

Nsiande Lema

celebrates five years as CHFT's Financial Administrator



Serving co-ops in Durham, Toronto and York Region.

Even when she was studying for her Bachelor of Commerce with a major in accounting and a minor in economics at Toronto Metropolitan University (formerly Ryerson), Nsiande knew she wanted work that would allow her a meaningful life. (She's also received a Business Administration Advanced Diploma from Humber and a Certificate in Business Analysis from UofT!)

Co-ops, though, were not always on her horizon. She laughs when she remembers how she thought she knew nothing about co-ops when she was hired, but then recalled she'd belonged to her mother's co-op in her village in Tanzania. The [Nronga Women Dairy Co-operative](#) was created by the women of the village to control the production, processing, and sale and distribution of dairy products, allowing them to share in the profits and serve as an example to neighbouring communities. This early introduction created in Nsiande an inbuilt understanding of the co-operative principles, concern for community, and responsible financial stewardship that make her an excellent addition to CHFT and to its member co-ops.

Just last year, we were as thrilled as she was when Nsiande received her designation as a Chartered Professional Accountant. She employs the kind of rigour expected of a CPA in her work with us. She reports her favourite time of year is the year-end audit. That's the time she gets to discuss the nitty-gritty with people who speak the language of accounting and when she gets a report card on her work over the year. She smiles when she reflects on the story the year-end numbers tell about the activities of the organization and the impact they have.

As a relative newcomer to CHFT still, Nsiande knows she's lucky to have access to her long-term colleagues' wealth of knowledge about the co-op sector. But we think we're pretty lucky to have access to her deep financial understanding and her strong compassion for others.

In her free time, Nsiande is on the board of two non-profits: [Nguzo](#), an organization that provides financial support to fellow Tanzanians who are transporting the bodies of loved ones back home for burial; and [Success Beyond Limits](#), supporting youth in the Jane/Finch neighbourhood along their paths to success. She also confessed to the guilty pleasure of watching the *Bridgerton* series on Netflix, confirming for us her strong sense of fun!

May her five years be just the start of a long career with CHFT!

