

CISV CANADA - National Leadership Training

Hello! It is my pleasure to introduce you to CISV Canada's NLTC. Our job is to train all the leaders that CISV Canada sends internationally and nationally every year. We plan and run the national trainings that occur in the spring of each year, and ensure that our training materials are to the current international standards.



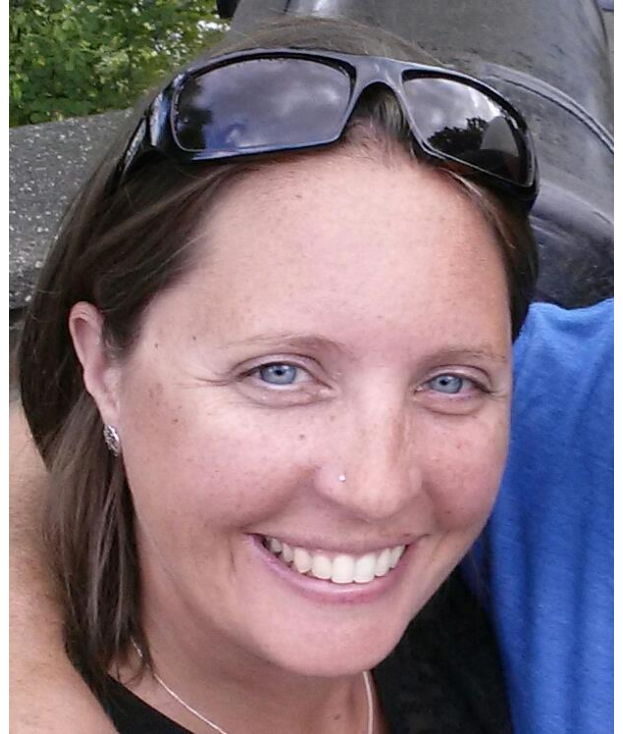
2018 National Trainers (Back Row): Marcel Pennington, Phyllis-Ann Downey, Kevin Atcheson, Mackenzie Higa (Front Row): Cristen Keeney, Dana Machin, Mercedes Fogarassy. Alyssa Alidina (NLTC Chair) (Missing: Jason Hanson)

Dana Machin

Chapter: Waterloo

Dana was only introduced to CISV in 2008, although she wishes that she had known about it earlier so that she could have partaken as a delegate. She has been a leader for 3 interchanges, a village, and a step-up program. She also staffed a step-up program in Waterloo. Dana's been involved with the regional workshops by training both interchange leaders and step-up staff. At the local level, Dana has served as a board member and was responsible for selection and recruitment of her chapter.

Dana likes to get "dressed up" and wear clothes that don't involve an elastic waistband, as she lives in sweats all day as a high school Phys. Ed teacher. Her life has changed in the last year and a half as she is now a Mom to a very active and awesome son named Gavin.



Marcel Pennington

Chapter: Saskatoon

Marcel was a lucky 11 year old to experience a Village in Spain. Since that first CISV experience he cooked at a Village, attended a Step-Up Camp, JC'd in Toronto, and in 2010 lead a Village to Iceland. He has been trained by the NLTC, helped as a program trainer for the NLTC, and has been on the NLTC since 2013. Now he is the chapter chair for CISV Saskatoon.

He is a proud new daddy, baby girl Kora is the center of his world. Outside of being a dad he is a bicycle fanatic, and pedals year round in Saskatoon. Other than two wheeled hobbies he; works as a mechanical engineer, enjoys outdoor adventures, snuggles from his pugs, and home cooked food!



Cristen Keeney

Chapter: Halifax

Cristen joined CISV in 2011 and has loved every minute of it. She has been a Village, YM and Step Up leader as well as international and national Step Up Staff. She has even dabbled in Camp Directing. She has also become heavily involved in her local chapter and is the Chapter Development Coordinator for CISV Canada.

Outside of CISV, Cristen is a manager organizing school tours and running a corn maze at a local farm, a wanna-be teacher, an avid rugby fan and rugby coach.

Alyssa Alidina

Chapter: Toronto (previously Vancouver and Halifax)

Alyssa joined CISV Vancouver in the fall of 2000, CISV Halifax in 2009 and then CISV Toronto in 2011. With a grown-up job being mandatory these days, the NTLC provides her with an opportunity to train leaders to ensure Canadian JB'ers not only have as much fun as she did over the years but learn something as well. Since 2000, she has had the opportunity to experience a number of different programs as a participant, staff and leader as well as to participate in various national meetings, training sessions and more recently, as the Risk Management Liaison for the last couple of years.

Much to the surprise of many who knew this tomboy in her youth, Alyssa now works for one of the big banks in Canada (hint: the green one) and can usually be found wandering the Financial District of Toronto. She does quite a bit of travel for work (though it's nowhere near as fun as CISV) and is looking forward to chairing the NTLC, hoping she can make a valuable contribution to the amazing team of people across this great nation!





Phyllis-Ann Downey

Chapter: Halifax

Phyllis-Ann discovered CISV Halifax in 2012 and after attending a few local events and loving everything CISV stands for and believes in she became a leader for a step up in 2013 in Gothenburg, Sweden. It was such an amazing experience for her and her delegates that she led another group of CISVers to Lyon, France in 2014. And recently staffed a super awesome youth meeting in Halifax with fellow NLTC member Cristen!

In her real life Phyllis-Ann is an elementary school teacher and enjoys hiking and travelling. She is excited to continue her involvement with CISV as a member of the NLTC!

Kevin Atcheson

Chapter: Victoria

Kevin joined CISV as a Step Up leader in 2007 before spending the next three years as the chapter's JB Liaison followed by three years responsible for leadership recruitment, selection and training. During that time Kevin also staffed a Youth Meeting and helped as a program trainer for the NLTC. Kevin is now excited to be working with leaders from across the country as a member of the NLTC.

Kevin is a busy new Dad to his handsome boy Liam! He works as an election administrator (yup, that's a full time job!). He also enjoys watching and playing soccer, traveling, and otherwise spending time outdoors.





Mercedes Fogarassy

Chapter: Toronto (previously Vancouver!)

Mercedes has been involved with CISV since the ripe age of 10 when she attended a minicamp. Since then, she's been hooked! Having done nearly every programme as a participant, Mercedes loves sharing her experiences in CISV, and encouraging everyone she meets to get involved. She is very involved in Junior Branch; a part of the Americas regional team, and represents Canada at all levels of the organization. Mercedes recently received her TTT certification in Lima, Peru in 2016. Locally, she stays active in the Toronto chapter, although originally hailing from Vancouver, BC, and loves meeting new CISVers, youth and parents alike. Outside of CISV, Mercedes is currently finishing up her bachelor's degree at the University of

Toronto, in a super CISV-centric degree - International Relations & Peace, Conflict, and Justice Studies!

Mercedes has a weird obsession with sloths, corgis, play lays, and nutella (not all together, of course), and will talk your ear off about anything and everything you can think of!

Jason Hanson

Chapter: Ottawa

Jason first lent his hand to CISV as a replacement leader in 2013 and loved it so much that he has been doing camps every summer (and sometimes in winter too) ever since. To date, he has led two Villages and a Step-Up, staffed a Village and two Seminars, and directed a Step-Up. He is also very active at the local level in various ways and is currently engaged in getting a new CISV Chapter set up in Sudbury Ontario.

Outside of CISV, Jason works on Parliament Hill and is active in a professional development program studying how Government can better address Sustainable Development Goals beyond Canada 150. In his spare time, Jason enjoys camping, karaoke, and cuddling with his pug, but not necessarily in that order.





Mackenzie Higa

Chapter: Vancouver

Mackenzie has been a part of CISV since the tender age of 11 years old. He has been a Step-Up delegate, a JC, a leader and a staff over his long CISV career. He is very active within CISV Vancouver as the JB liaison where he helps the JB plan and run local CISV events.

When he's not volunteering for CISV, he's either coding, going to the gym or watching *The Office*. Mackenzie is a student at Simon Fraser University and works part-time as a Web Developer. He enjoys long walks on the beach, hiking and a responsible evening out.

CISV Canada's National Leadership Training Committee is here for you, and values your input.
You can contact us at: nltc.team@ca.cisv.org