

BRANDON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

2018 BOARD ELECTION CANDIDATE PROFILES

We are working with MNP LLP to provide Electronic Voting. Polls open May 15TH, 2018. Delegates will be sent electronic ballots the day of opening polls. Cast Your Vote by 4pm Friday, May 25th, 2018. Please contact the Chamber if you do not have email or access to the internet.

Visit our website at www.brandonchamber.ca for complete voting information (including deadlines and nominee profiles). For more information, please call (204) 571-5340 or email info@brandonchamber.ca

(*) Indicates current board members seeking re-election.



MIKE BROLUND *Sunrise Credit Union*

Mike is currently Manager of the Sunrise Credit Union branch in Brandon. Leading a team of service providers that has nearly tripled since opening in 2010, Mike is passionate about the Brandon community and feels it has everything needed including opportunity. He feels his 33+ years in the financial services industry gives him great insight into what a business needs to be successful as well as what challenges a business faces. This experience gives him the ability to speak on behalf of and advocate for, the business community as a whole, as a director with the Brandon Chamber of Commerce.

Born in Swan River MB while his father was deployed on a peace keeping mission, Mike moved a few times early on eventually settling on a family farm outside of Moosomin Sk. where he grew up. Moving continued to be the story of his life during his working career. After working in 10 communities over 15 years, Mike has resided in Brandon since 2000 after transferring here with his previous employer. This is by far the longest

he's ever lived in one place which makes Brandon his home.

Mike believes everyone has to do their share which plays an important part in building and growing a community. In every community he has lived in, he has tried to give something back. Whether it be as a volunteer firefighter, hockey/baseball coach/manager, PA announcer or with various service clubs, Mike has spent many hours doing his share. Most recently, he completed 8 years as Manager and council member with the Brandon AAA Midget Wheat Kings. Married to Roxanne who works as a Licensed Practical Nurse at the hospital in Moosomin, they have 2 adult children who also call Brandon home.



BARRY COOPER *Heritage Co-op*

Barry was born and raised in Brandon. He graduated from the University of Saskatchewan with a degree in Animal Science and has experience in the beef packing, veterinary pharmaceutical and feed industries.

Barry is the Petroleum Division Manager with Heritage Co-op. His responsibilities include supervising seven Petroleum Managers and implementing all management and training programs. He is also involved in marketing and sales to farm, commercial and pump accounts. Outside of Heritage Co-op, Barry is still active on the family farm, raising beef cattle and growing crops. Barry and wife Deb have two adult sons.

Barry has worked on the Agriculture Committee and is currently part of the Membership Committee with the Brandon Chamber. He believes that the Chamber offers tremendous opportunities to build your network among its members. By getting to know each other and working together, the Chamber gives us all a stronger voice to achieve common goals.



BJ HERSAK *Corral Communications*

BJ is the General Manager for Corral Communications, Brandon's largest and only locally owned and operated Bell/MTS dealer, with three locations serving western Manitoba. He also plays a role with MyITsource as a consultant for their home automation and installation business.

Being born and raised in the area is something BJ never takes for granted. Obtaining all levels of education in Brandon, and spending his entire professional career working with locally owned companies is a testament to how strong he feels about staying local and supporting the growth of businesses in the area.

In today's world BJ not only thrives on the day to day excitement of being deeply involved in the IT and technology industry, but is also an active member of Prairie Pride lions club and has sat on various committees for Westman Dreams for Kids, and Brandon's United way. In his personal life he enjoys spending time with his wife Louise and his kids Ashton, and Penny!

BJ thanks you in advance for your consideration, and is truly excited to work with the chamber to continue to grow the strength of the whole Brandon business community!



RYAN JACOBSON *Forbidden Flavours Roastery*

Ryan Jacobson is the owner of Forbidden Flavours Roastery and 3 Brandon Cafés. Since taking over Forbidden Flavours Roastery in 2010 Ryan and his team currently service over 150 commercial accounts in western Manitoba.

Ryan was born and raised in Washington state and began work as a child in his family's commercial salmon fishing operation in Alaska. He has lived in Hawaii and Florida and moved to Brandon in 2003. He fell in love with Brandon and the people and now considers it his home town. He has 2 sons, Lane (12) and Noah (10) and keeps busy with their school and sports activities.



STEVE MCMILLAN* *VBJ Developments*

Steve was born, raised and educated in Brandon; graduating from Brandon University in 2004 with a 4-year Bachelor of Science degree, majoring in Geography. Steve is a registered Professional Planner (MCIP, RPP), and is the VP of Planning Services with VBJ Developments; a private land development company in Brandon.

His urban planning background, enhanced by 6 years of experience working with the City of Brandon's Planning Department, provides great insight into land use plans, zoning and the permitting process in Brandon. Steve has a rare insight, with experience working in both the public and private sector, which he strongly believes benefits his business and can also benefit the Chamber Membership.

Steve has volunteered his time for a number of organizations, most notably as a board member of the Brandon Downtown Development Corporation since 2011, in which he has held the position of Chairman since 2014. Steve also sits on the board of directors for the Construction Association of Rural Manitoba (CARM) and was a volunteer member on the Brandon University BUILD Campaign. Steve and his wife Katie have two children, daughter Avery, and son Cole.



HEATHER PERKINS *RBC Royal Bank of Canada*

Heather Perkins has been involved in Agriculture and Agribusiness financing for the past 25 years in the Westman area, supported by her Degree in Agriculture from the University of Manitoba. She is passionate about making a difference in her community through giving back. Her work on the boards of the Provincial Exhibition of Manitoba, the Manitoba Institute of Agrologist and Kinsmen and Kinnette Clubs of Canada in various National and District roles are true demonstrations of that passion.

Heather believes that the time is right to see Brandon invest in the future and develop a business community that will reflect the diversity of the world around us to take advantage of appropriate opportunities to move forward.

Heather and her husband Don have two grown daughters and one granddaughter. Their extended family all resides in Brandon and are working in their chosen careers of Environmental Geology, and Photography. Don and Heather live on a farm near Rapid City and enjoy the Agricultural lifestyle. On Heather's off hours, she can usually be found in her community garden or with her horses.



TRENT SHOLDICE* *Meighen Haddad LLP*

Trent was born and raised in Brandon, attending Brandon University for his undergraduate degree. Trent went on to Law School at the University of Manitoba and joined Meighen Haddad LLP following graduation, becoming a Partner of the firm in 2006.

Trent is a past chair of the YMCA board of directors and Western Manitoba Bar Association as well as a past member of the Manitoba Bar Association Council.

Married to Dr. Savitra Ramaya, Trent is a strong believer in local business and feels he can offer a unique perspective to the Chamber and hopes to assist in the growth of business in Brandon.



CATHY SNELGROVE* *Siere*

Cathy Snelgrove, one of the founding partners of Siere, advises business owners in the growth and profitability of their businesses. Like most businesses, Siere started out in a garage and with hard work, determination and the support of this community, has grown to now employ five people with a geographical reach into western Canada and the United States.

Prior to Siere, Cathy held senior leadership positions within the City of Brandon, Inventronics and The Boeing Company (Winnipeg), in the fields of Operations and Human Resources. She is a Certified Engineering Technologist and also holds a MBA and PhD.

Cathy is passionate about working with business owners and has a proven track record in advising them to achieve impressive results. She believes a single business does not grow in isolation. "Business grows when they are part of a strong and engaged community and I believe it is my role to give back in meaningful ways, in order to support both."

Cathy loves to write and has co-authored two books and writes a weekly blog, geared towards business and leadership and continues to assist future entrepreneurs, in fulfilling their own business dreams.



AIDA TAHHAN *Aida's Catering*

Aida Tahhan is the owner of Aida's Catering. With years of culinary experience and training, in 2015 she channeled her love for preparing traditional Middle Eastern dishes into a thriving small business. Aida's Catering aims to provide fresh homemade meals to clients, while giving back to the Westman community.

In addition to owning Aida's Catering, Aida also sits on the board of Westman Immigrant Services and is a member of 100 Women Who Care.

Aida has two children, Grace & Jamil, and has been proud to call Brandon home for the past 19 years.

The seven (7) candidates receiving the most votes will be declared elected for a two-year term.

Deadline for voting: May 25^h, 2018 at 4pm.

Visit our website at www.brandonchamber.ca for complete voting information, or call (204) 571-5340 or email info@brandonchamber.ca