

## CANDIDATE BIOGRAPHIES



**Kory Brazel, CPA, CA  
MNP**

Kory Brazel, CPA, CA is the Regional Managing Partner for MNP in the Peace Region. Working out of the Grande Prairie office, Kory helps owners and managers of small - to mid - size companies with a range of services, including assurance services, performance management and managing cash flow.

After more than a decade of helping clients in various industries, Kory is skilled at identifying risks and issues and developing tailored solutions for managing risk, improving performance and taking advantage of emerging opportunities.

Having worked in the oilfield industry prior to joining MNP, Kory has a unique perspective that allows him to more fully understand his clients' goals, issues and visions. He works closely with each client and draws on MNP's broad - based expertise in order to deliver customized business strategies that lead to the achievement of business performance goals

Kory was designated a Chartered Professional Accountant (CPA), and a Chartered Accountant (CA) in 2008 after obtaining a Bachelor of General Studies degree from Athabasca University. Community minded, Kory has volunteered with many local organizations, including: Grande Prairie and Wembley Minor Hockey the Grande Prairie Regional College Bachelor of Commerce Advisory Committee, the Grande Prairie Downtown Association and the Grande Prairie & District Chamber of Commerce.



**Gord Chrenek  
Lewis & Chrenek LLP**

Gord has was raised on a family farm near Sexsmith, Alberta. He received his Bachelor of Commerce with Distinction from the University of Alberta with majors in marketing and finance. He attended the Law School at the University of Alberta. He obtained his Articles in Edmonton Alberta with a mid-sized law firm specializing in litigation and municipal law.

He moved back to Grande Prairie in 1995 to join the firm of Lewis & Chrenek where he has remained for his entire legal career. Gord has a general business law practice providing a broad range of legal services with a corporate and commercial focus. Gord maintains a diverse business client base throughout the Peace Country including but not limited to corporations, partnerships and individuals in the oilfield and agricultural sectors. Gord and his family are active supporters of many community events and Peace Country initiatives and proudly calls the Peace Country his home.

#### Professional Memberships

- Member, Law Society of Alberta
- Member, Grande Prairie Bar Association

#### Volunteer Activities

- Current Director with Grande Prairie Youth Emergency Shelter
- Past President and Director of Grande Prairie Agricultural Society
- Past Co-Chair and Director of Might Peace Day



**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 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, BNI member and Director on the Grande Prairie Chamber Board.

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



**Frederic Grandmaison**  
**BDC**

I've always had a passion for the business world and a deep appreciation of the value of community service. My career in commercial financing allows me the opportunity to spend every day working directly with local entrepreneurs. I identify strongly with BDC's mandate to support Canadian SMEs, which relates well with the Chamber's mission to promote and represent the interest of the local business community.

The significant changes in the economic and political landscape at every level in the last few years have made the Chamber's role to advocate on behalf our business community ever so important. It has been an immense privilege to serve as Director over the last two years and I look forward to the opportunity to continue to contribute to the Chamber's important work.



**Lisa Hall**  
**International Paper**

I enjoy serving my community. I have a variety of experiences in volunteer and outreach activities related to my engineering profession. My involvement and leadership also includes community groups - and like most parents in Grande Prairie, some of them associated with our children's activities.

I'd now like to bring those strengths and experiences to the Chamber Board, by participating and being active in the business community that has been so good to our family. I'm excited to learn more about the needs and goals of Chamber members, and to work with the Chamber as it supports our business community.

I am a logical and process driven person. I am an effective communicator, and have a strong track record of efficiently managing initiatives to stay on target and meet team objectives. I have a collaborative management style and work to ensure all opinions are considered as decisions are made.

I also bring to the Board my knowledge of the priorities and strategies of the local and corporate goals of International Paper. As the Engineering Department Leader, I sit on the leadership team for our local manufacturing facility.

We need to continue to advocate for our businesses and industry, so that our community continues to improve and diversify. While supporting existing industry, we also need to look at the growing impact of renewable energy, and make sure our region is positioned to remain strong through economic change.



**Brandon Kerschbaumer**  
**Ignite Marketing & Productions**

My name is Brandon Kerschbaumer. I co-founded Ignite Marketing and Productions in 2016 with my business partner Coree-Ann McGonigle.

I was born and raised in Fairview Alberta. I was raised in a house of business. My dad ran a small engine mechanic shop "John's small engine repair" through the winter while farming was out of season and my mom ran a fabric store "Heather's Fabric" out of the basement of our farmhouse until it outgrew our home and she moved it to town before selling it. Eventually Golden Acre Seeds (my parents current combined effort) took over and squashed the first two businesses and is operating after 35 years still today. Our dinner table talk was often business focused, and I didn't realize at the time, but I learned many things back in those days.

Sports were a focal point within our family. We ended up working a lot harder than most kids I knew, but I'm proud to say out of 4 siblings, we participated in a combined 14 years of post-

secondary athletics, all of us honing our disciplines through the Wolves club program graduating to college before representing GPRC in the ACAC or beyond. I bring up sports for a few reasons. I learned teamwork, discipline, winning humbly, losing graciously, the prep work that is put in before the game starts, and many other lessons I feel are best realized through sport. My aptitude for sports opened many doors and presented many opportunities to me. For that I am thankful.

After college, I spent 10 months backpacking in Australia. Aside from learning to exist on my own while in college, when I had everything I could carry on my back I was completely free. No plans, no commitments, just my ambition and my imagination to guide me where to go next. I met my wife, Nicole, midway through my travels (she's from North Vancouver) and we came home to discover it wasn't just a romance in paradise, but something very real and very worth the dedication to make it work. After coming back to Canada, I spent 4 years working in the radio business in Manitoba while my (now) wife worked towards her Nursing degree. She graduated in 2009 and we decided Grande Prairie would be a better option than Vancouver to call home.

I really enjoy being part of Grande Prairie. As a kid, I used to look forward to coming into the 'big city' for sports, shopping or what have you. Nowadays, I love running into old friends I graduated with in Fairview or have met along the way who also call Grande Prairie home. I was working for Frito Lay as a relief driver when we moved back, but I quickly learned that position wasn't for me. I then applied at Free FM back in 2011 and joined their sales team. I have always loved radio, music, audio production and just sound in general so it was a perfect fit. I honed my skills, built my network and did some great work during my time with Vista Radio but at the end of the day, I wasn't satisfied. I met my (now) business partner Coree-Ann at that job and we created some great marketing campaigns during our time there. At the end of the day, being limited to one medium (radio) didn't leave us in the best position to help our clients grow, so after parting ways, we started our own business, Ignite Marketing and Productions.

Ignite currently works with roughly 15 local businesses and handles their marketing, messages and brand development. It seems many business owners and managers are excellent at the daily operations, management and all that comes with running a successful business. However, if you ask most business owners what their competition does better than them, what their five-year plan is, what the ideal situation looks like, what are they trying to accomplish, what's most important, what will be important one year from now, how they compare to their competition, what changes are coming down the pipeline etc., often they are too close to the problem to have the answers. I love our business because we offer an outsiders perspective, backed by education and experience, and we are able to cut through the daily noise to find out what is most important for a businesses' customers. We've also taken extensive training in sales and the psychology behind what makes people spend money, and have used that knowledge to ours and our clients' success.

Why would I like to join the Chamber? I am a charter member of Rotary (After Five), attended various BNI meetings, and other local groups. I've heard from a few respected sources that the Chamber doesn't pull punches in that we're here to build business and the local economy. I feel I provide a unique and grounded perspective, and I'm not shy about it. I would embrace

the opportunity to learn from other impassioned local business people and surround myself with other entrepreneurs who share the same ambition.

I look forward to what the future may hold.



**J'ason Miller**  
**Virtus Services Ltd.**

I feel that my last two years of as Chamber director, has allowed me to develop a stronger understanding of the needs of the small businesses in our community. This experience, and my last 17 years as a small business owner and resident in Grande Prairie, helps strengthen my understanding of the needs of the local business community. Being a Chamber director has allowed me to be part of the Chamber team that advocates on behalf of its member's needs, and I find this experience very rewarding.



**Justin Munroe**  
**Pizza Hut**

Justin Munroe came to Grande Prairie in 1991 to join the management team at the local Pizza Hut restaurant. Since that time, he has bought out the existing business and has expanded it to include five locations in the Peace Region. He has been very involved with Pizza Hut at a corporate level. He is a past President and many-year board member of the Franchise Association and has been selected for many brand committees and awards.

Justin has been involved in our community in many facets. He is a past Councillor for the City of Grande Prairie Council, a past member of the Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, past Rotarian of the Year and past-chair of many committees. Justin is a family man who has enjoyed raising three children in this community. Both he and his wife, Fiona, have felt very privileged to call Grande Prairie home and enjoy being able to give back to a city that has embraced our family.



**Cindy Park**  
**Seven Generations Energy Ltd.**

Cindy Park grew up in a small farming community northeast of Edmonton, Alberta. After completing her education, Cindy joined CIBC where she spent most of her career in commercial banking and branch management in communities throughout Alberta and British Columbia. Outside of her

banking career, she also partnered in two retail businesses and an international property investment firm for several years.

After a diverse business career, she moved into the charitable sector as the Executive Director of the Grande Prairie Regional Hospital Foundation. The mission of the Foundation is to work with the community to raise and manage funds to enhance patient care thereby positively affecting healthcare services for all residents in the Peace Country Region. In June of 2017, after 7 years at the Foundation, Cindy joined Seven Generation Energy as their new Director. Community Engagement. Being an active part of a vibrant community has been a passion and volunteering has become a way of day-to-day life for Cindy. She has had the fortune to serve many organizations as both an active member and a board member.

These include organizations like:

- AHS Peace Health Advisory Council – Current Board Council
- Grande Prairie Regional Hospital Foundation – Current Board Trustee
- Grande Prairie Regional Hospital Foundation – Current Capital Campaign Chair
- Swan City Rotary – Current Member
- Grande Prairie & District Chamber of Commerce – GPRH Economic Impact Committee

#### Past Involvement

- Provincial Representative for Association of Healthcare Philanthropy – Canadian Division
- Past member of Fundraising Professionals
- Business Networking Institute
- Canadian Breast Cancer Society
- Child Development Centers
- Estate and Financial Planning Institute
- Kinsmen/Kinettes,
- Past Co-Chair and Board member of the Mighty Peace Youth Society (modeled after Free the Children)
- SPCA
- Terry Fox Foundation
- Economic Development Councils
- Organizer of many other charity events

Having been part of the for-profit and the not-for-profit sectors has enabled Cindy to hold a perspective that is both economically and socially responsible to all stakeholders. She is a proud community advocate who believes that participation and caring for your community benefits all.



**Amanda Reimer**  
**PDQ Notary & Process Services Inc.**

I was born in England in 1966 and immigrated to Canada with my family in 1972. I graduated college in BC in 1986 and moved to

Edmonton. My daughter, Jessica, was born in 1987 and we moved to Grande Prairie in 1988.

From 1992 to 2012, I worked full-time in the legal profession, specializing in debt collection. I also worked part-time as a fitness leader. I am committed to a high level of exercise in pursuit of personal best. I have competed in numerous outdoor extreme and obstacle races, as well as a marathon.

In 1994, I started my own legal support/document delivery business, PDQ Process Services Inc. From 1994 to 2012, I worked part-time for my business and full-time for an employer in the collection industry. In 2012, I made the leap to full entrepreneurship! PDQ is a thriving business to this day, has expanded to include credit management and notary services, and rebranded to PDQ Notary & Process Services Inc.

My husband, Darryl, and I married in 1997 and just celebrated our 20<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary in August. Our son, Jacob, was born in 2003.

I have been a proud member of Swan City Rotary Club since 2008. In 2012, I joined the Board for the Community Foundation of Northwestern Alberta. In April, 2018, I will complete my six year term. I participate in several other committees/events annually.

I am a strong advocate for lifelong education and professional development. I am currently completing a Bachelor of Management through Athabasca University. Thereafter, I plan to complete a Master of Arts in General Legal Studies through Simon Fraser University.

Grande Prairie is truly home to me and my family. It has given me a sense of belonging and strengthened my resolve to be connected to and engaged in my community, both personally and professionally.



**Cord Spero**  
**Re/Max Grande Prairie**

I am proud to be locally born and raised in Grande Prairie and feel as if this city has offered my family a great place to live and do business. I grew up around business in the community as my parents owned the Brown Brothers Men's wear store while I was young.

I spent 10 years skiing for team Canada and went on to become the head coach for the Australian Freestyle team where we won 3 Olympic medals; gold in Vancouver 2010, silver and bronze in Sochi 2014. Following the 2014 Olympics I returned home and recommitted myself to a career in land development, commercial construction and sales.

My wife and I are now happy to have roots in Grande Prairie after traveling for a number of years because simply put this is 'home'. I've travelled around the world and still find the people



and culture within Grande Prairie to be second to none. Following my career in sport I am now looking to take the same work ethic, attention to detail and passion into business. For myself joining the Chamber Board is something I hope to learn and grow from but also give back to the community that has always supported myself.

## **NOMINEES FOR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**



**Nominee for Chair of the Board**  
**Cris Seppola-Podsada, Founder / Managing Partner**  
**Nine10 Incorporated**

After five years of being a Chamber board member, Cris has further nurtured an increased passion for business and community. She is enthusiastic about continuing to be a part of the Grande Prairie and District Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors.

Over the previous two years on the executive, her duties included chairing the Advocacy Committee, presenting the Grande Prairie Regional Hospital Economic Impact Study and Gap Analysis to multiple local community groups, attending both the Alberta Chambers of Commerce and Canadian Chamber of Commerce AGMs and policy sessions, presenting to local, national, and international investors at the Business Summit held by the County of Grande Prairie, advocating to and lobbying government on various issues, and more.

She is also proud to be a part of several community organizations, including the Community Futures board of directors as Director at Large, the newly-formed Community Investment Co-Op - Grande Prairie Steering Committee as a committee member, and GPRC's Business Administration Advisory Committee as Past Chair. When possible, she also volunteers for non-profit organizations both personally and through her company.

When not devoting her time to the Chamber and community, Cris is working alongside her partners and team members at local marketing agency nine10 Incorporated. Cris' primary roles in the company include project management and strategy for both client and nine10 marketing initiatives. The company is just heading into its 12th year of business.

Outside of the above, Cris can most likely be found hanging out with her husband Richard and their whippet Olive... or wandering greenhouses satisfying her constant search for unique plants.



**Nominee for 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-Chair**  
**Dan Wong, P. Eng.**  
**Beirsto & Associates Engineering**



Dan Wong is a Professional Engineer with Beairsto & Associates Engineering and specializes in the design of municipal infrastructure, deep utilities and commercial & residential subdivisions. He currently serves as 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 19 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 to serve as 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair of the GP & District Chamber of Commerce and looks forward to the opportunities arising in 2018.



**Nominee for 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Chair**

**Larry Gibson**  
**ATCO Electric**

Larry Gibson; District Manager; ATCO Electric, South Peace District, currently manages the Distribution Operations department that encompasses the communities of Grande Prairie, Sexsmith, Wembley, Beaverlodge, Spirit River, Grande Cache, Jasper and surrounding areas. He has 10 years in a management role mostly in the Grande Prairie area, 27 years with ATCO Electric and 30 years in the electric utility business.

Larry has lived in Grande Prairie for 14 years, served as a board member of the Grande Prairie & District Chamber of Commerce from 2011-2013, is president of the local Muscular Dystrophy chapter in Grande Prairie, board member of Careers: The Next Generation, and sits on the board of the community accessibility advisory team.

When not at work, Larry enjoys spending time with his two boys, attending community events and golfing in the summer.