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2022/2023

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Manny Atwal

President & Chief Executive Officer
Manitoba Liquor & Lotteries

Industry:

Entertainment, Retail, Sales

Topics of Interest:

Strategy

International Business

Leadership

Marketing

MIS / Business Technology



Manny joined Manitoba Liquor & Lotteries in November 2019 and is responsible for the corporation's annual business performance, daily operations, and the achievement of strategic goals. All members of the Executive Management Committee report to him.

Previously, Manny Atwal was the Vice-President of Helicopter Programs at StandardAero in Winnipeg, Canada. Over the past 20 years, he has held various Executive positions within StandardAero including Vice-President of Turboprop Programs, General Manager of PT6 and PW100 Programs, and Director of Marketing and Business Development. Manny has extensive experience in management of international businesses within the Aerospace sector.

Manny graduated from the I.H. Asper School of Business in 1994 with a B. Comm (Hons) degree. He has been an active member of the Young Associates including over 10 years as a Board Member and also as Vice-Chair, Chair, and Past Chair of the organization.

Al Babiuk

President & Chief Operating Officer
Loewen

Industry:

Window and Door Manufacturing &
Distributing

Topics of Interest:

Strategy
Finance
Leadership



Al has been with Loewen, a manufacturer and distributor of architectural windows and doors, since 2003, in the roles of President and Chief Executive Officer (2010-2019), Chief Operating Officer (2008-2010), and Chief Financial Officer (2003-2008). In July 2013, Al joined with a group of private investors who purchased Loewen, while assuming the role of President and Chief Executive Officer. Prior to joining Loewen, Al held positions as Vice-President Finance and Vice-President and Treasurer at Investors Group Inc., Corporate Controller at Ceridian Corporation, and Divisional Controller at Standard Aero Limited.

His career began in public practice accounting with Deloitte Touche, where he obtained his Chartered Accountant (CA) designation. Al also obtained the Certified Public Accountant designation (CPA) for the United States in 2006, and completed the Family Enterprise Advisory program in 2016. Al's undergraduate degree is a Bachelor of Commerce (Hons.) degree from the University of Manitoba. Al was recognized by his peers with the Fellowship of Chartered Accountant designation (FCA) in 2013.

Al also is and has been actively involved in various community and business organizations:

- Business Council of Manitoba
- Board of Advisors, Private building products distribution company in Western Canada
- Board of Directors - The Associates of the Asper School of Business
- Board of Directors (Chair) - Window and Door Manufacturers' Association
- Chair, Development and Finance, Centennial Committee
- Winnipeg Art Gallery
- Board of Governors - Winnipeg Art Gallery, Chair of Finance Committee
- Board of Directors (President) - Winnipeg Boys and Girls Clubs

Chip Batten

President and Chief Executive Officer
Color Ad Packaging Ltd.

Industry:

Packaging

Topics of Interest:

Supply Chain / Logistics

Strategy

Leadership

Marketing



Chip has worked in the North American packaging industry for almost 35 years. After graduating from University of Waterloo with an Honors BES degree, Chip began work at Batten Graphics, his family's graphic arts business. From 1978 through to 1989 Chip significantly built and developed the packaging gravure engraving market for this firm, learning the business from the ground up. He eventually grew to become plant manager and then sales manager for this business unit.

As the family business chose to refocus its attentions on its more profitable publications business and away from its packaging interests, Chip moved to work for Roto-Tone Engravers as its Sales Manager. In early 1993 Chip teamed up with a number of industry contacts to establish Southern Graphic System, Canada. From its initial sales volume of \$280,000 Southern Graphics, Canada grew to posting sales of over \$75,000,000 in 2007 when Chip stepped down after eight years of service as Executive Vice President of Canadian Operations.

Chip joined Color Ad in early 2008 to head up and re-focus the sales team with the goal of driving Color Ad's sales through exemplary customer focus and a clear market focus. He has been successful in that role, securing key accounts in the boutique market segments that set Color Ad apart in the market. In 2012 Chip succeeded the interim CEO, brought in to restructure the organization, and took over the position of President and Chief Executive Officer.

Since then Chip and his team have grown Color Ad Packaging Ltd. from a 30 million dollar business to this year topping 82 Million.

Color Ad Packaging is a high end food products, flexible packaging manufacturer. Our operations include gravure and flexographic print, multi-layer laminations, as well as bag, pouch, and roll stock converting capabilities.

Gary Bell

President & CEO

Calm Air International LP

Industry:

Airlines / Aviation

Topics of Interest:

Marketing

Finance

Supply Chain / Logistics



Gary Bell was one of the first employees of Exchange Income Corporation in 2006 serving as Vice President Corporate Development, responsible for acquisitions. Two years after being part of the team that acquired Calm Air into the EIC group in 2009, he was selected to lead the company. Since that time, he has modernized and consolidated the fleet to one aircraft type, while refocusing on Calm Air's Kivalliq operation, on-time performance and customer service. Anchored by a Bachelor of Commerce in Finance, Gary has built a strong management team that has made significant strides towards achieving and refining those goals.

Prior to joining EIC, Gary spent six years in commercial banking with TD Commercial Bank and Roynat Capital.

Active in the community, Gary serves on the Royal Aviation Museum, the Charleswood Baseball Association and coaches amateur sports.

Gary Bernard

Head of Commercial and Corporate Banking, Manitoba

HSBC

Industry:

Banking

Topics of Interest:

Finance

Leadership

Entrepreneurship



Gary is a graduate of the University of Manitoba with a BA, majoring in Economics. In 2001, he completed his Securities License. He has 21 years of banking experience, including fifteen years in business, commercial, and corporate banking roles - spending the last seven years in management roles.

Gary has worked for the financial institutions RBC, CIBC, and HSBC. He is currently serving as a board member of Manitoba New Home Warranty and volunteers with United Way as an Agency Liaison. Gary's strengths include business development, relationship management, credit writing, and financial analysis.

Justin Boonen

Vice President, Account Manager
PIMCO Canada

Industry:

Financial Services

Topics of Interest:

Finance

Entrepreneurship

Leadership



P I M C O

Justin Boonen is an Vice President, Account Manager with PIMCO Canada with over 15 years of professional experience who takes great pride in his values, service and pursuit of excellence. Voted as a top wholesaler by Environics, Justin is a sales and leadership expert who delivers engaging presentations which inspire and empower advisors and clients alike to navigate their financial wellbeing. Justin achieves this through his lifelong quest of knowledge to continue his passion in helping his clients achieve their objectives.

Justin completed his Bachelor in Management and Organizational Studies (BMOS) with a double major in Finance and Accounting with a minor in Astronomy from Western University in London, Ontario. After Western, Justin completed a one year Carpentry program through Durham College in night school while working as a financial advisor. He later moved to Winnipeg and completed the Masters in Business Administration (MBA) program from the Asper School of Business with a double specialization in Finance and Accounting at the University of Manitoba. Justin has completed several industry credentials such as the Certified Financial Planner Designation (CFP), Chartered Investment Manager Designation (CIM), Chartered Professional Accountant Designation (CPA), and is a Fellow of the Canadian Securities Institute (FCSI). Most recently, Justin completed the Board Dynamics for Executives program through the Rotman School of Management at the University of Toronto.

When Justin isn't helping advisors succeed in their goals, he can be found spending quality time with his wife Jill raising their three young daughters Lila, Charlotte and Audrey in the great city of Winnipeg!

Brian Brown

Principal

Best Job in the Company Consulting Services

Industry:

Consulting Services



Topics of Interest:

Internal Audit

Fraud

Governance

Risk Management

Brian Brown possesses a unique combination of senior-level private, public, and non-profit sector experience in governance, internal audit, risk management, fraud, and internal controls. Since retiring in 2019, he now provides independent consulting and professional education services in the areas of governance, internal audit, risk, and other related topics.

Brian is a recognized leader in the internal audit profession with over 30 years of experience collaborating with and supporting Boards of Directors and Audit Committees while leading internal audit activities with The Canadian Grain Commission, The Great-West Life Assurance Company, Agricore United and its predecessor, UGG, and with Sears Canada Inc.

Within the non-profit sector, Brian has played a leading governance role in many organizations over the past 30 years. He is currently Vice-Chair of the Board of the Canadian Centre for Child Protection and serves on the Board and chairs the Governance Committee of Marymount. He also serves on the Manitoba Chapter Executive of the Institute of Corporate Directors.

He is a founding faculty member of The Directors College and a Distinguished Faculty Member for the Institute of Internal Auditors. He also serves as faculty for the Institute of Corporate Directors, the Caribbean Governance Training Institute, and the Aboriginal Financial Officers Association.

Brian is a graduate of the University of Manitoba with a Bachelor of Commerce degree and holds the Certified Internal Auditor (CIA), Chartered Professional Accountant, Certified Management Accountant (CPA,CMA), Chartered Director (C.Dir.), and Certified Fraud Examiner (CFE) designations.

Silvia de Sousa

Partner

Thompson Dorfman Sweatman LLP

Industry:

Business Law

Topics of Interest:

Intellectual Property



Silvia's practice is concentrated in the area of business law with an emphasis on intellectual property law and technology. Her practice also includes intellectual property transactions, cannabis advertising and marketing, intellectual property protection, trademarks, copyrights, patents and licensing matters. Silvia is a trademark agent.

Called to the Manitoba Bar in 1994, Silvia has spoken on many occasions to professional organizations and industry groups on intellectual property matters and technology law matters. She has also taught solicitor transaction matters, licencing and international law as a sessional lecturer at the University of Manitoba Faculty of Law and at the Asper School of Business. Silvia is teaching IP Law at the Faculty of Law.

Silvia served as past Chair of the National Intellectual Property Law Section of the Canadian Bar Association and is a former Chair and current member of the Technology and Intellectual Property Law Section of the Manitoba Bar Association. She has volunteered her time with numerous community organizations, including, The Associates, the Legal Help Centre, the Health Sciences Centre Foundation, the Manitoba Chambers of Commerce, Branch Council of the Manitoba Bar Association and American Bar Association IP Section.

Silvia was recognized nationally as a Woman of Influence by the Women of Influence Inc. and under Best Lawyers in Canada 2016 – 2020 Technology Law.

Rick G. Duha

Managing Director
Duha Group



Industry:

Manufacturing & Specialty Printing

Topics of Interest:

Marketing
Supply Chain
Leadership
Technology
Innovation
Family Business



The Duha Group is in the business of color; trend forecasting, graphic design, color consultancy, color palette development, and the manufacturing of innovative color collateral for the global paint, automotive, fashion, and cosmetic markets.

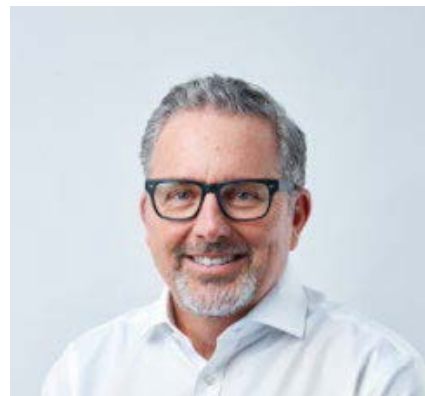
Colour is an integral part of bringing personal meaning to the world around us, and I am thrilled to be able to spend every day helping to make the world a more colorful place.

I wear many hats in my day to day role of our family business, which helps to make each day exciting. I have enjoyed taking on oversight of IT and Digital Infrastructure projects with specific focus on bringing our manufacturing systems in to the modern age with Industry 4.0 technologies. In addition to this I direct our teams responsible for Estimating, Procurement, Scheduling, Planning, Customer Service, and Production by ensuring continuous improvement of our internal systems and the smooth operation of our end to end Supply Chain.

I am passionate about Winnipeg and a proud graduate of the Asper MBA program. I enjoy learning about all of the amazing businesses that thrive in our city and working together with many of our local groups, such as the Associates and the Entrepreneurs Organization, to help build the ecosystem of innovative business leaders in Manitoba.

Kevin Edwards

Chief Executive Officer
Skip The Dishes



Industry:

Food Delivery

Topics of Interest:

Leadership

Marketing

Entrepreneurship



Devon is an I.H. Asper School of Business alumnus with a Bachelor's of Commerce (Honours) degree in both Human Resource Management and Leadership. He has also obtained a Juris Doctor (law) degree from the Robson Hall, Faculty of Law at the University of Manitoba and is currently working at MLT Aikins LLP, one of the 13 largest law firms in Canada.

His current areas of practice include Mergers & Acquisitions and Corporate & Commercial work generally. Among other matters, he has recently assisted with transactions relating to the purchase and sale of professional corporations, partnerships, and international businesses in areas such as dentistry, wealth management, and pharmaceuticals.

Beyond purchase agreements and ancillary transactional documents, Devon is also familiar with drafting contracts such as associate agreements, services agreements, unanimous shareholders' agreements and non-disclosure agreements.

He has found that his professional success has been largely driven by his commerce background, business acumen, and willing involvement in a number of case competitions and mock trials across the disciplines.

Ab Freig

CEO

Freig Business Consulting

Industry:

Consulting Services

Topics of Interest:

Leadership

Strategic Planning

Business Coaching

Mentoring



Ab is a results-oriented Senior Executive with a solid reputation for strong leadership in strategic planning, operational optimization, and manufacturing expertise. Transferable skills and proven success in navigating cross-border cyclical and dynamic commodity markets. Broad business capability in growth, expansion, mergers and acquisitions.

He provided decisive and strategic leadership as President and CEO of one of the top hog production companies in North America and founded two biotechnology companies.

Ab is also teaching business courses at universities and colleges in Manitoba and providing business consulting to international start-up companies.

Ab currently serves on the Boards of multiple not-for-profit organizations. Ab strives on helping others.

Elliot Garfinkel, P.Eng., MBA

Managing Partner

MCW Consultants Ltd.



Industry:

Mechanical and electrical consulting
Professional engineers

Topics of Interest:

Strategy
Human Resources
Leadership
Marketing
Consulting engineers
Industry Trends
Organizational Behavior
Business Development
Client Relations
Strategic planning



Elliott Garfinkel received his B.Sc. in Electrical Engineering from the University of Manitoba in 1985. Since then he has gained over 30 years of award-winning electrical engineering experience for clients in public and private sectors, coupled with over 20 years of experience in effective management in the field. Elliott's success as an engineer and leader in the industry has helped him become a Managing Partner at the Winnipeg office of MCW Consultants Ltd., a leading electrical and mechanical engineering consulting firm with offices throughout Canada.

His MBA degree, which he earned from UofM in 1997, has been an invaluable complement to his expertise, having enhanced his skillset as a leader in his office and as a mentor to his engineering staff. Elliott's business savvy has also equipped him with the tools to provide comprehensive management support for several large, complex, and innovative projects.

Some of the projects involved innovated energy efficient design and numerous sustainable and environmentally friendly measures.

As a Managing Partner at MCW, Elliott's day-to-day responsibilities include project and client management through all phases of a project. He works closely with other engineers, contractors, architects, and owners to ensure that the best design solutions and client satisfaction are achieved. Elliott attributes his success in these areas on his foundational knowledge in business administration.

Jamie Hall

Chief Operating Officer

SAFE Work Manitoba, a Division of the WCB



Industry:

Public Sector

Topics of Interest:

Leadership

Human Resources

Ethics

Safety & Health

Public Sector



Jamie joined SAFE Work Manitoba as Chief Operating Officer in 2014. He is part of a team of people who are passionate about changing the landscape of safety in order to realize significant improvements in safety performance in Manitoba. He is also thrilled to be a part of the community of safety leaders in our province that is building the momentum for this change.

Jamie also brings 26 years of experience from Manitoba Hydro. Presently, Jamie is a sessional instructor in the University of Manitoba's Asper MBA program, delivering a course on executive responsibility and ethics. Jamie serves on the United Way Cabinet and as Chair of the Board of the Better Business Bureau Foundation, and represents Manitoba on the Council of Governors for the Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety.

Jamie holds a B.Sc. in Electrical Engineering and an MBA with a specialty in Human Resources.



Eric Herbelin

President & CEO

Manitoba Public Insurance



Industry:

Insurance

Topics of Interest:

Finance

Actuarial

Entrepreneurship

Leadership



MANITOBA
PUBLIC INSURANCE

With a successful international career in the insurance industry, Eric Herbelin joined MPI as President and CEO in January 2021.

He brings over 20 years of global experience as a senior leader with an impressive track record of success in strategy, finance, business development and risk management. Eric has also designed and led large transformation programs, including digitalization, multi-channel offering and modernization of IT systems.

A Native French speaker and originally from Switzerland, he previously served as President and CEO of Elips Life Insurance Company, a Swiss Re company headquartered in Chicago, Illinois before joining MPI. Prior to that, he spent sixteen years in several international strategy and business development roles with Zurich Insurance Group.

Eric holds an Executive MBA from the International Institute for Management in Switzerland, along with a master's degree in human systems engineering and an undergraduate degree in business administration and finance from the University of Applied Sciences in Switzerland.

On all counts, Eric leads authentically and strongly believes in a customer-centric, public insurance model that relies on strong relationships with its partners, such as insurance brokers.



Rosanne Hill Blaisdell

President & CEO

Harvard Developments Inc.

Industry:

Real Estate

Topics of Interest:

Marketing

Strategy

Leadership

Corporate Culture

Real Estate Development



Rosanne Hill Blaisdell is the President & CEO of Harvard Developments Inc., a long-standing full service real estate company headquartered in Regina, Saskatchewan.

After working in commercial banking and investment management for a number of years, in 1997, Rosanne as the fourth generation of the Hills, joined the family business.

Today, she oversees the Corporate Head Office for The Hill Companies and the company's Canadian real estate operations with portfolio holdings of 10 mil.sq.ft.

She is currently leading several mixed-use and transit-oriented development projects, totaling 2.5 mil. sq.ft. in Western Canada.

Rosanne holds an MBA, and a CCIM real estate designation. She is a past Business Advisory Board member for SaskPower and Regina Economic Development.

She currently serves on the Regina Exhibition Association Futures Committee and St. Mary's University College Board of Governors.

She is a member of NAIOP, the Regina Chamber of Commerce, IWF, YPO and ICSC.

Candace Hodgins, CPA, CA, MPAcc

Vice President, Commercial Financial Services

Royal Bank of Canada



Industry:

Business Financial Services

Topics of Interest:

Accounting

Finance

Leadership



As RBC Vice President Commercial Financial Services for Winnipeg, Candace has the privilege of leading a talented team of Commercial Account Managers who support the dynamic and inspiring entrepreneurs of Winnipeg in the industries of health care professionals, business professionals, retail, franchise, knowledge based, media and entertainment, and not for profit. The team is committed to supporting clients through innovative and strategic ideas, partnering, and a commitment to excellence.

As an executive business partner, with a CPA, CA and Masters of Professional Accounting, Candace has had the opportunity to work in a broad range of industries developing and supporting complex business strategies, driving market results, governance and risk management practices, change management initiatives, and human resource management. The team strives to be proactive, solutions focused change agents, working to earn the trust of client's by supporting their goals and aspirations.

Born and raised in Winnipeg, Candace is a passionate Manitoban who believes in her community and the importance of creating opportunity for all of the dynamic and thoughtful future leaders. Serving the community is of great importance to Candace and she is inspired by the leaders of tomorrow. Candace values creating an inclusive employee culture welcoming diverse and creative talent. As a parent to a young child, she is fortunate to serve the community through RBC's commitment to helping youth prepare for the future world of work. Candace is particularly passionate about supporting young women, which has led to her involvement in Athena changeleaders and lending a voice at SHEDay.

Chris Isford

Vice-President & Controller

Air Canada



Industry:

Air Transportation



Topics of Interest:

Accounting

Strategy

Finance

Leadership

MIS / Business Technology

Chris Isford was appointed Controller for Air Canada in October 2006, responsible for the airline's financial reporting.

Mr. Isford previously held the position of Senior Director, Financial Reporting with Air Canada and has been involved with numerous of the airline's financing transactions over the years. Prior to joining Air Canada in 2000, Mr. Isford had been with a major accounting firm as a manager of audit services.

Mr. Isford holds a Bachelor's degree in Commerce (Hons.) from the University of Manitoba and is a Chartered Professional Accountant.

Derek Johannson

Executive Chairman

Carlyle Printer Service & Supplies LTD.



Industry:

Office Automation

Topics of Interest:

Marketing

Entrepreneurship

Leadership

Mergers and Acquisitions

Effective Boards



After finishing his U of M Commerce degree in 3 ½ years versus 4 he joined Proctor & Gamble in Toronto and became the youngest area manager in the history of the company. But 3 years later he was back in Winnipeg to start the first family business, Carlyle Computer Products, from his parents' basement in 1980. Under Derek's Leadership Carlyle was twice recognized as Canada's 50 Best Managed Private Companies. And in 17 years went from a basement business, to the largest computer supplies specialist in Canada with 7 offices across the west. Then in 1997 it was sold to Boise Cascade who merged it with Grand & toy that they had acquired the year before.

Derek was a Top 40 under 40 recipient, and regional winner of the E&Y Entrepreneur of the year award. He has been at the heart of 7 start-ups, and held over 20 Board Director positions. Including most recently the Vice Chair of the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority (\$3 billion budget), and the finance chair of the Wpg. Police Board. In 2006 Derek's 8th start up with his sons brought a new business model in the desktop printer fleet management market with Carlyle Printer, Service, & Supplies Ltd. In 14 years it has gone from zero to becoming the largest company of its kind in Manitoba.

Debra Jonasson-Young

Executive Director

Stu Clark Centre for Entrepreneurship
I.H. Asper School of Business
University of Manitoba

Topics of Interest:

Strategic Development
Execution & Implementation
Operations Management
Consumer Behaviour
Marketing
Leadership
Entrepreneurship
Human Resource Mgmt.



Debra is a strategic and visionary leader who has consistently excelled at building strong and profitable organizations and has been active within the Winnipeg business community for over 30 years.

Debra is currently the Executive Director for the Stu Clark Centre for Entrepreneurship at the Asper School of Business and is responsible for the strategic development and execution of the centre's mandate to spark entrepreneurial spirit within the University of Manitoba. In her previous role as Director of Executive Education for the Asper School of Business, Debra was responsible for the creation and execution of the Executive Education program in support of delivering leading edge programming for senior leadership in both the public and private sectors.

Debra is currently the Executive Director for the Stu Clark Centre for Entrepreneurship at the Asper School of Business and is responsible for the strategic development and execution of the centre's mandate to spark entrepreneurial spirit within the University of Manitoba. In her previous role as Director of Executive Education for the Asper School of Business, Debra was responsible for the creation and execution of the Executive Education program in support of delivering leading edge programming for senior leadership in both the public and private sectors.

Debra has also held the positions of Vice-President for Shopper's Optical, responsible for the strategic direction and operation of the national chain's 75 locations across Canada and Vice-President and General Manager of Videon CableSystems. Debra spent the majority of her earlier career within Eaton's Department Store working her way up through successive positions, latterly as the General Manager of the Manitoba North Western Ontario division. Debra holds an MBA from the Asper School of Business at the University of Manitoba.

Active within the community, Debra is Past-Chair and currently sits on the board of the Associates of the IH Asper School of Business at the University of Manitoba. In 2019, she was appointed to the Manitoba Women's Advisory Council (Status of Women Provincial Government). She is Past-Chair of the Women of Winnipeg, is on the Executive of the Institute of Corporate Directors Manitoba Chapter, sits on the Advisory Board of TEC, and until recently sat on the board of Value Partners investment firm. She was a Governor of the Manitoba Museum for nine years, and was on the board of Manitoba Hydro Board. As well, Debra served both on the board and as Chair of the Winnipeg Downtown Business Improvement Zone, sat on the board of Tourism Winnipeg and acted in an advisory role to the University of Manitoba, Continuing Education Division as well as the Red River College, Business Administration program.

Jamie Alyce Jurczak

Partner

Taylor McCaffrey LLP, Barristers and Solicitors



Industry:

Law

Topics of Interest:

Legal

Human Resources

Entrepreneurship

Small Business

Leadership

Marketing

TAYLOR
McCAFFREY
LAWYERS

Experienced in all facets of management-side labour and employment law, and an experienced civil litigator, Jamie's experience allows her to assist clients with a variety of workplace matters, including wrongful dismissals, grievance and interest arbitrations, policy and contract development, collective bargaining and negotiation. Her practice has a special focus on occupational health and safety (OHS) matters. She is experienced in defending employers charged under provincial and federal OHS legislation, and is well versed in assisting clients in responding to serious workplace accidents, addressing administrative appeals of regulatory orders, and policy development.

Since the legalization of cannabis in Canada, and the abundance of provincial legislation that came with it, Jamie has become a thought leader in working to develop and update cannabis, drug and alcohol policies for Canadian companies. Additionally, Jamie is a skilled human rights lawyer capable of conducting independent investigations. As such, she has experience dealing with a variety of workplace harassment (including sexual harassment) and violence situations.

She is the author/editor of the OHS (West) and WCB (West) titles of the Canadian Encyclopedic Digest and she is recognized as a leading practitioner in OHS and Workplace Human Rights by the Canadian Legal Lexpert® Directory.

Jamie is also a small business owner, as co-director of Maples Academy of Dance, where she continues to actively teach. She enjoys engaging with the local business community through her involvement with both the Manitoba Chambers of Commerce (past-chair) and the Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce, where she is currently a member of the Advocacy Leadership Counsel.

Kristen Kennedy

Regional Vice President
BMO Bank of Montreal

Topics of Interest:

Finance
Leadership



Kristen Kennedy is the Regional Vice President of the Winnipeg market for BMO Bank of Montreal. She's responsible for the largest branch network in the region, managing personal banking services in Winnipeg and surrounding area.

Kristen brings over 20 years of experience in the financial services industry. Throughout her tenure, she's held progressive leadership roles across both the business commercial bank as well as retail banking. She was appointed to her current role in 2012, supporting the southern prairies market from Brandon, Manitoba, and relocated to join the Winnipeg team in August of 2018.

Kristen's time with BMO has centered on workforce retention and development, and managing the evolution of customer expectations in a rapidly changing - and highly digital banking environment. She's responsible for upwards of 200 employees and has experience leading across urban and rural markets.

A believer in the value and importance of community and giving back, Kristen leads the annual campaigns for the bank's national partners, Kids Help Phone and Employee Giving. She also champions women in business and BMO Pride.

A proud Manitoban, Kristen holds a Bachelor of Commerce Honours from the University of Manitoba.



Paul Lacap

Director, Digital Strategy & Engagement
University of Manitoba External Relations



Topics of Interest:

Marketing
Communications
Design
Technology
Project Management

Paul is a 16-year veteran leading interactive media and digital marketing initiatives. His client portfolio has included multiple Fortune 500 companies that contain the world's largest beverage, entertainment, food, pharmaceutical, restaurant, retail, sports and technology brands.

In 2017, Paul took a departure from agency life and began leading an institution-wide digital transformation at the University of Manitoba. The University of Manitoba is the largest educational institute and Manitoba, one of the U15 research universities and the first university in Western Canada. Paul is also a board director at Assiniboine Credit Union, one of the largest credit unions in Canada. As a trusted leader around the table, after a relatively early tenure with ACU's Board, Paul currently serves as the Chair of the Human Resource Policy & Compensation Committee.

Paul has been involved as a thought leader on numerous industry boards and councils including The Canadian Marketing Association's Martech Council, The Brand Activation Association and The Association of National Advertisers. In addition to his professional career, Paul has volunteered with numerous boards and councils including Imagine Canada, United Way, The Associates, The Young Associates, Red River College, Artspace, Futurpreneur, CCEDNET and the Manitoba Marathon Foundation.

In his personal life, Paul spends his time with his wife Signy, his son Nate and their dog, Aurora.

Shawn MacDonald

**Regional Vice President, Business Financial Services,
Manitoba, Saskatchewan & Northwestern Ontario**
Royal Bank of Canada

Industry:

Financial

Topics of Interest:

Supply Chain

Strategy

Entrepreneurship

Human Resources

International Business

Leadership

MIS/Business Technology



Mr. Shawn MacDonald is the Regional Vice President, Business Financial Services at the Royal Bank of Canada. In his position, he is responsible for leading RBC's commercial and small business team across the Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Northwestern Ontario Region. Shawn joined RBC 24 years ago and has held various positions across the organization. This has included experience in sales leadership, strategy development and execution, program management, change management and international experience. Shawn has a Bachelor of Arts from Dalhousie University and a Bachelor of Commerce degree from Saint Mary's University. He also has a Master's of Business Administration from the Rotman's School of Business at the University of Toronto. Shawn has previously and continues to be very active in various Boards and Committees. He is currently on the Board of Directors for Winnipeg Harvest and YES (Youth Employment Services).

Monica Marics

Chief Operating Officer

RocketRez



Industry:

SaaS IT

Topics of Interest:

Supply Chain

Entrepreneurship

Leadership

IT/Software

Product Management



Ms. Marics leads the RocketRez Operations, Customer Success, and Product Management teams. She has over 30 years' experience in B2C, B2B and B2G markets including telecommunications, emergency public safety and election technology companies. Her corporate background includes P&L management for several business of over \$100M in revenue, cradle-to-grave product management for hardware and software solutions, and leadership of large, distributed engineering organizations of over 200 technical staff. Her clients have included Verizon, AT&T, Sprint, City of Atlanta, Chicago and state governments of Texas, California, Delaware and Vermont. As the founder of Sumica Consulting, Ms. Marics provided leadership and operational consulting to technology start-ups across ethics and compliance, travel, non-commercial food service, and data analytics sectors.

After 30 years in Boulder, Colorado, Ms. Marics recently relocated to Manitoba, Canada to help lead RocketRez's explosive growth. Ms. Marics has a Bachelor's and Master's in Industrial and Operations Engineering, and hold 11 U.S. Patents. A servant leader, Monica focuses on business results through strong teamwork, high-bandwidth communication, efficient processes and relentless curiosity.



Nancy McCuaig

Senior Vice President, Technology, Architecture & Information Security

IGM Financial Inc.

Industry:

Financial Services

Topics of Interest:

Leadership

Technology

Cyber Security



Nancy is the Senior Vice President, Technology, Architecture & Information Security for IGM Financial. She is responsible for enterprise technology architecture, technology infrastructure including network, cloud, cyber security and technology risk, technology operations, service governance and corporate crisis management and business continuity.

Nancy has a Bachelor of Commerce (Honours) degree from the University of Manitoba and a CISSP designation from ISC2.

Carmine Militano, P.Eng.

Senior Vice President

Bockstael Construction Limited



Topics of Interest:

Strategy

Leadership

Marketing



Carmine Militano is a Principal at Bockstael Construction and the Senior Vice President. He brings a "360 degree perspective" to the Bockstael team with more than 39 years' experience across the entire design-construct life cycle, including consulting engineering, construction and manufacturing. He is an acknowledged specialist in business development, project management, strategic business planning and facilitation. Prior to joining Bockstael, Carmine was the Practice Leader for Buildings Engineering at Stantec Winnipeg, and prior to Stantec was a Vice President with CH2M Hill, one of the world's largest full service design-construct-operations firms. Carmine has been a guest lecturer at the University of Manitoba and Red River College and has presented at numerous conferences. He is a member of the Associates of the Asper School of Business and most recently was a guest lecturer to the MBA Capstone class.

He has always believed in making a contribution to the community. Carmine is currently: a Vice Chair of the St. Boniface Hospital Foundation Board; Director of the Holy Names House of Peace Board; and a Director on the Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce Board.

Bockstael Construction – Manitoba's Builder – has been in continuous operation in Manitoba for over 106 years.



Amy Oliver

President

Amy Oliver + Co

Industry:

Venture Capital and Management Consulting

Topics of Interest:

Leadership

Strategy

Women in Business



A stylized, handwritten signature in teal ink that reads "Amy Oliver + Co". The script is fluid and cursive.

Amy Oliver is an experienced healthcare executive. She is president of Amy Oliver + Co, offering trusted advisory services and professional coaching to practice owners, leaders, and organizations in healthcare and wellness industries.

Amy has advised and coached over 120 healthcare leaders to drive high performance within the healthcare, social services, and academia.

Amy holds an MBA with a dual concentration in Organizational Leadership and Health Administration. She is a licensed pharmacist, a Certified Leadership Coach, and a globally certified Project Management Professional.

Amy holds certificates in Emotional Intelligence and Advanced Strategic Management and Leadership. Amy has won multiple health sector and leadership awards and most recently has been selected as a member of the prestigious 2020 Governor General Canadian Leadership Conference.

Amy is a success-driven and proven executive with a passion to assist practitioners, health organizations, and leadership teams in the areas of entrepreneurship, operations, strategy development, project planning, leadership and engagement, and diversity and inclusion.

Celina Philpot

Chief Retail and Brand Officer
Steinbach Credit Union

Industry:

Financial Services

Topics of Interest:

Finance

Marketing

Leadership



In her role as the Chief Retail and Brand Officer for SCU (Steinbach Credit Union), Celina brings over 25 years of experience in the credit union system. Celina delivers business results and manages organizational risk in the development of strategies for retail sales, wealth management, member services, marketing, and corporate programs. Years of multi-functional and progressive experience in the credit union system, and collaboration in national credit union advisory groups, has enabled her to connect the dots to devise and move strategies forward effectively.

Since joining SCU in 2011, Celina has held several positions, including Vice President, Corporate Development; Executive Vice President, Operations; and Executive Vice President, Member Engagement and Brand, before assuming her current role in 2019. In 2022, Celina was elected to a 3-year term as Director with the CCUA (Canadian Credit Union Association) Board of Directors.

Celina has a Master of Business Administration (Royal Roads University), a Bachelor of Commerce Honours Degree (University of Manitoba), a Master of Project Management (University of Winnipeg) and is a certified Project Management Professional (Project Management International).

As a first-generation Canadian, Celina witnessed the value of commitment, hard work, drive, and community. As a leader, Celina brings these qualities to her work and leadership. She has a proven track record of delivering significant growth by challenging and empowering leaders at all levels to think differently, approach challenges creatively, and inspire collective action that achieves positive results for members, the organization, and the community at large.

Nolan Ploegman, MBA

President & CEO
Concord Projects

Industry:

Construction

Topics of Interest:

Finance

Accounting

Sales

Marketing

Human Resources

General Management

Construction Management

Project Management

Real Estate Development and Investing

Property Management



Nolan Ploegman joined Concord Projects Ltd. in 2005 and oversees all aspects of the company.

Nolan has attained a Master of Business Administration (MBA) as well as a Bachelor of Commerce (Honours), majoring in finance and accounting, from the Asper School of Business. Nolan's experience and knowledge in real estate development, real estate investing and property management also provide clients with added value. Nolan also manages the finance, accounting, marketing, human resources and technology aspects of the company.

Nolan is also on the Board of Directors at Youth For Christ Winnipeg and is passionate about non-profit and charitable organizations and related initiatives.

Jobsite tours can be arranged if interested www.concordprojects.com

Calvin Polet

President

Neptune Properties Inc.

Industry:

Venture Capital and Management Consulting

Topics of Interest:

Entrepreneurship

Leadership

Ethics

Strategy / Decision-making



Calvin Polet co-founded Neptune Properties Inc., a Winnipeg based family office with investments in commercial real estate and private equity, in 2002. Neptune's real estate operations are focused on asset and portfolio management, with the leasing and property management of its portfolio being outsourced to professional service providers in local markets. The wholly-owned portfolio includes industrial, retail, and office assets in Winnipeg, Saskatchewan, and Minnesota. Neptune is also a partner in, and asset manager of, GMW Properties Ltd., which has 12 industrial properties in 9 Western Canadian markets.

Neptune's private equity includes partnership in Prairie West Ice Cream, a large-scale, Winnipeg-based ice cream manufacturer, and in True North Foods, the only federally certified ruminant animal processing facility in Manitoba. Calvin provides board level oversight to those companies and as President of Neptune, provides leadership to the office and is responsible for strategy, acquisition, disposition, and finance. Calvin is also co-owner and co-founder of The Wave Car Wash, which has two self-serve car wash facilities in Winnipeg.

Calvin started his career as a Dairy Queen franchisee after obtaining his BA in Economics from the U of M. After selling the DQ he obtained his MBA from the I.H. Asper School of Business. He has served the community as a football coach since 2001 and has served on the Board of Directors of the Downtown BIZ, which he chaired in 2013, and is the current Chair of the Board of St. Paul's High School.

John Proven, CPA, CA

President & Chief Operating Officer

CEL Group of Companies (Convion, Argus Controls)



Industry:

Environmental Technology

Topics of Interest:

Human Resources

Leadership

International Business

Finance

Accounting

Strategy and Planning



John is the President & Chief Operating Officer of CEL Group of Companies, a world-leader in controlled environment technologies specializing in plant growth applications. He oversees all aspects of the Canadian parent company and its subsidiaries, Convion and Argus Controls Systems Ltd. Headquartered in Winnipeg, Manitoba the CEL Group operates business units in Winnipeg, and Langley, BC along with three international business offices situated in the USA, UK, and Australia.

Originating in Winnipeg in 1964 under the Convion name, the company has equipment installed at client facilities in over 90 countries.

John joined CEL having been a Vice-President, Investments of GrowthWorks Capital Ltd where he spent several years as a director of venture capital backed early-stage companies.

Prior to GrowthWorks, John spent ten years in the newspaper publishing and commercial printing business with Sun Media and with FP News as a Publisher and General Manager.

John was educated at the University of Manitoba where he obtained his Bachelor of Commerce in Marketing and Finance, 1990. In his senior year, John was the President of the Commerce Students' Association (Senior Stick).

He is active in the community as a Past Chair of the Associates of the I.H. Asper School of Business, a former Honorary President of the Commerce Students' Association, Director of the Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce and Director of Cerebra Medical Inc, an early-stage medical technology company.

John and his wife Margaret have two sons. His eldest son, Andrew graduated from the Asper School in Spring 2017.

Paul Provost

President

6P Marketing

Industry:

Marketing, Advertising Agency

Topics where I have a presentation ready:

- Developing Marketing Plans
- Managing your Brand: Developing a brand strategy
- Marketing tactics 101
- Activating your Website
- Intro to Facebook
- Intro to LinkedIn
- Educate your Audience
- Internal Marketing: Engaging your team to Growth



Paul Provost is the founder and president of 6P Marketing. Paul began his career in business planning and operations. After 20 years of progressive marketing experience most in advertising agencies in Calgary and Winnipeg, Paul and a small team of communications specialists started a small studio in Winnipeg, Manitoba. This studio would grow and evolve into 6P Marketing, a full-service progressive marketing agency.

Since 2007, 6P has blended innovative technology with engaging creative and progressive marketing strategy, helping Winnipeg businesses find and share their passion. 6P Marketing specializes in brand development, CMS websites, email marketing, advertising and Customer Relationship Management (CRM) solutions, all tailored to the specific needs of entrepreneurs and brand leaders.

6P is pleased to actively provide services to over 100 growthoriented clients in the following industries: Technology (ICTAM, Ubisoft Winnipeg, Eagle Software, Broadband Communications North), Not-for-profit / Associations (The Associates, MB Pork, CCGA, Economic Development Winnipeg, MMF, MB Chambers of Commerce), Professional Services (Crosier Kilgour Partners, Crosstown Civic Credit Union, Standard Insurance), Agri-Business (G3, O&T Farms, Fort Garry Brewing, Hylife, Medallion Milk, Hemp Genetics), Manufacturing (State Industries, EastSide Group, Conviron), Construction / Real Estate (Genstar, Priority Restoration, Concord Projects), as well as Manufacturing (Conviron, Eastside Group, State Industries) among others

Paul holds a Bachelor of Commerce Honours degree from the Asper School of Business at the University of Manitoba, is bilingual in French and English, and is actively involved in the Winnipeg community. He is a member of the board for the Manitoba Chambers of Commerce, a new board member with the Society for Manitobans with Disabilities and is an active member of The Associates, ICTAM, the Winnipeg Advertising Association, Manitoba Home Builders' Association, as well as the Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce.

Derek Rolstone

Principal

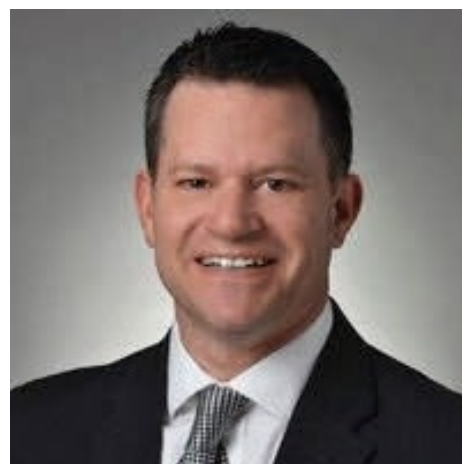
Stone HR Strategies

Industry:

Human Resources

Topics of Interest:

Human Resources



Derek Rolstone is a dedicated professional with over 25 years of HR/IR experience. He partners with organizations and has a lengthy and proven track record of increasing revenue, enhancing brand and building high performance teams in government, private and publicly traded companies. Derek has helped many organizations make (and save) money through effective people strategies. He was a former HR Director for Suncor Energy, Bell Canada, Nygard, TransX and Pepsi, plus a former instructor at the Faculty of Business, Red River College.

After 20 years as an HR Director, and while teaching at RRC, he decided to start Stone HR Strategies in 2014. Now with 70+ clients (many are SME businesses where Stone works directly with owners/leaders of companies that have between 5 and 50 employees, who realize they need some help on the HR front..... Stone HR Strategies helps take some of the 'people stuff' off their desks!).

Derek has an MBA from UVic and a BA from Western. He and his wife and 2 daughters live in River Heights. He loves squash, motorcycles, Duke basketball and is on the Board of the Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre.

Colin Ryan, CFA, ICD.D

Executive Vice-President, Senior Portfolio Manager, Director

Wellington-Altus Holdings Inc.



Industry:

Wealth Management

Topics of Interest:

Leadership

Investments



Colin began his wealth management career in 1992. In addition to serving high net worth, ultra high net worth and institutional clients, Colin spent many years in executive management at his prior firm managing the Prairie Region and was on the advisory committee that set policy and strategy for over 1200 advisors and \$120 billion in assets. Colin is a former finalist for the IDA Distinction Award, for investment professionals representing excellence in the profession. In addition to being recognized annually internally at his previous firm for excellence in wealth management, in 2019 he was recognized as one of the top 50 (#11) Advisors in Canada by Wealth Professional Magazine. In that same year was also awarded the Portfolio Manager of the Year award by the same publication and his team was finalist for the advisory team of the year (fewer than 10 employees).

Education:

Colin Ryan is a Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA). This program's rigorous curriculum, three levels of examination, and work-experience requirements make the CFA charter the most rigorous and recognized achievement within the global investment industry. Colin also has a B. Comm. (honours-finance) from the Asper School of Business. He has also attended executive education programs at The Wharton School at The University of Pennsylvania and The Rotman School of Management at The University of Toronto as well as many other industry related courses. He is committed to lifelong learning and as such recently completed the Institute of Corporate Directors Course (ICD.D) through the Rotman School of Management and the Asper Executive Education Centre.

Community involvement:

- Chair, Associates, Asper School of Business
- Campaign Chair 2017, United Way Winnipeg
- Past Co-Chair Major Giving Campaign, United Way
- Past Member Board of Trustees, United Way
- Past Chair of the Investment Dealers Association (MB)
- Past Chair of the Asper School of Business Young Associates Program.
- Past Member of the Board of Governors for the Winnipeg Art Gallery.
- Past Member of the Finance Committee for the Sports Center of Manitoba

Somia Sadiq

Founder, Principal Partner

Narratives Inc.



Industry:

Territorial Planning. Impact Assessment.
Conflict Transformation. Research.

Topics of Interest:

Entrepreneurship
Leadership
Trauma-Informed Practice
Diversity



Somia is a Certified Environmental Professional (EP) and a Registered Professional Planner (RPP), specializing in Impact Assessment, Conflict Transformation, Negotiations, and Peace building.

Somia's portfolio includes: negotiations, strategic communications, impact assessments, social programming, capacity building and training, risk evaluation, and development and execution of engagement programs.

Somia's work is informed by a keen interest in creating space for multiple knowledge systems, and understanding psychosocial barriers to reconciliation, particularly dynamics of othering, framing, and trauma.

Susana Scott

Founder and President

Brematson Disability Advocates Inc.

Industry:

Charity

Topics of Interest:

Disability

Government Bureaucracy

Entrepreneurship

Leadership



Susana Scott is the founder and President of Brematson Disability Advocates Inc., a national fee for service advocacy organization. Her services include, Tribunal Hearings, Appeals, and Reconsiderations for the Canada Pension Plan disability program. Private insurance Long Term Disability (LTD) claim appeals, and the Disability Tax Credit (DTC).

The creation of the company in 2004 was a direct result of her personal experience with disability issues, which she encountered when her daughter was born with Spina Bifida. Susana's experience is vast when it comes to government relations: a former Special Assistant to the President of the Treasury Board of the federal government of Canada under the administration of Prime Ministers' the Honorable Jean Chretien and the Honorable Paul Martin, she has expertise in navigating government bureaucracy and interpreting legislation. Susana set a vision for Brematson & Disability Advocates to bring clarity, build connections and to advocate for disabled individuals and their families across Canada.

In addition to her advocacy work, she has made a point to contribute to the disability community. She sponsored the Society for Manitobans with Disabilities (SMD) All Abilities Dance Group, and the SMD Dancing with Celebrities fundraiser. Also, her support of the City of Winnipeg, Sponsor Winnipeg initiative has resulted in an Adaptive Book Collection for children with learning disabilities and the support of the Sign-A-Story program for deaf children at the Millennium Library.

She is the President for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus Association of Canada, SBHAC. Susana's efforts have included participating in the lobbying of the Provincial government for accessibility rights legislation in Manitoba. This has resulted in an Accessibility Advisory Council Act and the Passage of Strong and Effective Accessibility-Rights Legislation. She is also a board member for Variety, the children's charity.

Susana is a member of TEC Canada, the preeminent leadership development program in Canada and part of the Vistage Global leadership network with over 15,000 members worldwide. Through membership in TEC Canada Susana and business leaders meet regularly to sharpen their business leadership skills, participate in stimulating speaker sessions, share best practices, and provide peer mentorship to the other members of their Group.

Scott Shippam

President

Shippam & Associates Inc.

Industry:

Promotional Merchandise

Topics of Interest:

Marketing

Entrepreneurship

Leadership

Sales



For over 25 years Scott Shippam, has been a noteworthy leader in Manitoba supplying businesses with corporate merchandise for large and smaller businesses throughout Canada. Clients use our products for uniforms, employee gifts, special events and marketing material.

Scott has been the past president of the Entrepreneurs Organization (EO) for Manitoba. Scott has also been on the board for the Winnipeg Executives Association and the Promotional Product Association of Manitoba.

Scott has a passion for spending time with his Wife Nancy, son Carter and Daughter Emily. His hobbies also include fishing at the lake, playing hockey and golf.

Simone Smith

Director, Learning and Talent Development
The North West Company

Industry:

Retail

Topics of Interest:

Leadership

Training

Talent Development



Simone has a passion for learning and development that continues to grow as she pushes the scope of how and where L&D can support at North West. Keeping current on technology and people trends in large organizations helps her to continue to build a vision for all of the ways her team can create new programs to engage employees and build solid career pathing.

Prior to joining North West, Simone spent 10 years as a consultant working with clients to build essential skills programming, identify learning technology solutions, build custom online learning programs and map out critical curricula.

Simone holds a Bachelor's degree in Chemistry and a Master's of Distance Education.

Bram Strain

President & CEO

Business Council of Manitoba



Industry:

Business Association / Government Relations

Topics of Interest:

Leadership

Government Relations

Advocacy

Business & Process of Government



Bramwell (Bram) Strain is the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Business Council of Manitoba. Bram is a Manitoban, raised in Elm Creek and is a graduate of Brandon University. Prior to joining the Business Council, Bram was most recently the City Manager in Lethbridge, Alberta, prior to that, he served as Deputy Minister in the Manitoba Government with the Ministries of Infrastructure as well as Education, Training, and Immigration. Bram has also served as Assistant Deputy Minister for Western Economic Diversification, Regional Director General for Citizenship and Immigration Canada, Director General for Service Canada, and Associate Regional Director General for Veterans Affairs Canada.

Bram is a strategic leader who utilizes a relationship-based leadership style that focuses on results and outcomes beneficial to stakeholders. Bram has worked extensively with the private sector in the development of economic and infrastructure projects leading to growth and community enhancement. On behalf of the Business Council, he is focused on economic growth for the province of Manitoba by creating the conditions for a competitive business environment for industry to thrive.

Bram has extensive experience inside of all levels of government which allows for a unique insight into politics and government relations.

Brent Turman

Chief Executive Officer
Entegra Credit Union



Industry:

Financial Services

Topics of Interest:

Leadership

Strategy

Finance

Co-operatives

Banking

Brent has spent his 30-year career in the financial services industry, specifically in the Manitoba credit union system. During his career Brent has performed numerous roles ranging from a summer student Teller to his most current role as CEO of Entegra Credit Union. An Asper grad, Brent has also continued his post graduate education by completing his CPA, CMA designation and most recently he achieved the Certified Chief Executive (CCE) designation in 2017.

As a hands-on leader Brent offers a unique perspective on leadership, strategy, and organizational culture in the financial services industry.

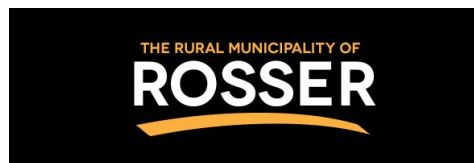
Larry Wandowich

Chief Administrative Officer
Rural Municipality of Rosser



Topics of Interest:

Change Management
Leadership
Marketing
Business Strategy
Government
Not-for-Profit



Larry Wandowich is the Chief Administrative Officer of the Rural Municipality of Rosser and under direction of Council, oversees the implementation and delivery of programs and services in the municipality, which includes both rural lands and the CentrePort lands in the RM of Rosser. Larry is a former executive member of Manitoba Liquor & Lotteries. Past executive portfolios include Community Relations & Partnerships, Marketing Campaigns & Loyalty Programs, Casino Promotions, Player Development & Recognition, Corporate Security, McPhillips Station Casino, and a Business Improvement pilot program. Larry has over 25 years management experience with 16 of those years at the executive level.

Larry has a BA from the University of Winnipeg and an MBA from the Asper School of Business, University of Manitoba with a specialization in Human Resources. Larry is a former University of Winnipeg Wesmen basketball player, a past Honorary President for Business Administration Students' Association at the University of Winnipeg, and a past Chamber Ambassador with the Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce. Larry is currently a Board member for the following organizations: Habitat for Humanity Manitoba, St. Boniface Diocesan High School, and Board of Consultors for Manitoba Catholic Schools. Larry is happily married for over 25 years and is a proud father of one daughter, who is working on her Bachelor of Business Administration while playing volleyball in Alberta.

Joel Waterman

General Manager

Inn at the Forks - Sparrow Hotels

Industry:

Hospitality, Hotels, Food & Beverage, Spa

Topics of Interest:

Strategy

Entrepreneurship

Human Resources

Leadership

Marketing



Joel has 20 plus years of experience in the Hotel Industry, including working for Hilton, Delta and Travelodge brands. He is currently the General Manager of Inn at the Forks, part of the Sparrow Hotels portfolio.

He also oversees the Food and Beverage operations at ERA Bistro & Catering in the Canadian Museum for Human Rights and Food and Beverage operations at the Winnipeg Art Gallery.

He is a Board Member for Manitoba Theatre for Young People and a member of Winnipeg Poverty Reduction Council's Employee Consortium on Truth and Reconciliation Call to Action #92.

Joel is a graduate of GMP – Executive Education at Cornell University and Success CompuCollege School of Business. He is a proud Winnipegger with a wife and two daughters.

Grant White

President, Portfolio Manager
Endeavour Wealth Management

Industry:

Wealth Management

Topics of Interest:

Innovative leadership
Customer/Client Experience
Building an Experience Brand
Challenging the status quo in traditional industry



E N D E A V O U R

In Grant's role as the President of Endeavour Wealth Management, he is responsible for daily operations as well as the long-term strategy for the business. Grant considers himself to be a compassionate and innovative leader in the industry. In particular, he loves the challenge of building an experience brand based in traditional industry.

I've always believed that if you are good at something, you should use your talents to help other people. I believe that my talents lie in creating unique client and customer experiences, especially in traditional industry. It is amazing, the experience you can create when you take a moment to step back and look through the eyes of your customer. It is the basis for how we create inspired moments and attempt to evaluate infinite detail. As wealth managers, our sole responsibility is to help people to live more of the life they want to, when they want to. We focus on the defining moments that matter in people's lives and help them to experience more of them. To be more in them, and we honor the ones that do.

After graduating with his honors degree in finance and marketing Grant entered the financial services industry in 2005. Since then he has been recognized as a top performing Financial Planner and Portfolio Manager by not only his own firm but other independent organizations including The Carson Group, an international Wealth Management Organization based out of Omaha Nebraska, and Wealth Professional where he was voted the top advisor in Canada under 40. Grant is regularly featured on CJOB, The Globe and Mail and Wealth Professional Magazine where he is asked his opinion on economic events, innovative leadership and financial planning strategy.

Grant is a proud member of the community and when he is not at the office, he and his wife Sam lend a great deal of time to local organizations which are close to their heart. Grant is passionate about ending homelessness and focuses on working as a member of the fundraising cabinet for the United Way of Winnipeg. He is a mentor for startup businesses with North Forge and serves on the St. Paul's High School Alumni Association board.

Nicole Zajac

Chief Financial Officer

Penner Oil



Industry:

Wholesale Retail Trade, Energy,
Transportation, First Nations

Topics of Interest:

Accounting
Strategy
Entrepreneurship
Leadership



Nicole Zajac is a versatile, results orientated executive who is accustomed to working in a non-structured, fast-paced environment. With over a decade of successful experience in business improvement, compliance and customer centric decision making, Nicole is the Chief Financial Officer at Penner Oil, a Winnipeg based wholesale bulk fuel and distribution company serving Manitoba, Saskatchewan and north-western Ontario.

Nicole uses her understanding of numbers and her experience in operations to hold her own in the male dominated energy industry. She can delve deep into the weeds of government regulation or accounting transactions and take a more holistic approach to long-term strategy. Nicole's strong business acumen was built from the ground up based on pursuing her interest in learning all facets of running a successful business. She has launched new business lines, sold and acquired companies and is always improving internal and external processes.

Nicole has worked for an entrepreneur for 11 years and understands the importance of developing a strong executive team and succession planning to advance growth. Working in a medium-sized business Nicole has experience in sales, marketing, operations, logistics, IT, accounting, finance and strategy.

A strong believer in life-long education, Nicole is a CPA and holds a BA of the University of Winnipeg and a MBA from the University of Manitoba.

Denise Zaporzan, FCPA, FCMA, BSP

President

Asteria Global Inc.



Industry:

Consulting, Strategy & Leadership

Topics of Interest:

Strategy

Teams

Leadership



Denise is President of Denise Zaporzan and Associates, a strategy and leadership practice. As a trusted advisor, Denise demonstrates her passion, energy, and knowledge of strategy and leadership through work with public and private clients.

Prior to founding her practice in 2002, Denise was Chief Financial Officer of a privately held and publicly traded environment, where she successfully enjoyed over 20 years of executive leadership; formulating, implementing and evaluating financial and strategic planning, mergers and acquisitions, and change management.

Denise is a Chartered Professional Accountant (CPA, CMA), and received the Fellowship (FCPA) designation in 2010. She received her Balanced Scorecard Professional (BSP) certification through George Washington University, and furthered her studies with Harvard authors Kaplan and Norton in spring 2014. She has been a moderator for the CPA's Strategic Leadership Program, as well as the Asper School's Business Executive Education program. Denise speaks regularly at conferences across North America on the subject of strategy, leadership and personal brand.

In 2017, Denise developed and launched her newest initiative, D by denise, a Canadian lifestyle blog, brand, and e-commerce platform. D by denise publishes content celebrating the modern, professional middle-aged woman, and collaborates with local (Canadian) brands and media to celebrate the authentic voice of the modern, middle-aged female audience.

Denise currently serves as a Board member for The Associates at the University of Manitoba, the Winnipeg Art Gallery, the MATCH Winnipeg International Women's Fund, and a startup pharmaceutical company.