outreach

programs to schools and community groups to promote awareness about disability issues.

EDUCATION & HEALTH PROMOTION EXPERIENCE

2003-2004 **Instructor, Physiotherapy/Occupational Health Masters Program
University of Toronto**

In collaboration with professor and students, developed section on women's health research and care provision for health care practitioners.

2001-2003 **Course Facilitator, Provincial Health Ethics Network, Alberta
(www.phen.ab.ca)**

Worked with course coordinator to develop course modules designed to bridge the gap between academic bioethics and clinical practice by integrating instruction from prominent North American Bioethicists with the application of practical skills and case studies in each learning module. Facilitated weekly teleconference discussions with participants and organised annual face-to-face meeting.

1999-2000 **Teaching Assistant, Dalhousie University**

- Women & Aging, Professor Barbara Keddy, Department of Sociology
- Introduction to Health Care Ethics, Prof Susan Sherwin, Dept of Philosophy

1996-1998 **Health Promotions Speaker, Canadian Cancer Society**

Community education on issues of breast health, Sun-Sense, healthy food choices, and tobacco reduction. Co-ordinated various fundraising activities.

1994-1997 **Counsellor, Sexuality Education & Peer Counselling Centre**

University of Toronto (<http://sec.sa.utoronto.ca/>)

Provided peer counselling on issues related to lifestyle choices and sexuality. Developed fundraising and special events committee to lead new initiatives raising awareness about Sexual Health.

RESEARCH & WRITING EXPERIENCE

2001 **Researcher/Writer, SCRIPT Medical Writing (www.scriptmedical.com)**

Responsible for transcribing and translating diverse medical research, often writing reports to summarise new findings and concepts.

1999-2001 **Research Consultant, Dalhousie University**

Worked with professors in Philosophy, Law, Medicine and Bioethics. Independently conducted in-depth library and internet searches to identify relevant health care ethics literature for upcoming projects. Analysed the research and prepared academic literature summaries. Responsible for planning and co-ordination of data collection and analysis of information available in diverse areas of bioethics.

1999-2000 **Intern, Maritime Centre of Excellence for Women's Health**

Involved in review and assessment of project to devise community-based research ethics. Facilitated meetings to gather and disburse information. Led to publication of [Community-Based Research Ethics Review: Reflections on Experience and Recommendations for Action](#) (Downie, 2000). Deliverables included harmonizing policy guidelines among community and university-based

ethics review panels, developing community-based research ethics policy, evaluation of policy models, community-university networking, and participatory research.

- 1998 **Research Assistant, Joint Centre for Bioethics, University of Toronto**
Student editor for *Embodying Bioethics* (Purdy, 1999). Conducted literary review and analysis and responsible for creating and organising files of pertinent bioethics research.

Select Presentations, Seminars & Facilitation

- *Why Networks? Why Now?* Keynote Panel, Calgary Ethics and Medical School, May 2006
- *What are Networks?* Speaker & Facilitator, CHSRF Research Use Week (Atlantic), May 2006
- *The Power of Networks*, Coordinator & Facilitator, CHSRF Networks Leadership Summit, Halifax, October 2005 and Toronto, June 2006
- *Practising Women's Health*, Guest Speaker, Mini-Med School, University of Toronto, Sept 2003
- *Why should I care about Knowledge Exchange?* Special Seminar for Researchers, Centre for Research in Women's Health, April 2003
- *Is Women's Health Really Important?* Guest Speaker, Joint Centre for Bioethics, University of Toronto, March 2003
- *Prenatal Testing: A Question of Rights*, Guest Speaker, Seminar on Research Ethics, University of Toronto, November 2001
- *Testing our Moral Imagination: Medical Decision-Making & Disability*, 13th Annual Canadian Bioethics Conference, to be presented in Winnipeg, October 2001. (Recipient of the CBS Student Award)
- *Power & Responsibility: Confusions of a Feminist Academic*, BaitWorM Conference: Teaching As If The World Mattered, OISE, Toronto, May 2001
- *The Medicalisation of Violence Against Women: Challenges to Medical Practice & Discourse*, 12th Annual Canadian Bioethics Conference, Quebec City, October 2000 (Recipient of the CBS Student Award)
- *Examining the Ethics of Alternative Therapies*, Dalhousie University, December 1999
- *Defining 'Disability'?*, Community Outreach, Bloorview MacMillan Centre, July 1998-2001
- *What are we doing when we do 'ethics'?*, Graduate Seminar in Ethical Foundations of Bioethics, University of Toronto, January 1998
- *Non-verbal Communication*, Bloorview MacMillan Centre, May-June 1997, 1998
- *Disability & Sexuality*, University of Toronto Sexual Education Centre, January 1996

Certificates & Courses

- 2006: Management & Leadership Training
 2006: Yoga Instructor Certification
 2003: Facilitation Certificate
 2000: Conflict Resolution Training
 1999: First Aid & CPR Certificate

Volunteer & Community Service

- *Yoga Instructor*, St. Joe's Women's Shelter, Ottawa (*current*)
- *Karate, Assistant Instructor*, Toronto Karate Academy, Toronto (2000-2004)
- *Group Leader*, Polish Boy Scouts of Canada, Scarborough Division (1993-2004)
- *Tutor*, Private (1990-2004)
- *Teacher*, Home Schooling Program in Northern Quebec (1999)
- *Educator*, Peer Mediation Program, Toronto Separate School Board (1991-1999)
- *Caregiver*, Private Home Care for Elderly Independence, Chicago, IL (1995)
- *Educator*, Peer Mediation Program, Toronto Separate School Board (1991-1997)
- *Volunteer*, Kids Help Phone, Toronto (1993-1996)
- *Volunteer*, Mount Sinai Hospital, Toronto (1993-1995)
- *Volunteer*, Amnesty International (1991-1993)
- *Volunteer*, Toronto General Hospital, Toronto (1992-1994)
- *Volunteer*, St. Joseph's Hospital, Toronto (1988-1993)

*Please do not hesitate to contact me for an additional listing of presentations, workshop facilitation experience, written papers/publications, committee work, volunteer and community service, or any other questions you may have.
You can reach me by email at pmaksalon@gmail.com*
