



2018 Board of Directors Status and Nomination Report

2018 Executive Committee

Cris Seppola-Podsada	Chair of the Board	Moving to Past Chair
Dan Wong	1 st Vice-Chair	Nomination for Chair of the Board
Larry Gibson	2 nd Vice-Chair	Nomination for 1 st Vice Chair
Dennis Bell	Past Chair	Retiring at AGM

2018 Directors

	Status	
Becky Bozarth	1 st term, 2 nd year	Running for 2 nd Term
Kory Brazel	1 st term, 1 st year	
Cheryl Budjak	1 st term, 2 nd year	Running for 2 nd Term
Gord Chrenek	1 st term, 1 st year	
Tertius Genis	2 nd term, 1 st year	Nomination for 2 nd Vice-Chair
Frédéric Grandmaison	2 nd term, 1 st year	
Lisa Hall	1 st term, 1 st year	
Brooks Hoffos	1 st term, 2 nd year	Running for 2 nd Term
J'ason Miller	2 nd term, 1 st year	
Justin Munroe	1 st term, 1 st year	
Cindy Park	1 st term, 1 st year	
Scott Roessler	1 st term, 2 nd year	Retiring at AGM
Cheryl Weaver	2 nd term, 2 nd year	Retiring at AGM

Total 17 Directors

6 positions open for Directors for 2019

Nominations for 2019 Director Positions

CANDIDATE BIOGRAPHIES



Haydar Al Dahhan **Design Works Engineering**

Born in England and raised in several major international cities Haydar came to Canada in 2001. Haydar received both his Technologist Diploma and Bachelor's Degree in Electrical Engineering from Lakehead University in Thunder Bay, Ontario.

Throughout his undergraduate studies, he gained experience in the electrical and mechanical engineering field by working at Field, Field & Field Architecture – Engineering Ltd. as an Electrical Engineering Technologist. During his time, there, he was extensively involved with both the Mechanical and Electrical engineering teams working on various commercial and industrial projects. After receiving his Bachelor's in Electrical Engineering, he joined Process Control & Technology Management Inc. and officially started working as an Electrical Engineer in Training. During his time, there he gained experience in the design of substations, overhead and underground lines in both urban and rural areas. He also planned construction and coordinated operations of facilities for transmitting power from distribution points to consumers. At the start of 2011, Haydar joined Beairsto Lehners Ketchum Engineering Ltd. as an electrical-mechanical engineer where he established an electrical-mechanical department.

Today, Haydar is one of the founders and a Principal at Design Works Engineering & Inspections Ltd. Also, he also takes care of the electrical-mechanical engineering department. He has taken Design Works from a two-man operation to a 60-person operation with six offices regionally and internationally in a four-year period. Haydar is also involved in several other businesses and regularly provides advice to new and upcoming businessmen and women.

Grande Prairie's population continue to grow year over year. With this growth an effective chamber is vital for the well-being of the economic growth of the community and its businesses. Haydar currently sits on the Grande Prairie Construction Association since 2016 and has been involved in growth strategies for the association. To Haydar business development and sustainability is important in any organization or business and that is what he hopes to bring to the Chamber of Commerce.



Becky Bozarth **Sun Life / Canwest Group Benefits**

Boards and Associations Previously Involved With:
Grande Prairie and District Chamber of Commerce (2016-2018)
Grande Prairie Summer Games VIP and Dignitary Volunteer (2018)
Grande Prairie Petroleum Association – Petroleum show subcommittee (2017 & 2019 Petroleum Shows)
Grande Prairie EMS Wine Fair (2018)
Grande Prairie Toys for Tots (15 years)

I have lived and worked in Grande Prairie for the past 47 years. As a director, I bring over 37 years of business experience, including our company Canwest Group Benefit Consultants. As an exclusive representative of the Grande Prairie and District Chamber of Commerce Group Insurance plans, I strongly promote small businesses and the Chamber benefit plan to our new and existing members.

I was born in Winnipeg, Manitoba and raised on the military base in Calgary until we moved to Grande Prairie forty-seven years ago. Between us, my husband and I have four grown children and one handsome grandson. I was involved in numerous sports growing up including team handball, slow pitch baseball and volleyball. My first twenty-five years of employment I worked in the restaurant industry where fifteen of those years were in managerial positions.

In 2002, I embarked on a new career in the insurance business with Sun Life Financial and the Chamber of Commerce Group Insurance Plan. I have been a Grande Prairie and District Chamber of Commerce director for the past two years. I am very involved in the community and believe that small businesses are the key to making our city a great place to live and work. We have one of the best Chamber in all of Alberta and I have been very fortunate to be a part of this team. I look forward to staying connected and promoting our wonderful city of Grande Prairie.



Cheryl Budjak
ATB Financial

I was born in Edmonton and lived in Legal, a small community outside of Edmonton until my family moved to Grande Prairie in 1986. I was always heavily involved in sports, particularly figure skating. I generally spent 15-20 hours a week at the rink in addition to always having a part-time job and managing to keep my grades up to graduate an honors student in French Immersion from the Grande Prairie Composite High School.

After high school, I spent 2 years at the GPRC then headed off to New Zealand to teach figure skating for a couple of years. Once I returned to Grande Prairie I continued my career as a professional coach for 15 years then made the leap to a career in banking. Over the last 10 years, I have worked in almost every area of the financial industry and am currently a mortgage specialist with ATB Financial. I have the greatest job in the world...I help turn my client's dreams into reality!

I have always believed in giving back to the community that has given me so much! Volunteerism is in my blood, my parents instilled that in me at a very young age. I have served on the board of many organizations, including being the president of the Swan City Rotary Club. I am very proud of our board's accomplishments during my tenure and am honored to have served such an amazing organization. Most recently, I have been serving as a director on the Grande Prairie Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, for which I am seeking re-election. I am always looking for new and challenging ways in which to serve my community.

In my spare time, I love spending time with my family, travelling, cooking and staying active. I am passionate about participating in local theatre and I love a good conversation about politics or the economy.



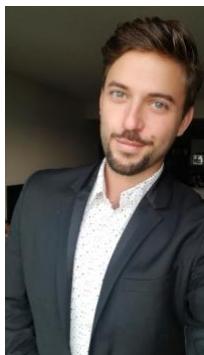
Brooks Hoffos
Royal LePage - The Realty Group

Whether it's finding a great place to live or finding your business the perfect location, Brooks is about something bigger and even more meaningful. Take a look at his track record and his ties to his community. Speak to any of his clients and hear about how he understands the value of Grande Prairie and area communities, its schools and different neighborhood dynamics. Most importantly, hear about each successful deal and listen to his clients rave about their experience.

With a background in commercial development, sales and management, mix it with tech freak junkie and workaholic, he joined the real estate world to meld together his market knowledge with the more people-oriented world of real estate under the Royal LePage flag. A graduate of NAIT in Power Engineering and currently Licensed in Commercial, Rural, Residential, and Property Management, Brooks is a tried-and-true Albertan who has also given back to his community and is passionate about the future of Grande Prairie and the Peace Region.

Because of this commitment to our community, Brooks has become a sort of go-to guy, with a comprehensive network of contacts that many of his clients, both current and past, tap into continuously when searching for their next property learning about a particular area, or perhaps looking for that perfect site for their multimillion-dollar project. This sort of unwavering customer service has proven to be the delineating factor for Brooks' clients when they decide to either purchase a new property or sell their current one.

From the moment Brooks starts working with you until the moment you close on your property, he will never stop thinking about your real estate experience. How all the pieces fit. How he can help you put it all together.



Joel Hollingsworth
Four Points by Sheraton Grande Prairie

Joel Hollingsworth is the pre-opening and current General Manager and Director of Sales for the Four Points by Sheraton Grande Prairie Hotel and Conference Center; as well as the Social Bar and Grill Restaurant. Having graduated with a degree in Language Communications, and later a diploma in Hotel and Restaurant Management, Joel has been in the hospitality sector for over 10 years.

Joel started his career in Ontario, working for Delta Hotels and Resorts where he made the cover of their National Newsletter for demonstrating service excellence. For the three years following, he was transferred around Canada assisting struggling properties to improve metrics and financial results. Leading up to his General Manager role with PHI Hotel Group and Marriott International, Joel was the Regional Director of Sales & Marketing handling five Marriott branded hotels in the Northern Alberta Market.

Joel has consistently demonstrated his energetic and enthusiastic nature by getting involved in the local organizations. During his 5-year tenure in Edmonton, Joel completed a two-year term representing all of Alberta on the Board of Directors for the Association of Canadian Travel Agencies (ACTA), and as well, was asked to join the International Association of Travel and Tourism Professionals. Immediately following the opening of the Four Points Grande Prairie, Joel joined the Grande Prairie Regional Tourism Association DMO where he currently sits as the Marketing Co-Chair for the 2019 year.

Joel is an advocate for local business, and supports community organizations and initiatives. The Grande Prairie Chamber of Commerce is a network of hard working individuals, and Joel would treasure the opportunity to represent the local business community throughout the 2019 year.



Ken Loudon
YMCA of Northern Alberta

Clem Collins Award Recipient 2004
Chamber Ambassador 2016-Present

Current Board Commitments:

2000 – Present Alberta Soccer Referee Development Committee – DRA NW Peace
2011 – Present Alberta Soccer Competitions Committee
2018 – Present Rotary District Conference 2019 – Guest Relations Director

Previous Board Commitments:

1998 – 2001	GP Highland Games Association Board
2001 – 2004	GP Chamber of Commerce Board
2005 – 2007	Swan City Rotary Board
2007 – 2008	President Swan City Rotary Board/Club
2008 – 2009	Past President Swan City Rotary Board
2009 – 2010	GP Regional Tourism Board
2010 – 2011	President GP Regional Tourism Board
2011 – 2013	Past President GP Regional Tourism Board
2010 – 2014	GP Designation Marketing Fund Board
2012 – 2013	United Way Cabinet Board
2014 – 2015	GP Special Olympics Board, Director of Sport

Additional Community Initiatives:

2000	Alberta Summer Games – Referee In Chief, Soccer
2001 – Present	Swan City Rotary Club Member (perfect attendance)
2008	Alberta Winter Games Merchandise Committee Chair
2018	Alberta Summer Games – Referee In Chief, Soccer

Lived in GP:

March 1997 – Present 21 Years

Why I wish to Serve:

Since 1997 when I first was an employee of the Chamber, I have developed a strong passion & have demonstrated an unwavering determination in building our Chamber. I believe in the vision, the purpose & all that it stands for. I have actively sought out new members & supported the Chamber in all its initiatives. I believe at this time, it is the appropriate moment for me to return to the Board. I am excited about where our economy is currently & the direction our community is heading. I wish to bring my experiences & strength to the Board to support the Chamber in accomplishing its directives.

What I think I can Contribute:

As a Chamber Ambassador for the past 2 years, I feel that I bring a strong passion & sense of business acuity that will provide a unique insight to the Board. I bring to the table a business perspective from the Non-Profit sector which hasn't been represented in quite a while. I have gained invaluable experience & knowledge serving on numerous boards since my previous Chamber Board engagement. I present an analytical & logical approach to getting the job done. I utilize sound processing mechanisms & am able to think outside the box.

Hope to Accomplish:

Overall, I hope to help make a difference in our Business Community through strong advocacy & representation of our local businesses when they need a voice. I hope to see our membership continue to increase & extend further into the community & region. I hope that our Chamber presence will continue to influence & impact our political arena thrusting Grande Prairie forward as the economic driver it is. I hope to contribute to making our Chamber & Business Community a better place to do business, thrive, & prosper.



Shelley Sorensen
Willy's Trucking Service

Regional Manager for Alberta and B.C. Willy's Trucking Service
Owned a number of businesses in Alberta and BC
Won Alberta Business of the Year 1996, 2003
Won top ten business people of the year in Southern BC
Lived my Adult life in Grande Prairie, was on the Board with the Grande Prairie 100-Year Celebration.

Enjoy volunteering; throughout my career I have always been involved with Chambers of Commerce; presently sit as President with Peace River and District Chamber of Commerce

Love to travel; have been fortunate enough to travel throughout Canada, Europe, USA and South America

Love Grande Prairie and the Peace Country; most of all, love my job, my team, and working for and with such great people at Willy's Trucking Services; Willy's allows me to be a volunteer and be community involved.

I enjoy golfing, entertaining, outdoors, people and staying busy.



Cord Spero
ReMax Grande Prairie

I am proud to be locally born and raised in the City of Grande Prairie. Being a part of this community over my life has offered my family a great place to live and given us an incredible opportunity to do business. Growing up in Grande Prairie, my first exposure to the entrepreneurial spirit of this community was through our family owned business, the Brown Brothers Men's wear store.

I spent 10 years skiing for Team Canada, where I was able to proudly represent and compete for our Country on the world stage. Soon after I retired from competitive aerial skiing I went on to become the head coach for the Australian Freestyle team, where we won 3 Olympic medals. A Gold in Vancouver 2010, and silver and bronze in Sochi 2014. Following the 2014 Olympics I returned home to Canada and recommitted myself to a career in developing land into commercial and industrial lots, construction of commercial and industrial buildings, and of course sales through Re/Max.

My wife Amber and I are happy to have planted roots in Grande Prairie after traveling for a number of years because simply put this is 'home'. I've had the great privilege to have travelled around the world, and yet we still find the people, our friends, our family, and the opportunity here within Grande Prairie to be second to none. Following my career in sport I now look to take that same work ethic, attention to detail, and passion into my business and being involved in my community. Joining the Chamber Board is an important step to start giving back to the community, and joining an amazing organization that does so much work for the business community in Grande Prairie.

NOMINEES FOR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



Nominee for Chair of the Board Dan Wong, P. Eng. Beairsto & Associates Engineering

Dan is a Professional Engineer with Beairsto & Associates Engineering and specializes in the design of municipal infrastructure including roads, deep utilities and commercial & residential subdivisions. He currently serves as 1st Vice Chair of the Board of Directors at the GP & District Chamber of Commerce.

Dan is a lifelong resident of Grande Prairie and has been involved with a variety of not-for-profit boards throughout the region. He had also served two terms on Grande Prairie City Council from 2007 to 2013. His time on council has given him a clear understanding of the rules, regulations and processes when working with different levels of government.

Dan has been a member of the Chamber of Commerce for 20 years and was a business owner for 14 of those years when he ran his computer store and I.T. consulting company. Entrepreneurship runs in the family as he represents the 3rd generation of his family to start a business in Grande Prairie. Dan exhibits high standards and strives to be a top performer in any endeavor he takes on. Some examples of his proficiency can be seen through his involvement with the following organizations:

- Swan City Rotary Club (Past President)
- Public Works Committee (City of GP, past chair)
- Protective Services Committee (City of GP, past chair)
- Environment Committee (City of GP, past chair)
- Combative Sports Commission (City of GP, past chair)
- Wapiti Corridor Planning Society (Executive)
- Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance (Executive)
- Community Futures Board
- Centre 2000 Board
- GP Regional Tourism Association Board
- GP Men's Basketball Association Board
- Chinese Association (Past President)
- Mission Neighbourhood Association Board of Directors
- Junior Achievement Regional Leadership Council

He appreciates being nominated as Chair of the GP & District Chamber of Commerce and looks forward to the opportunities arising in 2019.



**Nominee for 1st Vice-Chair
Larry Gibson**

Larry Gibson; Former District Manager; ATCO Electric, South Peace District. Managed the Distribution Operations department that encompassed the communities of Grande Prairie, Sexsmith, Wembley, Beaverlodge, Spirit River, Grande Cache, Jasper and surrounding areas. Has 11 years of corporate management experience and over 30 years of experience in the electric utility business.

Larry has lived in Grande Prairie for 16 years served as a board member of the Grande Prairie & District Chamber of Commerce from 2011-2013 and again from 2017 to present, Larry is currently the 2nd vice chair, other community involvement currently; president of the local Muscular Dystrophy chapter in Grande Prairie and member of the Grande Prairie community accessibility committee.

When not at work enjoys spending time with family, attending community events and golfing in the summer.



**Nominee for 2nd Vice-Chair
Tertius Genis
Fusion Business Solutions Inc.**

Apart from being the co-owner of Fusion Business Solutions, I am also a volunteer and believe in strong community involvement. I have been a resident of Grande Prairie and area since 1996 and have been very fortunate to be part of a community that has stood the test of time – and this has been reflected in the success of our business.

I am past president of BNI, past United Way cabinet member and currently a member of the Swan City Rotary Club and in my second term as a Director on the Grande Prairie Chamber Board.

The Grande Prairie Chamber is one of the most influential business organizations and I look forward to continuing in providing my services to the Chamber as a Board member and subsequently making this City of ours an even greater place for business.