



Message from the CEO

It's a great pleasure to introduce myself as the new CEO at Pacifica. I started October 1 and have been enjoying a brief transition period with Interim CEO Mark Johns as he passes the torch. I'd like to thank Mark for all the work he has done for Pacifica for the past several months; his calm demeanor and sensitivity to the needs of our clients have been appreciated by everyone. His hard work has made the job much easier to step into.

Coming to Pacifica is a great opportunity for me at this point in my career. I am passionate about working with people who have had challenges with addictions, as well as mental health and trauma issues. Most recently, I worked with Street Haven at the Crossroads in Toronto. As director of operations at this multi-service organization for women experiencing or at risk of homelessness, I was responsible for its day-to-day operations including an emergency shelter, supportive housing, addiction services, and a learning centre. Previously, I was executive director at St. Michael's Homes, also in Toronto, which provides a continuum of programs and services including an addiction treatment facility and a supportive housing agency.

I intend to spend my initial time here listening to what the board, funders, staff, volunteers, clients and alumni tell me about what they see as Pacifica's strengths and where we could perform better. Vancouver is known across Canada as leading the way when it comes to addiction treatment and I see real opportunities to co-create an environment that exercises best practices.

I'd like to thank everyone for making me feel so welcome in my first days here. I am excited to have this opportunity to facilitate transformational change and to watch Pacifica's clients flourish.

Sincerely,
Ron Lirette



Pacifica Treatment Centre Society's mission is to promote health and recovery from addiction through treatment, education and support that strengthens individuals, families and communities.

As a non-profit organization, we rely on our funders and donors for their generous support. If you would like to make a donation to Pacifica, please visit our [website](#).

Race for Recovery

It was great to see so many alumni and other supporters at Pacifica's second annual Race for Recovery fun run and barbecue. Thanks to everyone who helped including alumni who provided live music and staff for running the barbecue. We also appreciated the input of Green Chair Recycling, which worked with us to make this a zero-waste event.

Pacifica's 2nd Annual 5K Race for Recovery AND Alumni BBQ



PACIFICA
treatment centre

Sunday Aug 11, 2019
— 10am - 2pm —

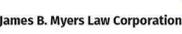
Start at southeast corner
of Trout Lake Park

PLEASE JOIN US as we celebrate our Alumni and foster healthy connections and physical activity as part of a wholesome recovery.

Please register at
www.eventbrite.com – Race for Recovery

For information on how to **register**,
volunteer, **sponsor** or be a **donor**,
please contact:
Kayla@pacificatreatment.ca
Tel: 604 872 5517 Ext 235



Sponsors:        



Board snapshot: Erin Chen-ying Offer

Since she joined the board in July 2018, Erin has been bringing her social worker and psycho-social perspectives to discussions. Board members now have more of a chance to consider different narratives about what may be happening in clients' lives. In addition to contributing these viewpoints, Erin also serves as the board's secretary.

"Pacifica offers clients a very comfortable and homey setting," she said. "It's not at all institutional."

Erin has a special interest in addictions and addiction policy and joined the Pacifica board because of her desire to contribute. Like most people, she remembers extended family members who struggled with addictions and mental health issues and often wondered why particular people were more vulnerable.

"I work on the frontlines in the Downtown Eastside, primarily with women who have young children or are pregnant and use substances," said Erin. "I feel privileged to work with them and have them accept my support."

In addition to her volunteer work with Pacifica, Erin also volunteers with the Hapa-palooza Festival, where she is producing a comedy show featuring mixed-race comedians.

When not working and volunteering, Erin enjoys hip-hop dancing, which she describes as being great for her own mental health. She also bikes "everywhere." She previously worked in the film industry and enjoys stand-up comedy. Her background includes earning her bachelor's degree in social work from UBC and her master's from U of T. Erin previously volunteered with St. Paul's Healing Circle, St. Paul's Hospice and Palliative Care, and the Centre for Gender Advocacy in Montreal.



Staff profile: Meet Ross Gledsdale, Client Care Worker

Pacifica has played an important part in Ross's life for several years, beginning in November 2016 when he first came to the centre as a volunteer. Helping here was a big part in his decision to return to school and pursue his Addiction Counselling Skills certificate at Vancouver Community College. As part of his certificate, he held a practicum position at Pacifica and was hired immediately thereafter. He has now been a staff member for close to a year.

"Being a client care worker means, to borrow the words of my colleague Rob Whalley, being here to help clients stay accountable," said Ross. "We work at the front desk answering phones, greeting guests, and doing other office work, but we're also available for 'triage' counselling. If clients are triggered, they may have a fight-or-flight



response. They may not be able to see their counsellor right away, or they may literally be making a run for the door. The role of a client care worker is to help ground them and then connect them with their counsellor as soon as possible.”

Every day at Pacifica brings Ross a sense of accomplishment. He likes interacting with the clients: working with them and hearing their stories and the insights and skills they gain during treatment.

“We have a truly compassionate environment here and all the staff genuinely care about our clients and want to support them,” he added. “I feel fully involved with my work and believe it allows me to use all my best skills. I’ve always admired Jean Vanier’s work and reading many of his books inspired my own philosophy of recognizing people by their capacity to be human, not their inability to meet the human standard.”