

**Proposed Nominations for Election to the CPAWS Ottawa Valley Advisory Board  
Candidatures proposées au Conseil consultatif de la SNAP Vallée de l'Outaouais**

**23 septembre 2021 / September 23, 2021**

The CPAWS Ottawa Valley Nominations Committee recommends the following slate of candidates be elected to the Board for a three-year term commencing in 2021.

Le Comité de mise en candidatures de la SNAP-VO recommande que les candidates et candidats suivants soient élus pour un mandat de trois ans commençant en 2021.

**New Advisory Board Members / Nouveaux membres du Conseil consultatif :**

**Bola Alamu:**

Bola was born and raised in Lagos, Nigeria. In 2017, she moved to Canada with her family and has continued to be a regular user of national and provincial parks in the Ottawa/Gatineau region. She currently works as a risk assurance professional with an accounting firm in Ottawa.

Bola appreciates CPAWS's campaigns to protect and preserve Canada's natural spaces and wildlands. She looks forward to contributing her event planning and analytical skills to support the continued success of CPAWS.

**Gulmira Imanova;**

Gulmira is currently a Junior Policy Analyst with Environment and Climate Change Canada. Her interests include international development, Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) risks emanating from economic activity and international trade. She is motivated to dedicate her time, knowledge, and expertise to maintain her new home country Canada clean and protect its diverse wildlife. This way, the next generations, including her children, would have the same privilege to enjoy it as we do now.

Gulmira is finishing her second Master's degree - Master of Arts in European, Russian and Eurasian Studies at Carleton University. She also has degrees in international relations and public administration. In the past, she had interned with NGOs and international development institutions supporting their day-to-day operations, advocacy campaigns, and environmental events. She also reviewed sponsorship request applications from local NGOs and charities, being part of the Corporate Social Responsibility team in a mining company. This year she interned with Trade Facilitation Office Canada in Ottawa, assisting its Monitoring and Evaluation team. Before coming to Canada in 2019, Gulmira worked several years as a research analyst in SKOLKOVO Moscow School of Management in Russia and for over ten years in private and public sectors in strategic planning and investment analysis in extractive industries in Kazakhstan. Working in mining and petrochemical industries significantly contributed to her belief that responsible economic activity is indispensable for sustainable and inclusive growth

**Chris Reid :**

As a long-time resident of Ottawa, I spent my youth blissfully running, biking, camping and kayaking through the forests and rivers of Kanata North, the Gatineau Park, and the greater Ottawa Valley. As an adult with 3 young children, I've seen how human land development threatens those wonderful, natural spaces, and that's led me to want to help preserve them for my children and future generations to enjoy.

In my professional life I'm a Product Manager at a software company in Kanata North, and there are several skills from that job that would be of value to CPAWS. I've got familiarity with using social media, I'm definitely not the worst at writing, I'm used to helping to organize groups of people to accomplish a goal, and I'm very comfortable doing public speaking. I look forward to using those capabilities, as well as any others that I can bring to the table, to help CPAWS in whatever capacity would be helpful.

**Alison Sidney:**

Alison grew up in Oakville and moved to Ottawa in 2008 to pursue her Bachelor of Arts degree at Carleton University. During her studies, Alison focused on the intersection of sustainable development with community level leadership and decision making.

Alison has worked and volunteered for numerous non-profits including Ecology Ottawa, Environmental Defence, CPAWS-OV, Healthy Transportation Coalition, and is currently working as Director, Strategic Initiatives with Community Foundations of Canada. She is experienced with strategic decision making and developing strategic policy, partnership development and relationship building, program design and oversight, and community outreach, event planning, and member/customer service.

Following her studies, Alison remained living in Ottawa as she quickly grew to appreciate the easy access to nature while living in an urban environment. This led her to discovering CPAWS-OV (where she has volunteered in the past). She is looking forward to having the opportunity to more deeply contribute to the work of the organization. As a board member of CPAWS-OV, Alison is keen to contribute to its campaigns, most specifically the Gatineau Park - Make it a "Real" Park campaign, and the Parks and Protected Areas campaign.

In her spare time, you can find Alison kayaking, hiking, backcountry camping, exploring a new national or provincial park, most likely looking for wildlife.

**Graham Smart:**

Born and brought up in Ottawa, I've had a lifetime of enjoyment from and gratitude for the natural environment of the Ottawa Valley and Eastern Quebec, including, for example, white-water canoeing on the Dumoine, the Noire, and the Coulonge. I've recently reduced my teaching load at Carleton University after two decades of fulltime service in the School of Applied Linguistics and Language Studies, a decision that gives me more time for volunteering, with CPAWS offering an excellent opportunity for this. For the last 15 years I've taught a graduate course at Carleton called 'Environmental Discourse', a course in which we look at how language is used in public and policy debates regarding the environment, with climate change an obvious

topic of concern. While certainly open to taking on different types of tasks related to CPAWS' mission, I feel confident I could usefully contribute my experience and skills to CPAWS' communication efforts.