

Board of Directors

Sandra Neis, Chair

Sandra retired from the Government of Alberta in the fall of 2016 from the role of Director of Executive Development and Succession with the Public Service Commission. Sandra holds a degree in Human Resources and Labour Relations as well as a Certificate in Adult Education. In retirement, she enjoys travel, yoga, spending time at the cabin with family, and working on the occasional contract through her consulting business. Sandra has volunteered with the Alberta Government's Board Development program, worked with the Sherwood Park Christmas Bureau, and was on the board of the Edmonton Food Bank prior to her retirement.

David Benjestorf, Vice Chair

David has been practising corporate law in the Edmonton area since 2000 and presently serves as Legal Counsel and General Manager for the Alldritt Group's Alberta operations. He is also an entrepreneur, owning several Edmonton based companies. David has been acknowledged for numerous outstanding achievements including Edmonton Junior Chamber Member of the Year (2003), Alberta Venture Magazine's "Leader of Tomorrow" (2005), and being Knighted under the International Order of the Noble Companions of the Swan (2008).

Shawn Parchoma, Secretary

Shawn is the Manager of Government Relations for Aurora Cannabis. He has held a number of positions within the Saskatchewan Government and the Alberta Government, since graduating in 2012 from the University of Saskatchewan. He currently volunteers as an instructor with Alberta Culture and Tourism where he is a qualified facilitator for Board Governance Training. Shawn also volunteers with the Make a Wish Foundation, the United Way Capital Region campaign, and the Edmonton Pride Festival.

Jack Tsoi, Treasurer

Jack is currently the Vice-President, Finance of CompuVision Systems Inc., a local Edmonton technology provider with operations across Canada and the USA. He is in charge of all financial aspects of the company and leading its' various business transformation initiatives. Since obtaining his Chartered Professional Accountant (CPA, CA) designation in 2009, Jack has worked in senior roles with Zafin Global Holdings Inc., PricewaterhouseCoopers and Paramount Resources Ltd. prior to joining the CompuVision team.

Michael Capus, Director

Since 2017, Michael has been a Partner with KPMG LLP. He began as a consultant with the firm in 2006, and he was promoted to Senior Manager by 2012. He has extensive experience in strategy development, financial and cost modelling, business process improvement, and performance measurement and management. He has a Bachelor of Commerce from the University of Alberta. His past community involvement includes work with 630 CHED's Santas Anonymous, Whitemud Equine Learning Centre Association, and the United Way.

Pedro Carriel, Director

Pedro is the Treasurer/Chief Financial Officer with the Alberta Teachers' Association. Prior to this appointment, he was the Deputy Director, Head of Finance and Administration with the Art Gallery of Alberta and the Senior Director of Finance and Administration with Productivity Alberta. Pedro's education includes a Bachelor of Education, Bachelor of Arts in Economics, Master of Business Administration, and his CPA Designation.

Ray Dallaire, Director

Ray joined the Investors Group Financial Services in 1982. After serving a number of positions for the Investors Group, Ray was appointed Regional Director for the Edmonton Capital Region office in 2005; he retired from this position in 2017. A firm believer in giving back to the community, some of his charitable services include Junior Achievement, Better Business Bureau of Central & Northern Alberta, Lakeland College, and the Edmonton Chamber of Commerce. Ray has been a long-time passionate supporter of the work of Edmonton's Food Bank.

Michele Kirchner, Director

Michele has over 30 years of experience working for the Government of Alberta, including her current position as Designated Officer for the Public Interest Disclosure Office. She has also served as Assistant Deputy Minister with Alberta Human Services. Michele has over 15 years of experience on national, provincial, and local boards. She currently serves on the Board of the Jerry Forbes Centre Foundation.

Jack Little, Director

Jack was the Executive Director of the Edmonton Heritage Festival Association until his retirement in 2015. He previously worked for CFRN for 27 years, ten of which were as station manager. These experiences have given him extensive knowledge of media and public relations. Jack's volunteer work has included the Western Association of Broadcasters, United Way, Northern Alberta Better Business Bureau, and Edmonton Community Loan Fund. Currently, he is on the Board of the Greater Edmonton Foundation Seniors Housing and is the past President of the Gyro Club of Edmonton.

Roberta Moro, Director

Roberta is currently a teacher with Edmonton Public Schools at Hospital School Campuses including the Royal Alex and Glenrose Hospitals. Because of her work in these hospital settings, she is very aware of the complex issues that children and families experience. Her education includes a Bachelor of Education from Concordia University and a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Alberta. Her community involvement includes work with the Nina Haggerty Centre for the Arts and the Mennonite Centre for Newcomers-Homework Club.

Alim Nizar Somji, Director

Alim is the Executive Vice-President of the Jaffer Group of Companies. Alim has a Bachelor of Arts (with distinction) in Honors Business Administration from the Richard Ivey School of Business at the University of Western Ontario, and a Post Graduate Certificate in Real Property Valuation from the Sauder School of Business at the University of British Columbia. He has served as a Board Member for Elves Special Needs Society and as the Chairperson of the Economic Planning Board of His Highness Prince Aga Khan Shia Ismaili Council for Edmonton.

Tom Thackeray, Director

Until his recent retirement, Tom had held numerous senior management positions within the Government of Alberta for over 40 years. One of his most rewarding assignments was as an Assistant Deputy Minister with Alberta Culture where he got to work extensively with the non-profit sector. In the community, Tom is the vice-president of the Willmore Wilderness Foundation, and volunteers his time with the Friends of the Arden Theatre Society and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. He previously has served on the board of the Arts and Heritage Foundation of St. Albert. Tom is currently a Councillor with the Summer Village of Bonnyville Beach.

List of Director Emeritus

Doug Hughes, Director Emeritus & Past Chair

Doug is a partner with Bishop & McKenzie LLP where he has worked for over 30 years. Doug's prior volunteer experiences include terms on the Boards of both Paper Chase Recycling (a pioneering office waste paper recycling project) and WeCan Cooperative (an agency providing employment resources and other services to communities in north east Edmonton). Married with two children, Doug makes volunteering with the Food Bank a family affair. Finally, Doug is very proud to follow in the footsteps of his mother, Janet Hughes, who was a member of the Food Bank's founding Board.

Donald Langford, Director Emeritus

Donald is the Executive Director of Métis Child and Family Services Society Edmonton, a position he has held for the past 20 years. Prior to this, he served 37 years in the Canadian Armed Forces. Throughout his life, he has been active in the community as a coach, a community worker, and an addictions counselor. Donald is a strong supporter of the Aboriginal community and advocates for their empowerment, self-sufficiency, and inclusion. Currently, he is the Secretary of the Aboriginal Veterans Society of Alberta and serves on other work related committees. Don has served six years on the Board of the Food Bank.

Jan Musani, Director Emeritus

Jan worked as the Quality Control Manager for Jaffer Group of Companies from 2006 until 2011. In 2011, she took on a new role as Property Manager for Jaffer Properties Inc. Prior to starting with Jaffer, Jan worked for 17 years at Elves Special Needs School. She has been an active volunteer in Edmonton since 1978 when she started with Girl Guides of Canada. Since 1995, Jan has served as the Chairperson of the Edmonton Celebrate Canada Committee. Jan has served six years on the Board of the Food Bank.