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2024-2025

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Michael Anderson

Founder & CEO

365 Technologies Inc.

Industry:

IT Services

Topics of Interest:

Cybersecurity

Leadership

Entrepreneurship

Startups



Michael Anderson is the founder and CEO of 365 Technologies Inc. Operating out of Winnipeg, 365 Technologies has forged a reputation as a trusted Managed IT Services Provider, offering unparalleled outsourced IT support to a roster of over 2,000 end users spanning 60 companies and serving a variety of business verticals across the province.

Michael's academic credentials match his industry standing. He holds an esteemed MBA from the I.H. Asper School of Business, and the globally recognized Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP) designation. Additionally, he has received credentials from both Harvard Business School's Executive Education program and York University. His business acumen and cybersecurity expertise not only contribute to the success of 365 Technologies, but they also make him a sought-after thought leader in the field.

Michael's expertise isn't restricted to just cybersecurity. He is a seasoned leader who understands the complexities of business and the nuances of marketing. As an entrepreneur, his role at 365 Technologies combines these skills, contributing to the company's growth and development in an ever-changing market.

At the heart of 365 Technologies' success is a versatile staff who adapt to the rapid changes in technology, conjuring creative solutions to complex problems. Michael's leadership instills in them the value of agility, innovative thinking, and continuous learning. His expertise in spearheading startups has propelled the company to new heights, setting benchmarks in service delivery and customersatisfaction.

Michael lives in Winnipeg with his wife, Bronwen, and their 5 children.

Manny Atwal

Chief Operating Officer
People Corporation

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

Retired CEO

Loewen Windows



Topics of Interest:

Strategy

Finance

Leadership

Previously Al Babiuk was the roles of President and Chief Executive Officer (2010-2019), Chief Operating Officer (2008-2010), and Chief Financial Officer (2003-2008) at Loewen, a manufacturer and distributor of architectural windows and doors. 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!

André Brin

Chief Executive Officer
World Trade Centre Winnipeg

Industry:

Business Services

Topics of Interest:

Sports Communications

Exporting

Business Advisory Services (start-ups, new entrepreneurs etc.)



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André Brin joined WTC Winnipeg on September 7, 2021. As Chief Executive Officer, he works with the Board of Directors and the leadership team to develop plans and strategies to drive the organization's goal of supporting economic growth in Manitoba, specifically through international trade.

He returned to Manitoba after working in Alberta for most of 1999-2021, with the NHL's Edmonton Oilers and Hockey Canada, based in Calgary.

André worked over 15 years with Hockey Canada, Canada's national sporting body, leading all corporate and hockey communications for the organization for his final five years. Over his time with Hockey Canada, he notably worked with many of Canada's National Teams at world championships, four Olympic Winter Games and one Paralympics.

André was executive director of the Conseil Jeunesse Provincial of Manitoba from 1994-1999, and executive director of the 2005 Jeux de la francophonie canadienne in Winnipeg. He also worked as a sports journalist for over ten years in Manitoba, with Radio-Canada, Envol91 FM Radio, on a part-time basis with MTN (now CITY TV) and La Liberté.

Born in Emekuku, Nigeria to Canadian parents, and a father working as a language teacher for the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), he proudly calls Winnipeg his hometown, but also spent parts of his youth in Nigeria, Yellowknife, NWT, Sydney, NS and Algeria.

Brian Brown

Principal

Best Job in the Company Consulting Services



Industry:

Consulting Services

Topics of Interest:

Internal Audit

Fraud

Governance

Risk Management

Brian 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.

Emily Burt

Executive Vice President

Cardinal Capital Management



Industry:

Capital Management

Topics of Interest:

Investments

Finance

Women in Finance

Women in Leadership

ESG Investing

CFA Designation



Cardinal
CAPITAL MANAGEMENT

Emily Burt is the Executive Vice-President and Chair of the Board at Cardinal Capital Management. Based in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Cardinal manages nearly \$4B in assets and is a signatory of the UN-PRI. Emily leads the business development and operations teams at Cardinal. Working with institutional and private clients across Canada and the United States, she assists clients in building and managing investment portfolios.

Prior to joining Cardinal, Emily gained a number of years of financial services experience in Toronto. Emily has a Master of Business Administration degree from Schulich School of Business, holds the Chartered Financial Analyst designation and has completed the CFA Institute Certificate in ESG Investing.

Emily currently serves as the President of CFA Society Winnipeg and also sits on the Board of CFA Societies Canada.

Brevan Canning, BSC, BBS, ACCA, CPA, CFA Level 1

President & CEO
People Corporation



Industry:

Group Benefits & Insurance

Topics of Interest:

Finance

Entrepreneurship

Leadership



Brevan has been with People Corporation since the start and has been instrumental in developing our company's foundation, mission, and growth strategy.

As President and Chief Executive Officer of People Corporation, Brevan is responsible for providing leadership and overall strategic direction to our corporation and its subsidiaries. He oversees the company's operations, policies, procedures, and strategic initiatives set out by the Board of Directors.

As a co-founder of the company, Brevan has been with People Corporation since its inception in 2005, playing a critical and influential role in the strategic and operational growth of the organization. Brevan has held a variety of essential roles: leading acquisitions prior to the company creating a corporate development function, leading the finance function when the company was taken public, running various back office and client services functions, and ultimately leading the Administration, Consulting, Brokerage, and Shared Services business units which culminated in his appointment to President and then President & Chief Executive Officer. Throughout this time, Brevan has furthered his commitment to the company's mission of helping clients recruit, retain, reward, engage, and care for their employees and plan members. Before joining People Corporation, Brevan held corporate development, finance, and project management roles at CanWest Global Communications and prior to that, at Band-X Ltd., which provided him significant international financial and accounting experience.

Scott Crick

Chief Financial Officer
Valley Fiber Ltd.



Industry:

Internet Services

Topics of Interest:

Leadership, Development,
Coaching and Mentoring
Working for and with
Entrepreneurs, and what they need
to know
Strategic Planning
Manufacturing, Agriculture,
Transportation, Telecommunicatins



Scott has been a business and finance leader for over 25 years, with much of it spent in entrepreneurial SMEs transitioning into next-phase growth. A strong proponent of covenantal leadership, he has often needed to step outside of the traditional requirements of a “typical” accountant to serve the needs of the business.

Scott has worked in agriculture, transportation, and manufacturing. He retains a passion for companies that do “good things” that make people’s lives better. In his current role as CFO of Valley Fiber, he is proud to be a part of a team that is providing underserved rural Manitoba communities with world-class Internet.

After achieving his CGA designation in 2003, Scott acquired his MBA from Laurentian University in 2009. He is also passionate about how professionals can contribute to their communities though public engagement and voluntter work. Scott was successfully elected as a Toun Councillor in Morris in 2010, won election as the communitu’s Mayor in 2048 and was acclaimed to a second term in 2022. During his tenure, staff and Council have successfully completed may initiatives for the long term benefit of the community.

Doug Darling

CEO and Executive Creative Director
TripWire Media Group Inc.

Industry:

Video Production and Animation

Topics of Interest:

Storytelling in Corporate
Communications and Sales
The Science of Storytelling
Video Production for Companies
Media Entrepreneurship
Entrepreneurship (using EOS and
Scaling Up Tools)



TRIPWIRE
MEDIA GROUP

As CEO and Executive Creative Director of TripWire Media Group Inc, connecting people more through storytelling and understanding how people work, think, and react is Doug's forte. Which is what has contributed to and shaped his vast knowledge and confidence in the industry. Since starting the company with a friend back in 2009, he has developed a strategic storytelling process and full-service video production team to further tell stories.

Doug is also an instructor in the Digital Film and Video Production Program at Red River Polytechnic. He is also on the Board of Directors at On Screen Manitoba as well as the Gala Committee for the Alzheimer's Society of Manitoba.

Jaimie Dawson, CPA, CA

Partner, Assurance
Ernst & Young LLP

Industry:
Financial



Jaimie Dawson is the managing partner of the EY Winnipeg office and in the Assurance Services practice of EY with over 27 years experience.

He has spent most of his career serving privately held companies and his clients include many private equity and large family office investee companies who operate in a variety of industries – manufacturing, health care, energy services, retail

Jaimie has deep experience in business acquisitions and divestitures and currently serves as auditor for a number of health care consolidators

He works closely with his clients as a trusted business advisor, delivering the connections and insight required to build and grow their businesses. With a strong understanding of internal controls, accounting systems and Jaimie has assisted clients under numerous financial reporting frameworks, including ASPE and IFRS.

Silvia de Sousa

Partner

Thompson Dorfman Sweatman LLP

Industry:

Business Law

Topics of Interest:

Intellectual Property
Business Law



Silvia is a partner at TDS with a practice that is concentrated in the area of business law with an emphasis on intellectual property law and technology law. 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 intellectual property law, solicitor transaction matters, licensing, and international law as a sessional lecturer at the University of Manitoba, Faculty of Law, and the Asper School of Business.

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 Foundation, the Manitoba Chambers of Commerce, Branch Council of the Manitoba Bar Association, and the American Bar Association IP Section.

Silvia was recognized nationally as a Women of Influence by the Women of Influence Inc. and has been recognized annually by her peers for inclusion in The Best Lawyers in Canada directory for Technology Law since 2016. Silvia's services are provided through Silvia de Sousa Law Corporation.

Education

University of Manitoba, LLB, 1993

University of Manitoba, Bachelor of Arts, 1990

Tim Feduniw

Director, Sustainable Economic Development

City of Selkirk

Industry:

Municipality

Topics of Interest:

Actualizing a Sustainable Future



Born and raised in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Tim Feduniw is the Director of Sustainable Economic Development for the City of Selkirk, Manitoba. As part of the municipality's senior management team, Tim is responsible for planning, economic development and establishing Selkirk's municipal land bank. With decades of experience across Western Canada, he has held senior economic development roles in Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba. Tim has been a part of numerous boards and committees at national, provincial and regional levels covering a range of interests that include business, the environment, economic development, healthcare and community. Values driven and outcome focused, Tim successfully applies a broad based, pragmatic, multidisciplinary, and collaborative approach to economic development embracing the principles of interdependence, transparency and regionalism.

Tim is a frequent speaker having presented before organizations that include Decentralized Energy Canada, QUEST Canada, The International Economic Development Council, Saskatchewan Professional Planners Institute, the Manitoba Planning Conference and multiple others.

The City of Selkirk's quest to be a leader in sustainable development has necessitated the introduction of fundamental changes in how it defines, plans and delivers its programs and initiatives. By holding a steadfast belief and commitment to defining and living its brand as a means to control its own destiny, Selkirk derives its direction from a set of core values and principles articulated in its corporate strategic plan. This strategic plan forms the basis for decisions resulting in a consistent and measured suite of policies, practices, programs and initiatives.

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.

Melissa Giller

Founder & CEO

The Mindful Boss Academy

Industry:

Consulting / Coaching

Topics of Interest:

Marketing

Entrepreneurship

Leadership

Women in Business

Communication Skills

Energy Management

Mindfulness / Stress Management



Melissa is the Founder and CEO of The Mindful Boss Academy, a consulting and coaching agency dedicated to empowering female entrepreneurs and executives through energy management, business strategy, and life coaching. Before launching her own venture, Melissa was a Senior Consultant in the Human Capital service line at Deloitte LLP, taught Business Communications at the University of Manitoba, and gained extensive corporate experience across higher education, healthcare, and financial services industries.

Passionate about helping individuals and organizations achieve joy, ease, and a sense of balance while pursuing their purpose, Melissa specializes in stress reduction, mindful business strategy, and people-centered practices. With a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, a Master of Business Administration, and certifications in Life Coaching and Change Management, she offers a unique perspective on women in leadership and entrepreneurship.

Melissa is also the co-founder of The Alliance, a local women's business development group in partnership with the Winnipeg Women's Conference & Community. Married to a fellow business owner (Smack Pet Food), she has a deep understanding of balancing family and personal development with the demands of working within or leading an organization.

Benjamin Graham

President & CEO

Manitoba Blue Cross

Industry:

Insurance

Topics of Interest:

Insurance

Leadership

International Experience



A native of Australia with a Master of Risk Management (Business and Economics) from Melbourne's Monash University, Benjamin Graham brings a global perspective to his position as President & CEO of Manitoba Blue Cross which he commenced in October 2020.

Before arriving to Manitoba in 2018, where he made his first imprint in the local business community as President & CEO of Manitoba Public Insurance, Benjamin held Executive positions at as Regional Chief Risk Officer QBE Insurance Asia Pacific in Hong Kong; Abu Dhabi National Insurance Company and Deloitte in the United Arab Emirates (Dubai and Kuwait). Both industry roles in Hong Kong and Abu Dhabi had responsibility for enterprise risk management, regulatory reporting, underwriting and capital modelling.

While Benjamin's strong business acumen and expertise in medical underwriting models, insurance and risk management have helped shape his career, his transparent and inclusive leadership style are contributing factors to his continued success leading business transformation and growth.

Benjamin has developed roots in the province and is committed to the community, both as a business leader and a citizen. He's a member of the Winnipeg Humane Society Board of Directors and is working hard to become as comfortable in hockey skates and ice fishing as he is in golf shoes.

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/benjamin-graham-31930241/?originalSubdomain=ca>

Jamie Hall

Chief Executive Officer

Habitat for Humanity Manitoba

Industry:

Not for Profit, Construction, Retail

Topics of Interest:

Leadership

Ethics

Safety & Health

Not for Profit

Public Sector

Housing and Other Social Issues



Jamie joined Habitat for Humanity Manitoba as Chief Executive Officer in 2023. He is proud to be part of a community of staff, volunteers, donors and other stakeholders who work to make home ownership a reality for hard working, low income families. Prior to joining Habitat, Jamie served as Chief Operating Officer of SAFE Work Manitoba for nine years. He was part of a team that changed the landscape of safety in order to realize significant improvements in safety performance in Manitoba. 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 served on the United Way Cabinet and as Chair of the Board of the Better Business Bureau Foundation, and represented 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.

Dale Hawthorn

President & Chief Operating Officer
BCV Asset Management Inc.



Industry:

Portfolio Management/Financial Services

Topics of Interest:

Marketing
Accounting
Finance
Leadership



Dale has over fifteen years of diverse business experience, working in public practice, the oil & gas industry, and the asset management industry. Prior to joining BCV Asset Management Inc. in 2018, Dale served as Vice-President, Finance & Administration at Tetrem Capital Management Ltd., a prominent Winnipeg-based portfolio management firm that managed portfolios for high-net-worth clients and institutions, including one of Canada's largest mutual fund companies. Previously, he worked as Controller for a Winnipeg-based oil and gas company, Red Beds Resources Limited (a wholly owned subsidiary of Tundra Oil and Gas Partnership) and as an Audit & Assurance Manager with PwC (formerly PricewaterhouseCoopers) after graduation. Dale is also actively involved by volunteering his time at charitable and sports related organizations outside of his professional career.

Education and Professional Affiliations:

- University of Manitoba, Bachelor of Commerce (Honours), 2006
- Chartered Professional Accountant, Chartered Professional Accountants of Manitoba, 2009
- Chartered Professional Accountant, Chartered Professional Accountants of Canada, 2009

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.

Mark Howe

Director of Business Development & Client Relations

Thompson Dorfman Sweatman

Industry:

Legal Services

Topics of Interest:

Marketing

Sales and Business Development

Professional Services Sector (legal, accounting, engineering, architecture, finance, etc.)



For over 20 years Mark has worked in the fields of marketing and business development/sales in a variety of management and leadership positions. Most of his experience has been with sector leading firms including Thompson Dorfman Sweatman LLP, Acumen Corporate Development and Agricore United/Viterra. As an entrepreneur, he has had the pleasure of providing private advisory and coaching services to firms in the accounting, dental, marketing and agribusiness consulting fields, among others.

Additional activities and volunteer experience includes serving for several years as the Regional Vice Chair (North America) of the Lex Mundi Marketing & Business Development Committee, as well as, instructing the Services Marketing course through Red River College. He has been a speaker at marketing and business development conferences across Canada, the U.S. and Europe. Mark is also a member of the Board of Directors with the Canadian Agri-Marketing Association and the Manitoba Marketing Network.

Mark is a graduate from the University of Manitoba, University of Winnipeg, and Red River Polytechnique. He is currently working towards his Certified Management Consultant (CMC) and Associate Certified Coach (ACC) designations.

Chris Isford, CPA CA

Vice-President Finance & Controller
Air Canada

Industry:

Air Transportation

Topics of Interest:

Accounting

Strategy

Finance

Leadership

MIS / Business Technology



Mr. Chris Isford is Vice President Finance & Controller of Air Canada. He was appointed Controller for Air Canada in October 2006, responsible for the airline's controllership functions, financial planning, analysis and reporting. Mr. Isford previously held the position of Senior Director, Financial Reporting with Air Canada and has been involved with numerous of the airlines financing and corporate 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. Chris holds the CPA, CA designation and is a graduate of the University of Manitoba.

Chris is also responsible for the Corporation's passenger sales accounting function, including payment card processing, where the accounting team works closely with the commercial distribution and technology functions of Air Canada to implement innovative and customer centric payment acceptance solutions in the Corporation's global sales channels.

Derek Johansson

CEO

New World Technologies Inc.

Industry:

Technology Consulting Services

Topics of Interest:

Marketing

Entrepreneurship

Leadership

Resilience in Difficult Times



After 40 years in the office technologies industry, Derek has moved from an operational role to a consultive one at NWT (New World Technologies). His operational expertise was hone through his involvement in 7 start ups and growing two of them into mature market leaders. His M&A expertise was strengthened with the buying and selling of 5 companies in the past 4 decades. Derek's involvement on over 20 boards has developed his leadership skills within organizations with revenues from a million to \$3 billion.

Recognition achieved:

Top 40 Under 40

Top 50 Private Managed Businesses

Regional finalist for the Entrepreneur of the Year

Distinguish Toastmaster

Institute of Corporate Director designation

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 responsible for the strategic direction of the centre in support of furthering entrepreneurial engagement within the University of Manitoba student population. In her previous role as Director of Executive Education for the Asper School of Business, Debra was responsible for the Executive Education program in support of delivering leading edge programming for senior leadership in both the public and private sector.

Debra was previously President of People First HR Services and was responsible for the strategic leadership and operations of the organization. Prior to People First, Debra was Vice-President of Dufresne Furniture and Appliances. In this position she was responsible for the strategic direction and operation of the retail division, as well as, the furniture wholesale alliance with the North West Company and the Dufresne Retail Solutions Group, a buying group supplying retail solutions to over 80 independent furniture retailers across Canada.

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, is a member of the CPA Manitoba Disciplinary Committee. She was a Governor of the Manitoba Museum for nine years, and was on the board of Manitoba Hydro Board and value Partners investments. 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.

Dustin Karsin B.Env.S. (Hons), PMP, LEED AP BC+C

Associate | Operations Analyst, Buildings
Stantec



Topics of Interest:

Project Management
Sustainability
Construction
Architecture
Engineering
Financial Tracking
General Management
Leadership



Dustin is an MBA graduate from the University of Manitoba Asper School of Business. He is an Associate in the Buildings (Architecture and Engineering) team at Stantec, Winnipeg. Dustin has a wealth of project management and financial tracking experience and assists in managing the financial components of the Stantec Project Portfolio. Stantec provides professional consulting services in planning, engineering, architecture, interior design, landscape architecture, surveying, environmental sciences, project management, and project economics for infrastructure and facilities projects. Stantec's net revenue was \$4.5 billion in 2022.

In his previous role as Director of Sustainability and Project Planning at the Assiniboine Park Conservancy (APC), he led the development of key strategies, programs, and initiatives to support project management, and sustainable practices. He created and implemented policies, procedures, and guidelines for environment and sustainability focus areas. These areas include waste reduction, water, energy & climate, environmental health, education & engagement, transportation, greenspace management, and procurement. Additionally, he led the operational readiness project for Canada's Diversity Garden's - a \$125 million dollar horticultural attraction bringing together architecture, landscaping, and diverse plant life.

Dustin holds a Project Management Professional (PMP) certification as well as a LEED AP BD+C accreditation from the US Green Building Council. He combines his business acumen with his passion for sustainability, having created the Stantec Winnipeg Office sustainability program when they opened a new downtown office in 2015. Returning to Stantec in 2023 in a new role and capacity has enabled Dustin to bring his project management and financial expertise back to the practice.

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 banks 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.

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 28 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 is very active in various Boards and Committees. He is currently on the Board of Directors for Winnipeg Harvest and Indigenous Works.

Melanie McCreath

Business Development
Colliers Project Leaders



Industry:

Capital Projects

Topics of Interest:

Finance

Leadership

Investor Relations

ESG

Sustainability

Strategy

Communications

Women in Business

Melanie McCreath is results driven, people-first leader with over 15 years of experience in a variety of sectors, including capital markets, capital program delivery, economic development and tourism, manufacturing, mining, retail, and technology consulting.

She holds a Bachelor of Environmental Studies (Honours) from the University of Manitoba, the FSA (Fundamentals of Sustainability Accounting) credential through the IFRS Foundation, and the CPIR (Certified Professional in Investor Relations) credential through Ivey and the Canadian Investor Relations Institute (CIRI).

Melanie is proudly Métis, a member of the Associates of the Asper School of Business, and an Ivey Executive MBA 2025 candidate.

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, Asper School of Business and a CISSP designation from ISC2.

Martin McGarry

Chief Executive Officer

Cushman & Wakefield | Stevenson



Industry:

Commercial Real Estate

Topics of Interest:

Commercial Real Estate
Asset Management



Martin is the Chief Executive Officer of Cushman & Wakefield | Stevenson. He began his commercial real estate career nearly 30 years ago and has been a top producer for the last two decades. If you were to ask anyone who has any involvement in commercial real estate, they will tell you Martin is a person you can depend on and trust to do the best thing for his client.

Martin is responsible for the execution, vision, and strategy as the CEO of CW Stevenson as well as the President and CEO of MMI Asset Management. He manages strategic relationships with key investment partners and is continually in pursuit of client-service excellence.

He serves on the Board of Directors for World Trade Centre Winnipeg. Martin was also appointed to the Manitoba Provincial Working Group for development of a capital region growth plan that will aim to deliver better infrastructure at lower cost and improve planning, permitting, and zoning.

Carmine Militano, P.Eng.

President

Bockstael Construction Limited

Topics of Interest:

Strategy

Leadership

Marketing



Carmine Militano is a Principal at Bockstael Construction and the President. He brings a “360 degree perspective” to the Bockstael team with more than 42 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 the Past Chair of the St. Boniface Hospital Foundation Board; a former Director of the Holy Names House of Peace Board; a former Director of the St. Boniface Hospital Board, and a current Director of the Winnipeg Football Club Board.

Amy Oliver

President

Amy Oliver + Co

Industry:

Venture Capital and Management Consulting

Topics of Interest:

Leadership

Strategy

Women in Business



A handwritten signature in teal ink that reads "Amy Oliver + Co".

Amy Oliver is an experienced healthcare executive and the founder and CEO of Amy Oliver + Co where she offers trusted advisory services, professional leadership, business coaching to practice owners, leaders, academics, and organizations in health and social sectors.

Amy has coached and advised hundreds of health leaders and practice owners. She is passionate about bridging the gaps around strategy, management, and leadership through knowledge translation at the crossroads of health and business. She is the founder of the Healthy Business series, the Womomentum series, and the online leadership platform, The Stack.

She holds an MBA with a dual concentration in Organizational Leadership and Health Administration. She is a pharmacist, a Certified Leadership Coach, and a globally certified Project Management Professional. Amy holds certificates in Emotional Intelligence, Advanced Strategic Management, and Leadership. She is a sought after keynote speaker and a member of the Speakers Bureau of Canada.

Amy has won multiple health sector and leadership awards and is also a recent alumna of the prestigious Governor General Canadian Leadership Conference.

Gavin Rich

President

Tough Duck

Industry:

Apparel and Fashion

Topics of Interest:

Marketing

Supply Chain / Logistics

Entrepreneurship

Leadership

Family Business



**TOUGH
DUCK™**

Gavin is President of Tough Duck, a global leader in Safety, Work and Outdoor Apparel. Tough Duck was started in 1939 by Gavin's Grandfather, Abraham Rich.

From half a million square feet of Distribution Facilities in Winnipeg, Tough Duck serves hard working people in many industries around the world-the trades, aviation, construction, agriculture, transportation, and more.

All Executive Leadership, product design, logistics, marketing and sales management come from our talented team at our Exchange District Head Office in Winnipeg.

Gavin is passionate about Winnipeg, family business, growing long term enterprise value, the supply chain, and giving back to the community. He is especially proud of the team that leads Tough Duck and the growth of the brand.

Gavin holds a BA (Adv) from The University of Manitoba Faculty of Arts.

Nolan Ploegman, MBA

President & CEO

Concord Projects Ltd.

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, a construction and general contracting company, in 2005 and now oversees all aspects of the business.

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 leads an experienced team in all aspects of the business including finance, accounting, marketing, human resources and technology. Nolan is passionate about non-profit and charitable organizations and related initiatives including the recently established Concord Projects Foundation. Jobsite tours can be arranged if interested www.concordprojects.com.

Calvin Polet

President

Neptune Properties Inc.

Industry:

Commerical Real Estate, Entrepreneurship

Topics of Interest:

Entrepreneurship

Leadership

Ethics

Strategy / Decision-making



Calvin's career started as a Dairy Queen franchisee and self-serve car wash operator (The Wave Car Wash). After selling the DQ and returning to school, he co-founded Neptune Properties Inc., a Winnipeg-based family office whose initial focus was commercial real estate in Winnipeg, where he holds the role of President.

The real estate portfolio consists of industrial and retail assets in Western Canada and industrial assets in Minnesota, totalling approximately 1.3 million square feet of rentable area. In 2005 Neptune expanded its investment strategy to include direct operating investments, participating in the start-up of Prairie West Ice Cream, a private-label ice cream manufacturer in Winnipeg. In 2012 Neptune partnered in the formation of True North Foods, a federally-certified beef-processing facility based in Carman, Manitoba. Both food production companies serve clients coast-to-coast and are in the midst of expansions, with True North Foods having the goal of becoming the fifth-largest beef-processing plant in Canada by 2025.

He holds a BA in Economics and an MBA from the University of Manitoba and the ICD.D designation from the Rotman School of Management. As President of Neptune Properties, he provides strategy and governance insight to the various operating branches.

Volunteer activities include 23 seasons of coaching and volunteering in the football program at St. Paul's High School. Past involvement has been on the boards of the Downtown Winnipeg Improvement Zone, which he chaired in 2013, and St. Paul's High School, which he chaired from 2019 to 2021.

John Proven, CPA, CA

NFI Group of Companies

Industry:

Environmental Technology

Topics of Interest:

Human Resources

Leadership

International Business

Finance

Accounting

Strategy and Planning



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, Past Director of the Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce and Director of Cerebra Medical Inc, an early-stage medical technology company. He has been newly added as Director of Red River Mutual Insurance.

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 growth oriented clients in the following industries: Agri-Business (G3, Manitoba Pork, Agrihub, O&T Farms, Fort Garry Brewing, Verve Seeds, CCGA), Technology (Industrial Technology Centre, North Forge, Farmcaster, Zantek, Feedflo), Not-for-profit / Associations (The Associates, Harvest Manitoba, Economic Development Winnipeg, RMED, CEDF, MB Chambers of Commerce), Professional Services (Crosier Kilgour Partners, Private Pension Partners, Standard Insurance), Construction / Real Estate (Genstar, Priority Restoration, Sigfusson Northern), as well as Manufacturing (Convicon, 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 Canadian Chambers of Commerce, the Winnipeg Executives Association and is an active member of The Manitoba Chambers of Commerce, The Associates, 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, 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 170+ 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!).

He believe in strategic HR that is bottom-line driven and is constantly relating actions back to the company brand by thinking about how to engage employees to give discretionary effort (and help you make more money!) WE ARE NOT YOUR TYPICAL HR EXPERTS: EVERYTHING WE DO IS ABOUT ATTRACTING / RETAINING / ENGAGING. His team of 15 HR professionals does this by assisting companies to: develop / build teams / enhance policy / strategically plan / improve culture. We have a proven track record of increasing revenue, enhancing brand and building high performance teams in government, private and publicly traded companies.

Derek is a Frequent Guest Lecturer with org such as: TEC, Asper MBA, MITT , AWE, EO, TAB, MHBA, PPMA, EAM.

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 Private Wealth



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

Reuben Saba

Vice President, Business Development
Medicure, Inc.

Industry:

Pharmaceuticals & Healthcare

Topics of Interest:

Marketing
Supply Chain/Logistics
Entrepreneurship
Leadership
Healthcare
Hospital
Insurance Payor Landscape in Healthcare
Pharmaceuticals
Retail Pharmacy



Reuben Saba has progressively had expanded roles within the pharmaceutical industry and currently serves as the Vice President of Business Development at Medicure, Inc. He is responsible for coordinating the strategic direction of the company's expansion efforts. This includes identifying potential partnerships, securing new business opportunities, and overseeing the integration of these opportunities into the company's existing operations. Furthermore, this role also encompasses managing the company's access to the US payor market, a critical aspect that involves understanding and navigating complex third-party payor landscape, cultivating relationships with key stakeholders, and ensuring the company's products are successfully introduced and adopted within these markets.

Prior to joining Medicure, Reuben lent his expertise to the Public Health Agency of Canada in the Molecular Pathobiology Department, emphasizing on the host genetics involved in neurodegenerative diseases. He earned his M.Sc. and Ph.D. at the University of Manitoba and further engaged in post-doctoral training at the Interdisciplinary Center for Neurosciences at the University of Heidelberg (Germany) as a Canadian Institute of Health Research and Excellence Cluster Post Doctoral Fellow.

Somia Sadiq

Founder, Principal Partner
Narratives Inc.



Industry:

Territorial Planning. Impact Assessment.
Conflict Transformation. Research.

Topics of Interest:

Entrepreneurship
Leadership
Trauma-Informed Practice
Diversity



narratives

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 & Associates 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.

Blaine Shewcuk

EVP, Individual Wealth

Canada Life



Industry:

Wealth Management

Topics of Interest:

Accounting

Finance

Entrepreneurship

Leadership



Blaine Shewchuk joined Canada Life in 2024, as Executive Vice President, Individual Wealth, a leading wealth platform for entrepreneurial advisors and clients.

Blaine joins Canada Life from Investment Planning Counsel (IPC) where he has been President and CEO since 2021, following an extensive career in wealth and asset management at IGM Financial – which included the role of EVP, Chief Strategy and Corporate Development Officer.

Blaine has a Bachelor of Commerce (Honours) degree from the University of Manitoba, holds the CPA and CMA designations and is a CFA Charterholder, CFA Institute.

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



Industry:

Retail

Topics of Interest:

Leadership

Training

Talent Development

Simone has a passion for learning and talent development that continues to grow as she pushes the scope of how and where Learning and, talent development can move along its journey towards becoming a learning organization. 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, influence employee experience and workplace culture, and build career pathing programs to support the future workforce.

Prior to joining MPI, Simone spent almost 7 years with the North West Company leading their Learning and Development department, and years working as a consultant mapping out learning technology solutions, building custom online learning programs, developing essential skills programming, and forming corporate curricula.

Simone holds a Bachelor's of Science in Chemistry and a Master's Degree in 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



**Business Council
of Manitoba**

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
Assiniboine Credit Union



Industry:

Financial Services

Topics of Interest:

Leadership

Strategy

Finance

Co-operatives

Banking



Brent has spent his 33-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 a member of the executive team at Assiniboine 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

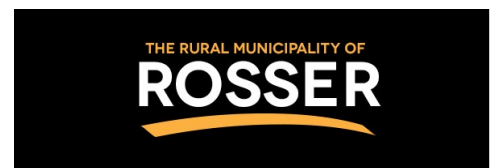
Leadership

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 30 years of management experience with 21 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 Relations. 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 has served as a Board member for the following organizations: Habitat for Humanity Manitoba, St. Boniface Diocesan High School, and Board of Consultors for Manitoba Catholic Schools. He has also helped with the Asper School JDC West program for many years and is a member of the Associates. Larry is happily married for over 29 years and is a proud father of one daughter, who achieved her Bachelor of Business Administration while playing college volleyball in Alberta.

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



ENDEAVOUR

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

Partner & Chief Financial Officer

Larry Penner Enterprises Inc. | Penner Oil

Industry:

Wholesale Retail Trade, Energy,
Transportation, First Nations

Topics of Interest:

Accounting
Strategy
Entrepreneurship
Leadership



Nicole Zajac is a partner at Penner Oil and serves as the Chief Financial Officer. Penner Oil is a Winnipeg based wholesale bulk fuel marketer and distribution company operating in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and north-western Ontario.

Nicole has more than 15 years' experience in business improvement, compliance, and strategic leadership. Given the nature of her role, Nicole oversees all aspects of the business and has direct experience in sales, marketing, operations, logistics, IT, accounting, finance, and strategy. Committed to process improvement, Nicole is regarded as a versatile, results-oriented executive with a strong customer-centric approach. Prior to becoming a partner, Nicole had worked for an entrepreneur for 13 years and understands the importance of developing a strong executive team and succession planning to advance growth.

As strong supporter of the Asper School of Business, Nicole has been a member of the Associates since 2019. She mentors undergraduate and graduate students and supports them as they compete in business competitions offering guidance in business analysis and strategy development.

Nicole received her bachelor's degree in arts with an emphasis in Political Sciences from the University of Winnipeg, CPA designation, and a Master of Business Administration from the University of Manitoba. In 2023 she received the CPA Manitoba Earlier Achievement Award for demonstrating an ongoing commitment and excellence in their professional, community and career achievement within the first ten years of membership.

Denise Zaporzan, FCPA, FCMA, BSP

President

Asteria Global Inc.

Industry:

Consulting, Strategy & Leadership

Topics of Interest:

Strategy

Teams

Leadership



Denise is President & CEO of Asteria Global, an international consulting firm advising tech entrepreneurs and business leaders on growth, evolution, succession planning, and exit/acquisition.

She is a Fellow Chartered Professional Accountant (FCPA), having earned Fellow recognition in 2010 for exceptional career achievements and service to the accounting profession.

Prior to founding Asteria Global, Denise served as Chief Financial Officer for privately held and publicly traded companies. She enjoyed over 20 years in executive roles, leading financial and strategic planning, mergers and acquisitions, change management, and transitioning an initial public offering.

She is a past sessional instructor and moderator for accounting, strategy, and leadership courses at the Business School as well as Executive Education. She has been an Associate member for 11 years – serving on the board for 9 years.

Denise is a past board director and audit committee member for the Canadian Cancer Society, past United Way Winnipeg committee member, and past board member and gala chair for the Winnipeg Art Gallery.

In addition to serving as Chair of the Associates, she is a board director and finance committee chair for Economic Development Winnipeg.

Grant Zipursky

Director/Chief Executive Officer
MD Innovative Strategies Ltd.

Industry:

Health Care Technology

Topics of Interest:

Start ups

Medical Technology



Grant is Chief Executive Officer for MD Innovative Strategies, which provides consultative and marketing strategies to incubators and start up medical device companies.

Grant received his Bachelor of Science through University of Manitoba. He then futhered his studies at Wharton School of Business for their Leadership and Mentorship Program as well as Harvard Business School for Strategic Planning Seminars.

In addition he also volunteers his time with several community Boards and committees, as well as, mentoring students at the University of Manitoba.

Joanne Zuk

Principal and CEO

Joanne Zuk Leadership and Strategy



Industry:

Consulting (Strategy, Engagement, Facilitation)

Topics of Interest:

Entrepreneurship

Leadership

Negotiation

Culture Change



Joanne Zuk is a Winnipeg-based strategist and entrepreneur who specializes in strategic planning and stakeholder engagement for organizations that have a complex relationship with government. Over the past three years, she has developed strategic plans for dozens of organizations, including Manitoba Public Insurance, the YMCA-YWCA of Winnipeg, and Red River College Polytechnic. She has also been contracted as a facilitator by national organizations such as Cereals Canada and YWCA Canada.

Prior to opening her firm, Joanne had a 20-year career in public service, where she thrived by building high performing and engaged teams. During the final 5 years of her career, she was a senior executive in the Cabinet office, which placed her at the heart of power and decision-making in Manitoba. Her understanding of the interactions between the public and private sectors is an asset that her clients value deeply.

Joanne has specialized expertise in strategy alignment, cultural transformation of large organizations, and negotiation strategies – with a focus specifically on women and other equity-deserving groups.

Joanne holds a BA (Psychology) and BSc (Biology) from The University of Winnipeg, a Masters in Public Administration (MBA stream) from the University of Manitoba, and an Executive Leadership Certificate from Schulich School of Business. She has been trained in multiple innovation methodologies, including Lean, Human Centred Design, Innovation Engineering and in public engagement and facilitation.

Joanne is married with two grown daughters. She is an avid cyclist and nerd.