





PRESS RELEASE: ANNOUNCEMENT – BOARD CHAIR

WTAL is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Philomina Okeke-Ihejirika as Board Chair. The Executive and Organizing Committee is excited to welcome Dr. Phil to the organization. Dr. Phil was a panelist in WTALs Woman and The Society event for the year 2023, but prior to that, had acted in an advisory capacity to the organization's leadership on several occasions. Dr. Phil is no stranger to women affairs. Over the last three decades, she has maintained tenure as a professor (of Women and Gender Studies) at the University of Alberta. She holds Directorial positions on the Council for the Development of Economic and Social Research in Africa (CODESRIA), and the Pan-African Collaboration for Excellence (PACE). She is also the Chair of Premier's Council on Multiculturalism and a collaborating researcher with the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development and gender-related initiatives across Canada, Africa, and other parts of the world.

Dr. Phil, brings, in particular, a critical feminist lens (which is very well tailored to our organization) into a wide range of her undertakings. Her work (including research) is supported by prominent funders, including the Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada, Status of Women Canada and Rotary International. She works with a vast network of Canadian service providers and policymakers.

Dr. Phil will serve as Board Chair, as well as Director of Organizational Effectiveness, to ensure that the organization continues to maintain effective performance and remain abreast of the needs of women and appropriateness of our resolution. We are so excited for Dr. Phil to bring her expertise in women affairs, social research, and her proficiency in leading groups in vision interpretation and execution, to WTAL.

ABOUT WTAL

WTAL (*Woman, Thou Art Loosed*) Canada is a female-focused non-profit organization. WTAL is carving a niche for itself by limiting touchpoints and channels for all women by constituting a melting pot for a comprehensive range of services to meet an assortment of need. At WTAL, we believe that every member of the female community deserves the opportunity to succeed, "a seat at the table", have their voice heard, and identical ingress to any/all advantage and available resources, comparable to societal counterparts and we are committed to taking on this responsibility as we connect the female community vertically and horizontally.

Communication team,

WTAL Canada

Raising women giants in all vocations...



ABOUT DR. PHILOMINA OKEKE-IHEJIRIKA.

Dr. Phil Okeke-Ihejirika is a full professor in the department of Women's and Gender Studies at the University of Alberta in Edmonton, Canada. Her areas of expertise include Gender and Higher Education in Africa, and African International Migration. Her research, teaching and other professional activities contribute to a wide array of scholarly forums, embracing a broad network of academic institutions, scholars, and international agencies, including the Carnegie Corporation of New York and the Council for the Development of Economic and Social Research in Africa (CODESRIA). As a community-based researcher, policymakers, service providers and community partners are central to her work as stakeholders accorded agency in every stage of knowledge production and translation.



Dr. Okeke-Ihejirika is also actively involved in community building as a resource person to many community organizations, service providers and public agencies in Alberta. She belongs, among others, to the Women Advocacy Voice of Edmonton (WAVE), a 15-member advisory committee on gender issues to the city's Mayor-and-Council. She has earned many academic, professional and community awards locally and in international circles including Killam scholar, Carnegie fellow, a founding member of the College of Mentors for African Universities, and a collaborating researcher with the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development.

