

ZAQUIA M. KADRA

DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR · HOUSING & REAL ESTATE

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PROFILE

Urban environmental studies graduate entering housing and real estate development. Brings predevelopment research and project documentation from a community facility build, hands on drawing and site documentation in ArchiCAD and AutoCAD, and working knowledge of the community benefits and social procurement frameworks that attach to Ontario development. Native French, fluent English, fluent Wolof.

CORE COMPETENCIES

Tools: ArchiCAD and AutoCAD (basic, supervised) · QGIS (working knowledge) · Excel (basic) · Microsoft 365 · Google Workspace

Development and approvals: predevelopment and feasibility research · site evaluation support · community benefits and social procurement · resident consultation and public facilitation · governance and policy drafting

Languages: French (native) · English (fluent) · Wolof (fluent) · Guinea Bissau Creole / Kriol (fluent)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Project Design and Research Intern · CANAF Group (Canada For Africa Group), Toronto and remote Feb 2026 to Apr 2026
Development and advisory group delivering community infrastructure projects in Africa.

- Supported early stage planning for a multifunctional community centre in Karuzi, Burundi, serving a rural community of roughly **100 families** adjacent to a school of **850+ students**, through background research, project documentation and partnership groundwork during the pre construction phase.
- Researched and drafted CANAF's **governance framework**: bylaws, confidentiality, conflict of interest, code of conduct and financial policies, revised across successive versions with the CEO.
- Incorporated stakeholder feedback relayed by the CEO into document revisions, and maintained the shared project records and databases the team worked from.

Architectural Intern · Archi-Art, Dakar, Senegal Sep 2024 to Oct 2024

- Contributed to **residential plans in ArchiCAD and AutoCAD** under the supervision of the architectural team.
- Accompanied the team on **site visits and site evaluations**, taking notes and photographs and documenting site conditions and deficiencies.

Interpreter · Kelly Services, Canada Oct 2023 to May 2025
Remote, part time contract, approx. 30 hrs/week during active periods

- Interpreted primarily in **Wolof**, and in French and English, for immigration services, hospitals, police and newcomer support organisations.
- Guided clients through understanding and completing official forms remotely, and handled high sensitivity matters under strict confidentiality and neutrality.

Founder · Zaquia (formerly Zaquia Official), Senegal and Toronto 2021 to present
Handmade leather handbag brand produced with Senegalese artisans.

- Delivered **two sold out collections** across Senegal and Toronto, coordinating artisan and supplier relationships, product development, production and quality through to sale.
- Ran a retail pop up at **Scarborough Town Centre**, managing setup, merchandising and direct sales.

Founder · ZMK Visuals, Toronto 2024 to present

- Delivers client photography, video and content projects, managing briefs, revisions and delivery across concurrent engagements.

Keyholder · Sunglass Hut, Toronto, ON Mar 2022 to Jul 2024

- Held opening and closing responsibility including keys, alarm and cash handling, and ran the store in the manager's absence.
- Managed inventory, visual merchandising, returns and exchanges, and supported sales targets and staff training.

LEADERSHIP AND COMMUNITY

Youth Policy Table Member and Facilitator · Toronto Community Benefits Network 2026 to present, volunteer

TCBN negotiates community benefits agreements attached to major Ontario infrastructure and development projects.

- Helped host and moderate the **Social Procurement panel at the Community Benefits Summit**, before an audience of roughly **100**.
- Participates in youth policy discussions on community benefits, equity and inclusive city building, and facilitated small group discussions at community events.

Technical Lead · Lift360 Climate Resilience Fellowship with SPROUT, Toronto, ON Feb 2026 to Apr 2026

- Technical lead within a **five person** team on a ten week community climate resilience project across **Regent Park and Parkdale**, two neighbourhoods shaped by large scale housing redevelopment.
- Conducted the Regent Park site visit and spoke directly with residents, contributed research and writing, produced part of the project poster and presented to an audience of roughly 40 Lift360 partners and community members.
- Team submitted a **research document to SPROUT** alongside the final presentation.

Vice President, Communications and Media Committee · Senegalese mobilization committee, linked to the Embassy of Senegal in Canada 2026 to present, volunteer

- Leads bilingual communications, outreach, content and partner follow up for a diaspora mobilization initiative around FIFA 2026 in Toronto.
- Through the committee, referred by the Embassy to a **23 day assignment supporting the Senegalese delegation**: coordinated airport pickups, five or more cars with drivers, buses, stadium transport, meals and return travel for **60+ people**, holding communication between drivers, guests and organisers through repeated same day changes.

Green Jobs of the Future Fellow · UN Association in Canada, Building Young Professionals 2026

- Selected for a national cohort of roughly 45, funded by RBC Foundation. Certificate of Completion issued.
- Led community engagement and social impact for **ROOTWISE**, a six person team sustainability **concept**, researching the engagement model and contributing to the speech, slides and presentation to roughly 30 attendees.

RESEARCH

Flood Risk and Urban Vulnerability, Pikine, Senegal · Projet intégrateur II, Université de l'Ontario français 2025 to 2026

Grade A minus

- Individual two semester research project analysing how topography, land use and socio economic vulnerability combine to intensify flood risk, framed through urban vulnerability, resilience and **spatial justice**.
- Built the analysis in **QGIS** across layers covering flood zones, buildings, road network, hydrography, topography and land use, overlaying risk zones against building stock to show that exposure falls on already inhabited and serviced areas.
- Traced **land use change across 1966, 1986, 2003 and 2013** to establish urbanisation as a driver of risk rather than a backdrop.
- **Secured data access independently** through a local agency in Dakar when online sources proved insufficient, and relocated the study area mid project when administrative redistricting invalidated the original site.
- Delivered prioritized recommendations across three horizons, from drainage maintenance to embedding risk in planning instruments.

EDUCATION

Honours Bachelor's Degree, Urban Environmental Studies · Université de l'Ontario français, Toronto, ON June 2026

Baccalauréat spécialisé en Études des environnements urbains

Coursework: Built Environment in Urban Settings · Housing Quality · Local and Community Development · Urban Governance and Citizenship · Introduction to Urban Design · Geomatics (GIS) · **Cities and Climate Change** · Research and Intervention Methods

Also: one year of a Bachelor's program in Digital Solutions Design and Development, ISM, Dakar, 2020 to 2021.