

***BOARD MEMBER INFORMATION SHEET 2019 – 2020***

1. **Name:** Darcy Forbes

**Board Role:** President

**Business:** Vitreous Glass Inc.

**Please provide a brief statement of your qualifications and experiences and how they will relate to your Board position with the Airdrie Chamber of Commerce.**

Entering his Term as a Board President with the Airdrie Chamber of Commerce, Darcy can provide continuity to the organization, and leadership to incoming directors.

Darcy found that sitting on the golf tournament and the chamber governance committees were valuable experiences.

Having managed a local medium sized business for the past 10 years, Darcy has gained a diverse skillset that can be applied across various settings.

**Please provide a brief statement regarding why you chose to become involved with the Airdrie Chamber of Commerce.**

I chose to become involved with the Airdrie Chamber of Commerce because I see the organization as an integral part of the business community. Through the collaboration that the chamber brings, I believe all businesses can benefit.

1. **Name:** Nikki Nordick

**Board Role:** 1st Vice President

**Business:** Airdrie Puppy Pals

**Please provide a brief statement of your qualifications and experiences and how they will relate to your Board position with the Airdrie Chamber of Commerce.**

Nikki previously worked in HR in oil and gas (senior position); she currently owns a business that started as home based and transitioned to store front.

**Please provide a brief statement regarding why you chose to become involved with the Airdrie Chamber of Commerce.**

Nikki is interested in joining the board as she likes to lead and work for positive change in the community. She would like to help others to learn from what she has learned in her small business journey – giving back and helping others to know what resources are available to them.

1. **Name:** Chris McNicol

**Board Role:** 2nd Vice President

**Business:** Woodside Golf Course

**Please provide a brief statement of your qualifications and experiences and how they will relate to your Board position with the Airdrie Chamber of Commerce.**

• I have Bachelor of Commerce Degree with a Major in Marketing.

• I have been a member of the Woodside Golf Course team for over 20 years and have served as the General Manager since 2009.

• I currently sit as the Vice President of the National Golf Course Owners Association - Alberta Chapter

• KidSport Alberta Fund Development Board Member

• Airdrie Tourism Board Member

• Brewster’s Kananaskis Ranch Golf Course Management Company

All of the above experiences have helped me gain an understanding of what entrepreneurs and business owners need in terms of support in order to be successful in today’s extremely competitive environment. I believe that my business and board experiences have taught me a number of important lessons about how to ensure that outcomes are delivered to achieve or exceed goals. I am confident that I can be an asset to the Airdrie Chamber of Commerce and its membership.

**Please provide a brief statement regarding why you chose to become involved with the Airdrie Chamber of Commerce.**

I am drawn to the Airdrie Chamber of Commerce at this time as I think there is a real opportunity to make some impactful changes that can create added member value and elevate the Chamber’s ability to deliver services to its members. I am excited to help reposition the Airdrie Chamber of Commerce in the minds of its membership and its potential members. Paying your annual Chamber membership fees needs to be the easiest decision you make all year. That’s the kind of value that I know the Chamber is capable of offering.

1. **Name:** Melody McCLain

**Board Role:** Treasurer

**Business:** MJ McClain Professional Corp

**Please provide a brief statement of your qualifications and experiences and how they will relate to your Board position with the Airdrie Chamber of Commerce.**

Completed accounting designation in 2003.

Have worked for the past 15 years in a variety of accounting and tax roles, including small business, tech industry, oil & gas, and most recently as a local accounting firm her in Airdrie.

**Please provide a brief statement regarding why you chose to become involved with the Airdrie Chamber of Commerce.**

I love working with small business owners in and around Airdrie. They are such a thriving, strong, innovative group. I am honored to be able to further assist and support this community through involvement in the Airdrie Chamber of Commerce.

1. **Name:** Charlene Gize

**Board Role:** Director

**Business:** A-WIN Insurance Airdrie West

**Please provide a brief statement of your qualifications and experiences and how they will relate to your Board position with the Airdrie Chamber of Commerce.**

Having volunteered on boards in the past, I bring experience in compliance; for example, working with CRA, AGLC, and Corporate registries. Qualifications include Professionalism, ethics & integrity, active listening, and I can be open minded. My occupation sometimes requires objectivity and to be respectfully obdurate which can be an asset if used correctly. Commitment and Loyalty are 2 things I value and in turn, am determined to provide. This is an organization I value, and I will enjoy being a part of a diverse representation of the business community.

**Please provide a brief statement regarding why you chose to become involved with the Airdrie Chamber of Commerce.**

The term of my other board duties are coming to a close and my kids are much more independent, I find myself with time to give! I also feel that there is a major shift we are embarking on and I am excited to be a part of it!

1. **Name:** Shelley Bitz

**Board Role:** Director

**Business:** BMO Bank of Montreal

**Please provide a brief statement of your qualifications and experiences and how they will relate to your Board position with the Airdrie Chamber of Commerce.**

As a 30+ resident of Airdrie and a 13+ year business banker in Airdrie I have a long knowledge understanding and passion for our business community. My Understanding of the many levels required to be a successful Airdrie business, its challenges, obstacles and its payback on a banking level bring a unique view to the board.

**Please provide a brief statement regarding why you chose to become involved with the Airdrie Chamber of Commerce.**

I chose to become involved in the Airdrie Chamber because of my individual passion for local businesses and their success. As well as complete understanding of business and their challenges on all levels.

1. **Name:** Nicholas Sawkiw

**Board Role:** Director

**Business:** DD West LLP

**Please provide a brief statement of your qualifications and experiences and how they will relate to your Board position with the Airdrie Chamber of Commerce.**

I come to the board with backgrounds in both business and law. These two separate but integrated backgrounds have allowed me to develop a comfort as well as a skill set with respect to administrative bodies, and governance within both public and private sectors. On the business side, I bring the experience of advising both directors and boards and liaising with corporate and individual stakeholders. On the legal side, I have both a municipal and business law practice. From this, I bring the knowledge of and experience with the powers and spheres of jurisdiction at the municipal, provincial and federal levels of government in Canada, and a knowledge of strategic planning, transparent communication and drafting of bylaws, policies and procedures.

**Please provide a brief statement regarding why you chose to become involved with the Airdrie Chamber of Commerce.**

First and foremost, Airdrie is my community, and I appreciate any opportunity that allows me to participate in, and support the growth of, this community. Secondly, I enjoy working with businesses (this is why business law is a part of my practice). Finally, the past several years has been tough for businesses in Alberta (small and large). I look forward to the chance to advocate on behalf of local business, as successful local businesses benefit the entire community (jobs, increase in service availability, infusion of cash into the local economy).

1. **Name:** Warren Keane

**Board Role:** Director

**Business:** Oranj Fitness

Please provide a brief statement of your qualifications and experiences and how they will relate to your Board position with the Airdrie Chamber of Commerce.

Warren is an outgoing, fun loving father who joined forces with both his daughters Naomi and Olivia and wife Phan to open Oranj Fitness Airdrie in September 2016. He manages business finances, develops and implements marketing strategies, maintains studio plant and equipment, provides IT support works front-of-house shifts as required. He recently completed the 200-hour Oranj Yoga Teacher training at the Airdrie studio and plans to start teaching yoga classes.

Warren is passionate about family, health, travel, music and business. He has more than 30 years’ experience in Information Technology Industry including consulting roles in project management, software development, sales, and marketing. Warren manages his own private property investment portfolio of residential and commercial properties. He is currently a Director with the Airdrie Chamber of Commerce. Warren enjoys volunteering and is past President of Bipolar Society of B.C. as well as past President of the Vancouver Island Entrepreneurs Toastmasters Club and past Chairman of the Christmas Spirit Community Dinner Society, where along with his 2 daughters, he volunteered as chef for many years during the Christmas season.

Warren’s technology background is an asset to the Chamber. He has provided hands-on assistance and strategic advice on the Chamber’s recent technology infrastructure upgrade project.

**Please provide a brief statement regarding why you chose to become involved with the Airdrie Chamber of Commerce.**

I joined the Chamber for several reasons, both altruistic, benevolent reasons but also to promote my own business, Oranj Fitness, within the Airdrie community. I also like to meet people to share ideas and to help others where I can. I have a history of volunteering and believe in the concept of paying it forward.

1. **Name:** Ron Zuke

**Board Role:** Director

**Business:** Air 106.1 FM/DiscoverAirdrie.com

**Please provide a brief statement of your qualifications and experiences and how they will relate to your Board position with the Airdrie Chamber of Commerce.**

Ron has been involved in broadcasting for more than 30 years. He has been the Station Manager and General Sales Manager at Air 106 in Airdrie since it went on the air in 2011.   
As a Certified Radio Marketer, Ron has worked with many small, medium and large businesses over the past 3 decades to help them with marketing plans to promote and grow their business.   
  
Ron has sat on a number of boards including Publicity Chair for the Manitoba Junior Hockey League, Director with the Portage Terriers Junior Hockey Club, Drumheller Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, so it was a natural fit for him to join the Airdrie Chamber Board.

**Please provide a brief statement regarding why you chose to become involved with the Airdrie Chamber of Commerce.**

I wanted to be involved in the community and at work, we deal with small, medium and large businesses on a daily basis. The Chamber was a perfect fit to work within the community and more specifically the business community.

1. **Name:** Allison Anhorn

**Board Role:** Director

**Business:** ZIVA&EM Boutique

**Please provide a brief statement of your qualifications and experiences and how they will relate to your Board position with the Airdrie Chamber of Commerce.**

I have owned my business in Airdrie for over a year and prior to my dream endeavor in retail, I worked with the Calgary Stampede where I contributed in large committee executive roles.

My experience there was largely focused in organizing and hosting meetings, planning and executing events, maintaining budgets and providing input toward the overall success of the organization.

I will be bringing this experience in my new role with the Airdrie Chamber Board of Directors and providing my insight and knowledge to fellow businesses.

**Please provide a brief statement regarding why you chose to become involved with the Airdrie Chamber of Commerce.**

I’ve lived in Airdrie for over 8 years and during this time I have discovered that Airdrie is a great place to live and successfully run a business. Participating on the board for the Chamber will allow me to grow as a business owner as well as mentor and collaborate with other local businesses to foster growth in the community.

1. **Name:** Ami Ballman

**Board Role:** Director

**Business:** RARE Cannabis Co.

**Please provide a brief statement of your qualifications and experiences and how they will relate to your Board position with the Airdrie Chamber of Commerce.**

Ami Ballman is co-founder of RARE Cannabis Co. and an advocate for the cannabis industry. She has 7 years’ experience as a retail marketing specialist helping small businesses connect the dots between lead generation, customer experience and their bottom lines.

**Please provide a brief statement regarding why you chose to become involved with the Airdrie Chamber of Commerce.**

Being involved with the Airdrie Chamber of Commerce allows me the opportunity to connect with and support other local businesses in the community.

1. **Name:** Antoine Ouellette

**Board Role:** Director

**Business:** The Pest Control Guy

**Please provide a brief statement of your qualifications and experiences and how they will relate to your Board position with the Airdrie Chamber of Commerce.**

In the past, I had other businesses, some with big success and some with bad experiences. I felt alone in both and did not share with anybody because I was isolated by work. I am now in a diverse networking group and help other entrepreneurs with their successes and struggles. I am open to different responsibilities.

**Please provide a brief statement regarding why you chose to become involved with the Airdrie Chamber of Commerce.**

I’d love to help in the development of local Airdrie businesses. I want to be involved in my business community because I don’t want to be isolated ever and I know it would benefit for others to share their yay or nay.

1. **Name:** Asif Ahmed

**Board Role:** Director

**Business:** RBC Insurance

**Please provide a brief statement of your qualifications and experiences and how they will relate to your Board position with the Airdrie Chamber of Commerce.**

I happen to be associated with the Banking sector for a little over 20 years at various senior level positions internationally (Dutch. UK, GCC and Asian Markets) and have also worked as a hard-core hands-on entrepreneur. Have been part of Board of Directors for various boards in various capacities such as a general member, President and General Secretary.

Currently, I am associated with RBC Insurance as an Insurance advisor and by virtue of nature of my work, am required to meet with people from all spheres of life on an on-going basis. This includes but is not limited to Business community (Entrepreneurs), Salaried professionals, Retired individuals, stay at home people etc. giving me a greater perspective to build rapport and simultaneously getting first-hand information about the happenings / issues in their day to day life. This provides an excellent opportunity to market and spread a word of mouth on AC initiatives.

**Please provide a brief statement regarding why you chose to become involved with the Airdrie Chamber of Commerce.**

I did some volunteer work for AC last year. I reckon that members rather all stake holders need to play a pivotal role to take AC to the next level given it has tremendous opportunity and is poised towards growth. Looking at the bigger picture, I chose to be part of AC due to my diversified back-ground while representing a growing (minority) in Airdrie community and having a multi-lingual back-ground, I also am working with various organizations/institutions (Profit and Non-profit) and individuals not only in Airdrie but Calgary and Cochrane as well, which enables me to represent Airdrie Chamber of Commerce as an Ambassador – specifically due to my primary residence in Airdrie. In addition, my passion to volunteering enables me to contribute to an organization from strategic planning to sharing success stories, transfer learning and the best practices by virtue of greater understanding and expertise of value-chain and  process management, which I have acquired through my professional career spread over a number of years.

1. **Name:** Peter Adegoju

**Board Role:** Director

**Business:** Mathnasium Airdrie

I have working experience over 20 years in a large corporation; Oil and Gas, Energy, Telecommunication, Transport, Energy and Education covering finance, commercial development and education covering various roles in Finance, accounting and IT. I am a co-owner of Mathnasium of Airdrie, a mathematics learning Centre which started operation in 2017. Also, I work in the Finance Department of Suncor Energy Inc.

**Qualifications and professional designations**

* MBA (Master in Business Administration)
* CPA- CGA Chartered Professional Accountant Canada
* FCCA (UK), Fellow of Association of Chartered Certified Accountants -UK
* CRM, Canadian Risk Management Certification with Global Institute of Risk management

I migrated to Canada with my family in 2008. We decided to make the City of Airdrie our home by raising our family and invest resources to grow the city.

**Please provide a brief statement regarding why you chose to become involved with the Airdrie Chamber of Commerce.**

My goal for joining Airdrie Chambers of Commerce is to work together with the board members, using my professional skills to improve our community's economy and quality of life:

* To help local businesses prosper and grow.
* To increase job opportunities.
* To promote economic diversification in the city
* To promote responsible growth and development of all segments of the community.

1. **Name:** Adena Malyk

**Board Role:** City of Airdrie Liaison

**Business:** City of Airdrie, Economic Development Team

**Please provide a brief statement of your qualifications and experiences and how they will relate to your Board position with the Airdrie Chamber of Commerce.**

Adena holds a Bachelor of Arts Community Studies Degree in Communications and Political Science and has earned her economic developer designation through the Economic Developers Association of Canada. With over 10 years of Economic Development experience, she brings a strong passion for collaborative relationships, advocacy, diversification and small business support to the Board.

Adena looks forward to contributing her knowledge, experience and integrity and continuing to support the Airdrie business community.

**Please provide a brief statement regarding why you chose to become involved with the Airdrie Chamber of Commerce.**

The City of Airdrie endeavors to maintain mutually beneficial partnerships with a number of community organizations. The Economic Development Team is pleased to support the Airdrie Chamber Board of Directors by acting as liaison between the two organizations and providing advice and information to help achieve our mutual goal of supporting the Airdrie business community.

1. **Name:** Glenn Smaha

**Board Role:** Past President

**Business:** Davis Chevrolet

**Please provide a brief statement of your qualifications and experiences and how they will relate to your Board position with the Airdrie Chamber of Commerce.**

Prior to my time in Airdrie six years ago I served on two boards in BC; The North Okanagan United Way as well as the Vernon & District Chamber of Commerce. Here in Airdrie I serve on the Chamber Board as well as Community Links. I am a managing partner in Davis Chevrolet, a successful community-based business with 85 team members serving a growing clientele.

I believe my small-town upbringing, personal values along with my business acumen will serve me well as the Chamber navigates a period of growth and change in the near future.

**Please provide a brief statement regarding why you chose to become involved with the Airdrie Chamber of Commerce.**

Local businesses are the backbone of our society serving the individuals that comprise the community itself. I believe that any business should act as a citizen of the community it operates within. As a business we can lead by example for all involved showing our caring and passion for our community.