

# Ashlynn Chand

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I'm a researcher, writer, and communications professional with a focus on gender equity, labour rights, and inclusive development. I aim to contribute to gender equity and social inclusion through evidence-based programming, stakeholder collaboration, rights-based advocacy and robust research. With demonstrated experience in investigative journalism in Canada, and community-led research in Southeast Asia, I seek to further my career within the broad world of Non-Governmental Organizations, International Development and Public Policy, where I know my experiences will support and uplift marginalized communities. My work is grounded in a feminist, anti-oppressive lens.

## Education

### **M.A. Development Studies**

*York University CGPA: 4.0*

- Masters Research Thesis: "pls snd me pics": Sexual harassment and Indonesian and Filipino domestic workers in urban Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. This thesis draws on 4 months of research with 33 participants in urban Malaysia.
- Developed expertise in qualitative research, policy analysis, and stakeholder engagement, with a focus on marginalized workers.

### **B.A. Psychology and B.A. English (Double Major)**

*University of Alberta*

## Skills:

- **Stakeholder Engagement:** Experience liaising with government agencies, NGOs, and international organizations
- **Community Development:** Expertise in designing training, workshops, and capacity-building initiatives
- **Communications:** Strong background in media relations, content creation, and communications
- **Technical Proficiency:** Microsoft Office, WordPress, Canva, iMovie, MailChimp, Active Campaign, Hindenburg
- **Languages:** Fluent in English; conversational Spanish and Fiji Hindi.

## Professional Experience

October 2024 – January 2024

### **Indigenous Data Sovereignty Graduate Assistant | York University**

- SSHRC/PDG: Emancipatory Horizons for Self-determination of Indigenous and Afro-descendant Peoples in Central America
- Identified the conceptual designs for the creation of an Indigenous Data Repository
- Liaised with collaborators, external partner institutions and organizations involved in the project
- Prepared a 16 page report on Indigenous data sovereignty principles for project
- Assisted with digital communications strategies for project

May 2024 – July 2024

**Intern | Our Journey (Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia)**

- Assisted with the implementation of MyVoice Project, an initiative seeking to reduce forced labour and child labour in the palm oil and garment industries in Sabah and Semenanjung regions
- Created promotional content for Just Good Work App - a new rights based app directed to migrant workers to share rights based resources
- Assisted with labour trainings of Filipino domestic workers

January 2023 – Present

**Arts Editor | This Magazine**

- Edited arts and ideas section of magazine
- Guided new writers to develop stories

September 2020 – Present

**Freelance Writer | Various, Remote**

- Improved critical analysis and research skills through researching and analyzing new information to generate original content for submissions
- Strengthened pitching ideas to editors and effectively communicated with clients
- Delivered clean copy to editors on diverse topics ranging from film reviews to labour issues
- Clients include: AfterMeToo/Canadian Women's Foundation, Toronto Star, Ricochet Media, The Walrus, Jacobin

June 2022 – September 2022

**Labour Reporting Intern | PressProgress**

- Produced original journalism focused on labour issues and sex work in Canada
- Built community connections and pitching unique story angles
- Strengthened skills around newsletter production, branding/marketing, and collecting labour news information by assisting with the production of *Shift Work*, the weekly labour newsletter

October 2021 – February 2022

**Community Journalist/Community Development Worker | Rat Creek Press**

- Improved critical analysis and research skills to generate original content for submissions
- Utilized interpersonal skills to forge genuine relationships with communities and provided compelling coverage for print and online media
- Earned praised from management for speed and accuracy in reporting

September 2020 – December 2020

**Community Service Practicum | Jewish Senior Citizen Centre**

- Developed and implemented a social media strategy plan to promote organization's Facebook page and secure more users in appropriate age group
- Strengthened knowledge about the inner workings of non-profit organizations

August 2019 - April 2020

**Arts and Culture Editor | The Gateway**

- Gained leadership skills through managing a group of volunteers to develop topics, set deadlines, and publish pieces online
- Sharpened verbal communication skills through live broadcasting, radio production, and conducting interviews

- Created and edited biweekly podcasts and assisted in fundraising opportunities for CSJR Radio

### **Research Experience**

- **York University (2024):** Conducted fieldwork on sexual harassment, labour conditions, and gender rights for Southeast Asian domestic workers in urban Malaysia.
- **University of Alberta (Psychology 498):** Designed and implemented a pop-up children's museum exhibit teaching youth about cultural diversity and promoting social cohesion
- **GLAD Lab Research Assistant:** Recruited participants and collected data for gesture and language development studies.

### **Engagement & Outreach Experience**

- **Conference Organizer:** Evaluated abstracts and coordinated a virtual conference on sex work and technology (Beyond the Interface, 2024).
- **Labour Rights Advocacy:** Assisted in workshops and trainings for migrant domestic workers in Malaysia.
- **Policy Communications:** Developed newsletters, blog posts, and reports on economic and social policy issues.

### **Awards & Scholarships**

York University Graduate Fellowship (2024-2025) – \$21 778

York University International Mobility Award (2024) – \$ 1 200

York University Academic Excellence Fund (2024) – \$ 1 200

University of Alberta Jason Lang Scholarship (2019) – \$ 1 000

Alexander Rutherford Scholarship from Alberta government (2015) – \$2 500

### **Selected Publications**

"Sex Workers Say Canada's Sex Work Law is Unsafe and Unconstitutional — Here's Why They Want It Repealed" — [PressProgress](#), August 2022

Part of a 4 month internship reporting on sex workers' issues in Canada, I developed this reported feature highlighting sex workers' calls for the repeal of Canada's Protection of Communities and Exploited Persons Act (PCEPA). Includes interviews with workers and advocates, analyzing how criminalization endangers lives and obstructs access to justice

How Amazon Beat the Union in Alberta [Jacobin/Ricochet](#) March 2022

Based on a 5 month investigation where I worked for Nisku YEG 1 fulfillment center for Amazon, this article takes a look at Amazon's anti-union tactics during a Teamsters Canada organizing campaign at a Nisku warehouse. Includes insights from union organizers and workers, and sheds light on corporate strategies that undermine labour organizing in Canada

Pretty Privilege at Work [The Walrus](#) March 2023

A reported essay that explores the often-overlooked ways beauty norms influence workplace dynamics, hiring, and advancement. Interweaves personal stories, expert interviews, and sociological research to unpack the material consequences of "pretty privilege" in Canadian workplaces.

Young, Racialized, Female, and Powerless: Frontline Fast-Food Workers' Mental Health [Toronto Star](#) July 2021

Investigation into the mental health crisis facing racialized young women in fast-food work. The strain of being young and powerless is taking a toll, as many endure harassment, verbal abuse, and blatant racism while fearing repercussions if they speak up.

**Media Appearances**

[Advocating for Sex Workers](#) *The Maple*

[Episode 16 - Working Progress](#) *Is This For Real*

[Amazon targeted by Teamsters Canada & CSN](#) *Rank and File*

[Teamsters Canada revives union drive at Amazon warehouse near Edmonton after victory in U.S](#) *Globe and Mail*

[Housing: A Boom for Investors, Inaccessible Bust for Newcomers](#) *New Canadian Media*

**Conference Presentations:**

- *Association for Work & Labour Studies Conference May 28-30, 2025*
- *Canadian Association for the Studies of International Development (CASID)/Congress Conference June 3 - 5, 2025*
- *Canadian Studies for Southeast Asia Conference October 23-25 2025*