

## **Gautam Mukherjee Bio**

Gautam is driven by a deep understanding that housing is the most important driver of wellbeing. He is committed to the right to housing and he brings a wide range of expertise and leadership to the supportive housing sector.

Gautam's parents immigrated to Canada from India in 1971. Gautam was born and raised in Toronto and spent formative years living in cooperative housing. One of his first jobs was in a group home for adolescents with developmental disabilities. It was in 2001 that his career in supportive housing began. He started as a frontline housing worker at Fred Victor and continued to progress into more senior roles over nearly fifteen years, until in 2016, he became the Executive Director at Mainstay Housing.

Gautam's experience is well rounded. His range of expertise is unique because it spans program development and delivery, and housing development. He has led major renovation projects and proposals to acquire large affordable housing buildings. He understands the systems and processes to secure funding for significant projects and what it takes to build strong partnerships in the sector, with developers, funders and with government.

Gautam is also actively engaged in the sector and is recognized as a leader. He has played key roles on different housing boards and is regularly invited to provide advice to all levels of government. Gautam continues to advocate to end homelessness and to strengthen policies that recognize diversity, equity and inclusion, and reduce barriers to funding and supports for the city's most vulnerable.

Since being at Mainstay, he has led a pivot for the organization. Mainstay has a stronger focus on improving the tenant experience, both through improved engagement and giving them a stronger voice, and through better service delivery and improved standards. Mainstay has also added expertise in real estate and housing development, led by Gautam. He has been working to lay the foundation to build more, higher quality housing and get more people off the streets, which is work that will continue when Mainstay and Houselink become one organization.

He is excited to start this new chapter of leading a bigger team of dedicated and passionate staff who share a common mission to provide stable housing and supports for people with mental health challenges, rooted in the knowledge that housing is the foundation to a better life.