

Gold Humanitarian Award

Mr. Efrem Teklemariam M.Sc., FEC, PMP, P.Eng.

Efrem Teklemariam is a Professional Engineer (P.Eng), Project Management Professional (PMP), Fellow of Engineers Canada (FEC) and Department Manager of Water Resources Engineering with Manitoba Hydro, Canada. Efrem has over 30 years of experience in the field of civil engineering in various parts of the world, including Africa, Middle East, Latin America, Europe and North America.

Born and raised in Eritrea and Ethiopia, Efrem moved to Canada in 1989 and has made it home ever since. Efrem is a recipient of the 2008 Citation for Citizenship, an award that honors Canadians who have made outstanding contributions in assisting newcomers to integrate into Canadian society. Efrem is a compassionate, strongly dedicated humanitarian who is committed to making a positive difference in people's lives through his vast professional, volunteer and philanthropic activities. Efrem has sponsored over 80 immigrants and refugees to Canada from different parts of the world, regardless of their ethnicity, race and religion. As Board of Director of Citizenship Council of Manitoba, Efrem spearheaded and championed the establishment of Manitoba START – the Province's leading provider of career development services to new comers, including Ethiopians and Eritreans.



As a founding member of the Internationally-Educated Engineers Qualifications (IEEQ) Program, Efrem played a key role in the development and implementation of the IEEQ program at the University of Manitoba, wherein internationally-educated engineers from all parts of the world (including Ethiopians and Eritreans) are now benefitting from it. Thanks to Efrem's selfless efforts, coaching and mentoring, Winnipeg has now several Ethiopian and Eritrean trained engineers with licenses to practice engineering in Manitoba. Since 2010, with the understanding that together, we are stronger, Efrem has advocated the need to form a strong Ethiopian and Eritrean origin engineers' professional association. Subsequently, the Ethio-Eritrean Engineers Geoscientists Manitoba (E3GM) association has been established on January 28, 2017, electing Efrem as its first President.

As a founding member and Board of Director & Chair of ALENA Soccer Club, Efrem has been instrumental in the creation of one of the largest, yet strong and sustainable East African (Ethio-Eritrean) Soccer Club in Manitoba – free of ethnicity, race, and religion influence. Efrem has also volunteered his time and experience to several non-profit organizations, including Alzheimer Society of Manitoba, Canadian Diabetes Association, and Manitoba Families for Autism Treatment.

Efrem is married to a loving, caring, kind, understanding, and supportive wife – Nazareth – for 30 years, and together they have three children – Helen, Jonathan and Matthew.

We, the ECCPA would like to honor Engineer Efrem for his endless support and commitment to all people of ethnicity, especially for his work and dedication to the Ethiopian and Eritrean communities in Winnipeg, MB. Congratulations Engineer Efrem for your hard work and commitment to humanity!





Humanitarian DINKNESH (LUCY) Award

Mrs. Merdia Imame

It is a privilege to present Mrs. Merdia Imame the 2019 Humanitarian Dinknesh (Lucy) Award and an honor to acknowledge her selfless acts of humanity and compassion for the Ethiopian and Eritrean community in Winnipeg, MB.

Mrs. Imame was born and raised in Ethiopia. She attended university there and became a refugee in Kenya for almost a year before arriving in Canada in 1987. She married her loving husband and had two beautiful children.

Her initial work in Winnipeg consisted of working in a factory. Her academic achievements include attending the University of Winnipeg for Math and Commerce and received a government grant to enhance her education. She received her investment license and began working for the Royal Bank of Canada in 1990, where she has spent the last 29 years, currently working as a financial advisor. In addition to her employment, she is also a community member of 50 Lomi, Manitoba Interface Support, Winnipeg Women's Association, her children's school board and the Manitoba Islamic Association with the events committee. She volunteers her time at United Way, Siloam Mission and various activities and events at her children's school.



Although she has strong religious beliefs, her true faith in unity and equality has been her platform to succeed in advocating for those less fortunate and in need of support. She holds a high level of unbiased beliefs and has made prominent efforts to bridge social gaps that have been based on political and religious issues. As an active member in the community, Mrs. Imame has taken several initiatives to promote the importance of unification to succeed in obtaining equality.

She actively participates in social functions in the community and has contributed her time and effort in various charities for the sole purpose of raising funds and awareness for poverty-stricken elderly individuals in Ethiopia. She strives to assist new immigrants utilizing her knowledge and resources from work. Her guidance has helped educate several community members and has resulted in their establishment of saving money and obtaining their first mortgage. In her spare time she enjoys cooking and interior design.

The ECCPA Board of Directors proudly present the 2019 Humanitarian Dinknesh Ethiopia (Lucy) Award to Mrs. Merdia Imame for her outstanding role in the community. Her acts of humanity and great will to form unity within her community has shown her capacity to succeed. Thank you for perseverance and commitment.

Excellence of Humanitarian Award

Ms. Altash Yirdaw

The recipient for the 2019 Excellence of Humanitarian Award is not only an exceptional individual but is a great leader with example for today's generation.

Ms. Altash Yirdaw was born and raised in Ethiopia with extraordinary aspirations of one day making an unforgettable impression with her acts of advocacy and humanity. She worked hard in Ethiopia with the goal of coming to Canada for a better life. She left Ethiopia in 1984 and spent 1½ years in Djibouti as a refugee. In 1987 she arrived in Edmonton, AB to begin her life in Canada. There she had two children, and eventually made the trek to Winnipeg, MB in 1991 where she began to plant her roots.



Ms. Yirdaw single-handedly raised two beautiful children while obtaining an education for career purposes with the mission of providing a better life for herself and her children. She studied at the Red River Community College to obtain a degree in Chemical and Bioscience. Currently she works for the Canadian Grain Commission and has spent the last 25 years as a Lab Technologist. With deep Christian beliefs, she is an active member of her church and puts in a great deal of time and effort contributing to the Ethiopian community with her presence, and social activism. Her love for Ethiopia is significant and goes to great lengths to promote the culture. In addition she advocates for the rights of her fellow countrymen and will not give up on her firm beliefs of unity.

A remarkable Christian woman for human rights, Ms. Yirdaw travelled to Beirut with friends and her daughter based on discretion to capture evidence-based proof of the harsh treatment and unfortunate tragedies that took place with Ethiopian women. Along with her friends and daughter, she advocated for her fellow Ethiopian women by vocalizing their rights and providing means of assistive aids for them. They raised funds for financial aid when needed and has continued to raise awareness for the rights of not only women but for every individual in such circumstances.



Ms. Yirdaw is a firm believer in equal rights, and her many acts of humanity is a reflection of this. In coordination with other members of her community, she participates in fundraising events for the purpose of raising funds for those less fortunate in Ethiopia, specifically for the elderly individuals who are homeless and in need of essential supplies.

The ECCPA Board of Directors is proud to present the 2019 "Excellence of Humanitarian Award" to Ms. Altash Yirdaw for her prominent role in achieving success through her humanitarian service and genuine support in the community.

Leadership Award

Mr. Surafel Kuchem

Mr. Surafel Kuchem was born in Ethiopia. He lived in Addis Ababa. He attended Yared Music School and completed one year of education there by the age of 18. After he lost his parents, his uncle became his guardian and sponsored him to Canada in 2005.

In Canada, Mr. Kuchem initially had a custodial job but had great aspirations of having a good education in order to work towards having a professional career in Education. He decided to leave his job and upgrade his high school diploma. After this he attended the University of Winnipeg, obtaining a Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Education. He had attained his greatest goal at this point. As a strong believer in education he proceeded to make teaching a career and has become a teacher with the Winnipeg School Division. Furthermore, he also runs an after school program with Peaceful Village.



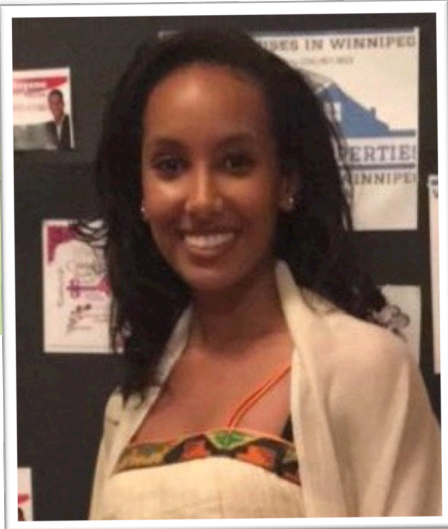
Mr. Kuchem is voluntarily involved in a multitude of education programs in Winnipeg. He is a member of the Newcomers Education Coalition, a Board of Director at TEAL (Teachers of English As an Additional Language), Co-Chair for MTS PD day Conference, a member of the Civic Engagement project through the Manitoba Social Planning council, and the Board of Director for WELARC (Winnipeg English Language Assessment and Referral Centre).

Aside from his educational background, Mr. Kuchem has an exquisite passion for music. He loves to sing and play various types of musical instruments. He is self-taught with instrument use and enjoys collaborating music with others.

Mr. Kuchem has a reputation for his leadership and mentorship skills. He has used his educational background as a platform and has provided guidance to several young people in the community. He strongly believes that “education is a way out of our struggles” and is keen on sharing his wealth of knowledge and resources to those in need. He is a strong-willed individual who holds his Ethiopian roots close to his heart and takes great pride in unity and equality in the community.

The ECCPA Board of Directors is proud to present the 2019 Leadership Award to Mr. Surafel Kuchem, for his dedication and commitment to humanity in the community. His bona fide personality and humility has made him exemplary amongst us. Thank you for your presence and countless acts of support. You are truly a blessing.





Strive for Excellence Award

Ms. Winta Lakew

Ms. Winta Lakew was born in Sudan and immigrated to Canada 14 years ago. She is of both Ethiopian and Eritrean heritage and values these roots deeply. Her cultural traditions and ethnic background are very important to her. She extends her cultural beliefs to the young people in her community by actively participating in a multitude of organizations.

Ms. Winta contributes an immense amount of time working closely with the Ethiopian Society of Winnipeg, where she currently holds the role of President. In addition to this she is also the events coordinator for the Folklorama Festival in Winnipeg, representing the Ethiopian pavilion. There, she participates in training dance with youths and performs alongside of them.

Her active role in the community not only consists of being present amongst her people but she projects her mission to share her ethnicity and beliefs in order to enable the younger generation to acknowledge and appreciate her heritage. The foundation of her success stems from her history and traditions through her culture.

Ms. Winta has great pride in the work she has done with the younger generation. She has taken immeasurable steps to advocate for her fellow countrymen and promotes her culture extensively. Her mentorship and leadership skills are admirable, and she has inspired many people in her community, especially youths to work hard and appreciate their heritage.



Through her diligent work and the countless efforts she has contributed in the community, Ms. Winta has made a reputation for herself of being a prominent example to the future generation of youths. Because of her perseverance, younger people in the community are enthusiastic with their aspirations to succeed at unspeakable levels.

The ECCPA Board of Directors is pleased to present the 2019 Strive for Excellence Award to Ms. Winta Lakew. Her presence is a breath of fresh air and she is a delight to have amongst us.



PILLARS *of* ETHIOPIA



Mr. Ali Hussein

The ECCPA Board of Directors is please to honor Mr. Ali Hussein with the “Pillars of Ethiopia Award” for his commitment, hard work and dedication for all Ethiopians, Eritreans and all other ethnicities in our city.

Mr. Hussein is a humanitarian, activist, politician, loving husband of 36 years to his wife Ayni Omer Ahmad and a proud father to seven children, and grandfather to 12 grandchildren. While he lived in Ethiopia, he was a well-known textile designer.



His journey to Canada began with a rough start. He was a prisoner who sustained multiple injuries fighting for his rights and codes he believed in and fought hard for his people in Ethiopia. His will to live and to never give up led him to Winnipeg, MB which he now calls his safe home. Since his freedom, he has made a life commitment to advocate for those who were also incarcerated for no reasons or justifications, making it a mission to never forget those he left behind. His love for his country is indescribable. His commitment to his native flag is admirable.

Since he planted his roots in Winnipeg, he has worked in various fields such as human services providing support to individuals with disabilities. He also opened his doors to many individuals who have struggled in their own life journey, fostering them as their own father. Through his endless care and support those individuals have improved their own

lives and have succeeded in their goals of business and entrepreneurship.

Mr. Hussein is one of the founding fathers of the Ethiopian Society of Winnipeg. He is one of those who believed in bringing Ethiopia to Canada and conceived the society we all know now as the Ethiopian Society of Winnipeg. He is a hard-working man and puts endless efforts into everything he believes in, whether it's a charity event to fund those who are less fortunate or advocating for someone who has less than he does.

In the last 30 years. Mr. Hussein has diligently sponsored over 100 people from Ethiopia and Eritrea to Canada. He also worked as a translator for the Refugee Board of Canada and advocated for refugees with no support. He spoke in public and did a presentation at the Human Rights museum, which was viewed by thousands of visitors.

One of his creative attributes is poetry writing, which enables him to express his inner thoughts and feelings and joyfully shares this with his community in Canada and around the world. In addition he has written a movie regarding his life's journey and the fight he sustained for his freedom.

The ECCPA would like to thank Mr. Ali Hussein for his mentorship, leadership, counseling and father-like support to our community.

Because of your dedication and commitment, we are pleased to honor you with this award.





PILLARS *of* ETHIOPIA



Dr. Taye Zegeye

Dr. Taye Zegeye arrived in Winnipeg, MB in 1987, with strong beliefs of one Ethiopia to all Ethiopians. He has worked endlessly from his conceptions for the Ethiopian community in Winnipeg.

He is a loving husband to his beautiful wife, Aikaterini Zegeye-Gebrehiwot of 35 years, a dedicated father to his two children, and a proud grandfather to his one grandchild.



Prior to his arrival in Canada, Dr. Zegeye lived in Sri Lanka and Greece, obtaining degrees in coffee, tea and plant science and a PhD in Plant Science. His first child was born in Greece. He eventually settled in Winnipeg, MB where he initially worked in a bakery after his arrival. He currently works for Agriculture Canada.

To this day, Dr. Zegeye continues his consistent support with any aspect of our community needs since it was conceived several years ago. He has an undying support and love for his people and strives to provide the necessary support that is required.

He is an elder-like figure in our community and has a

high respect from his fellow countrymen. He frequently goes out of his way to reach every ethnic, religion, and social back ground. He has committed himself for the love of Ethiopia and one unity in our society. He has been generous with his financial aid, his knowledge in providing support to our community with his counselling and deep knowledge of the Canadian system. He has guided and brought our community to the forefront.

Dr. Zegeye is loved and well respected by all generations. His humility and friendly approach to everyone has made him a safe place to go to in times of need. He continues to be the pillar for our community and guides our society in both good and bad times. As one of the supporters of our community, Dr. Zegeye has played a significant center role in the place of our community today.

The ECCPA Board of Directors is more than pleased to honor you with its 2019 "Pillars of Ethiopia" award for your commitment, hard work and sacrifice to make our community a better place. Dr. Taye Zegeye, thank you for your perseverance, kindness, humility and service.





PILLARS *of* ETHIOPIA



Mr. Solomon Mekonen

Mr. Solomon Mekonen arrived in Winnipeg, MB in 1984. He has been married to his beautiful wife, Egidayehu Mukuria, for almost 20 years. They have three children, one of whom followed in his footsteps by serving in the Navy in Canada, and a proud grandfather to one grandchild.

Prior to Mr. Mekonen's journey to Canada, he spent eight years in the Ethiopian Navy and spent some time in Sudan afterwards as a refugee.



For those who know Mr. Mekonen, you can say without any hesitation that he is a positive, enthusiastic and generous man. He is uplifting and provides laughter on much needed occasions. He actively participates in social events in the community and generously donates his

time and money to such functions. He is one of the founding fathers of the Ethiopia Society of Winnipeg and firmly believes in bringing Ethiopia to Canada.

A proud believer in unity, Mr. Mekonen strives to provide advocacy in the Ethiopian community. He has sponsored several individuals to Winnipeg, MB in order to provide them an opportunity to have a better life in Canada. With his humor and friendly approach, he is a highly respected, elder-like man in our community.

Mr. Mekonen is known not only for his sense of humor and fun-loving attitude, but also for his kind words, emotional and financial support in times of

grief. He is a great support to those who have suffered loss and are less fortunate.

Because of his commitment, positive beliefs and firm optimism, he has made our community much stronger and a better place to be in. You can always count on Mr. Mekonen to be one of the very first people to be there for community events.



The ECCPA Board of Directors is very pleased to present the 2019 Pillars of Ethiopia Award to Mr. Solomon Mekonen for his endless support and commitment to the community. His presence and dedication is greatly appreciated, and for this our community is much more positive and stronger.

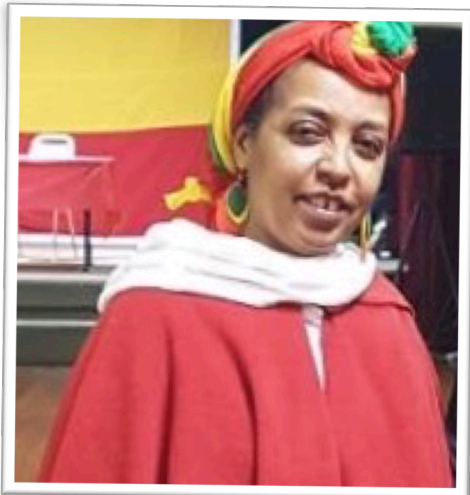


PILLARS *of* ETHIOPIA



Mrs. Meseret Laike

Meseret Laike was born and raised in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. She has 3 brothers and 4 sisters. She received a scholarship to go to Bulgaria and became an electrical engineer. Due to the political situation in Ethiopia, Meseret was unable to return at that time; instead she went to Italy, and spent 1 year as a refugee before coming to Winnipeg, MB in 1994.



She pursued her hopes of obtaining an accredited certification in electrical engineering in Canada, however her family was a priority and chose to be there for her family first. She married her sweetheart Mewael Rezene 23 years ago and together they have 1 handsome son.

Meseret became an electrical assembler instead and has been doing this ever since. She volunteers her time with the Red Cross, and is an active member and co-founder of the Ethiopian Orthodox church. In addition she was also the president and treasurer for the Ethiopian Society of Winnipeg. Currently she serves as the Vice-President for the Ethiopian community.

The Ethiopian culture is an important aspect of Meseret's life. She has contributed her time and efforts to promote and advocate for her culture, and firmly believes in the unification and equality of Ethiopians here in Canada.

During her spare time Meseret is an avid reader and enjoys spending time with her family and friends. Her firm beliefs in the importance of family have paved the road for her to succeed in achieving her goals to plant her roots here in Canada, enabling her to help others in need of support and guidance.

The ECCPA Board of Directors is honored to present the 2019 Pillars of Ethiopia Award to Mrs. Meseret Laike in recognition of her merits in the community. The commitment and loyalty she holds for her culture has made it a privilege to have her among us. Thank you for your dedication and endless support.





PILLARS *of* ETHIOPIA



Mr. Zena Mussie

It is an honor to present the 2019 Pillars of Ethiopia Award to Mr. Zena Mussie, who like no other, has made a unique imprint of his good-heartedness within his community.



Mr. Mussie's journey began in Ethiopia where he was born and raised. He became a refugee in Greece for three years before arriving in Canada. He met his wife of 23 years, Tsehai Ketema, who is also the recipient of the ECCPA 2017 Gold Humanitarian Award. Together they have three handsome sons. He worked very hard upon his arrival in Winnipeg, MB, working in various industries, with a goal of establishing his own business in the transportation industry. Successfully, he achieved this with his determination and hard work.

Through his own trials and tribulations, Mr. Mussie has made it a purpose to commemorate his culture and roots by uniting all Ethiopians in Winnipeg through acts of activism and advocacy. He is a firm believer of unity and equality amongst people, no matter what race, nationality or religion. With his benevolent nature, Mr. Mussie has captured the respect of the community. He has a genuine level of compassion for those less fortunate and makes solid efforts to provide relief to those in need. With his own resources and knowledge, he has made several

contributions to poverty-stricken people in Ethiopia who have no means of support. He actively participates in social functions and fundraisers to provide financial aid to those in need of support in the community and raises funds in order to support programs in Ethiopia.

Mr. Mussie is a board member of the ECCPA. Through his countless acts of humanity, he has earned an impeccable reputation for his humility, kindness and genuine friendliness. His approachable demeanor has made him a delight to collaborate with. He has been an excellent mentor to many newcomers and has also been a big brother to lean on for those in need. He is a strong advocate for the Ethiopian community in Winnipeg and has served in several capacities in the community to improve the quality of life for new immigrants with the sole purpose of uniting all. For those who know Mr. Mussie, they will say without any reservation that he is a trustworthy, generous, and loyal friend.



The ECCPA Board of Directors is pleased to honor Mr. Zena Mussie with the 2019 Pillars of Ethiopia Award. Thank you for your presence in our community. It is a privilege to have you amongst us.



PILLARS of ETHIOPIA



Ms. Fekerte Desta Mekonen

Ms. Fekerte Desta Mekonen was born and raised in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. In 1986 she left Ethiopia and moved to Sudan. She resided there for four years as a refugee. She has four children and four grandchildren.

Through the Canadian government sponsorship program, Ms. Mekonen left Sudan and moved to Winnipeg, MB in 1990. Initially her first career venture in Canada involved catering from her home, cooking a multitude of delicious Ethiopian food. She had a unique reputation for her cooking skills and for the food she made. Afterwards, she explored another area of work and chose to go into the health care field, later becoming a certified Health Care Aide, which she currently continues to do.



Since residing in Winnipeg, she became highly involved in the Ethiopian community. She quickly recognized the fragility of the community, and has since made it a mission to make every effort to strengthen it as best she could and with any means she had.

Ms. Mekonen has voluntarily joined various organizations, offering her time and support. She was

the president and a public relations officer for the Ethiopian Society of Winnipeg, a translator for Interface through Immigration Canada, and has independently sponsored over 17 Ethiopian refugees from all over the world.

Through her own trials and tribulations, Ms. Mekonen has used this as an example to teach and improve not only her life but also the lives of others. She has offered her knowledge and time to support those in need, and has even opened her own door to provide shelter to those who did not have a roof to sleep under. A strong advocate for her fellow countrymen, Ms. Mekonen has empowered individuals in the community to work hard and believe in themselves.

The ECCPA Board of Directors is honored to present the 2019 Pillars of Ethiopia Award to Ms. Fekerte Desta Mekonen for your exemplary involvement in the community.

Thank you for your extensive efforts and dedication that you have given to us. Your hard work, commitment and support benefit all of us and will always be appreciated.





PILLARS *of* ETHIOPIA



Mr. Mengistu A. Kinde

There are no words to describe the commitment and hard work that Mr. Mengistu A. Kinde has put into the Ethiopian community and the establishment of his services.



Prior to his arrival to Canada, Mr. Kinde lived in Ethiopia. He spent 10 years in the Ethiopian army as a 2 star senior officer. He trained several army officers before spending time in Sudan as a refugee from 1982-1984.

Mr. Kinde came to Canada in 1984 alone and worked hard in various industries, working towards his goal of establishing his own business. A dedicated husband to Mekdes Kinde and a proud and loving father to two beautiful children, Mr. Kinde is at the forefront in the Ethiopian community, giving his hand to help and knowledge to his fellow countrymen in any means to improve the lives of those around him. He has

sponsored several Ethiopians who are now in Winnipeg and other surrounding cities in Canada and the U.S. Mr. Kinde holds an elder-like influence in our community and is highly respected by his peers. He is known to participate in several fundraisers, charity work and crisis intervention in the community, lending a hand in social, financial and emotional levels when needed.

The ECCPA is delighted to honor Mr. Mengistu A. Kinde with its prestigious award for his commitment, dedication, humanitarian acts and for his advocacy for Ethiopians and Eritreans in our community.

Mr. Kinde, we are pleased to honor you with the 2019 "Pillars of Ethiopia" award in recognition of your services and involvement in our community. Your presence amongst us is felt each day, and for this, we feel we are better people for having you with us.

