

# 2025-26 Board Election Candidates

## **Rob Starkell (Re-Election)**

Rob Starkell is a Brandon-born seasoned entrepreneur and business professional who holds a Bachelor of Commerce degree from U of M. Rob has spent a good portion of his career working overseas for large Fortune 500 companies and is now co-owner of West-Can HR in downtown Brandon. With over 25 years of experience, he has developed a reputation for providing innovative and effective solutions to complex organizational challenges. Robert is committed to helping organizations optimize their people practices and achieve their business objectives and has a proven track record of delivering results for clients across a wide range of industries. Rob is a current CARM (Construction Association of Rural Manitoba) board member and has sat on both the Brandon Chamber of Commerce Business Development and Government Relations committees in the past. Rob is passionate about supporting local businesses in Brandon and the exciting cultural diversification and opportunities in our community.

## **Brent Miller (Re-Election)**

Currently the General Manager of the Victoria Inn, Brent has shown tremendous dedication to his work and to the community. Volunteering with the Provincial Exhibition of Manitoba Board of Directors for over 13 years, Brent brings awareness to agriculture through helping bring rural and urban communities together. Brent even sat as President of the Provincial Exhibition Board for 2 years and has also been a part of their Summer Fair Committee, Dome Building Restoration Committee, and more. Notably, Brent played a lead role in helping determine how the Provincial Ex would continue to operate during the Covid-19 pandemic and executing the activities that held them afloat.

## **Matt Berg (Re-Election)**

Matt Berg was born in Brandon and raised in a small rural town just 20 kilometers North. Working as a landscape labourer in Highschool, Matt developed a love for the outdoors and the creative freedoms that landscaping offered. He purchased Livingstone Landscaping in 1999 as the sole employee to pay his way through university. Matt graduated with a degree in Business from Brandon University, focusing on Finance and minor in Economics. He completed the Prairie Horticulture certification program by Distance Ed from Olds College, Red River College, University of Winnipeg, and ACC. Matt also taught Landscape Design at our local Assiniboine Community College to pass on industry knowledge to those interested in landscape design. In 2020, Matt was one of the founding partners of their sister company Livingstone Outdoor, a landscaping retail supply store and greenhouse set to open in spring 2021. Today, the two companies employ ninety-five staff members and operate interprovincially in MB & SK.

## **Ketan Patel**

My name is Ketan Patel. Originally from India, I moved to Brandon in 2013 and have proudly called it home ever since. I hold a bachelor's degree in commerce with a focus on Accounting, Management, and Economics. I began my career in Brandon as a Network Operations Technician at Westman Communications Group before transitioning into real estate in 2017 with Sutton-Harrison Realty, where I currently work as a licensed Realtor®. My professional journey has allowed me to work closely with a wide range of local businesses and individuals, providing me with a deep understanding of Brandon's economic landscape. I also serve on the Board of Governors at Assiniboine Community College, contributing to the growth and development of post-secondary education in our region. Community involvement is a cornerstone of my values. I am an active volunteer, regularly supporting and participating in local events. I am also a proud member of the Westman Cricket community, promoting sport and inclusivity in our city. My wife Apexa and I have been married for 22 years, and we are blessed with two wonderful children—our daughter Gunn and our son Reyansh. Outside of work and community service, I enjoy traveling, spending quality time with my family, and pursuing my passion for aviation as a private pilot. I am committed to strengthening our business community and would be honoured to bring my experience, energy, and vision to the Brandon Chamber of Commerce Board.

## **Bill Hogan**

Originally from the East Coast, Bill holds a Bachelor of Commerce (Co-op) from Memorial University of Newfoundland. With a background in entrepreneurship, he moved into community economic development in 2002, working with Community Futures Visions North in Northern Saskatchewan. He served in multiple roles before becoming General Manager in 2007. In 2022, Bill became Executive Director of Community Futures Westman, supporting entrepreneurs and local economic growth across the region. Bill's leadership experience includes roles with the La Ronge & District Chamber of Commerce, the Saskatoon Airport Authority, and national committees focused on small business and Indigenous economic development.

## **Emmy Sanderson**

Born and raised in Vancouver, BC, but calling Manitoba home since 2005, Emmy is keenly dedicated to the revitalization of Downtown Brandon and support and advocacy of local businesses. With 16 years experience in EMS, a background in residential construction, particularly the restoration of character homes, decades of experience in project management, and an education in Human Resources, Emmy's background gives her a perfect skill set to bring into her role as Executive Director. Working with the Brandon Downtown BIZ since its resurrection in 2023, Emmy has found a passion in advocacy for, and promotion of, the hundreds of businesses and business owners that make up the downtown business community. In addition to a lifelong love of downtowns, Emmy also brings her belief of collaboration to her role in building cooperative relationships with the other downtown stakeholders, as well as a seemingly endless supply of personal energy, optimism, and genuine interest in learning from the people she meets in her BIZ adventures.

## **Kyle Neufeld**

Kyle brings over 20 years of hands-on experience in the construction industry, having started as a labourer and earning his Red Seal certification as a Journeyman Carpenter. He went on to own and operate a successful custom carpentry business in southern Manitoba for more than eight years, where he crafted everything from custom homes to lakeside cottages. His deep expertise in custom construction is matched by a true passion for turning clients' ideas into beautifully built realities. Kyle lives just outside Killarney, Manitoba, on a quiet 10-acre property with his wife and two children. When he's not on the job, you'll likely find him enjoying the outdoors with his family or exploring new corners of the world. Guided by the motto "Living Better," he hopes to bring that same energy and commitment to support the Brandon Chamber of Commerce and its members.

## **Lyndsay Seafoot**

Lyndsay Seafoot is a passionate entrepreneur dedicated to building strong teams and forward-thinking workplaces. In 2020, she launched Curbridge, an HR consulting company that works with businesses and organizations across the province to strengthen culture, recruitment, and leadership capacity. In 2024, Lyndsay founded Stand Out Staff, a digital resume builder designed to help job seekers showcase their skills while connecting employers with top talent in today's digital landscape. Her work spans business development, leadership training, and team management — all with a focus on future-ready solutions. Lyndsay is committed to supporting both employers and employees in creating meaningful, growth-oriented work environments.

## **Premmal Patel-David**

Premmal Patel-David is an internationally trained and dual-licensed lawyer with over 15 years of experience and a full time Manitoba practising lawyer. She is the Owner and Operator of PPD Law Office in Brandon, Manitoba, specializing in Real Estate, Commercial/Business Law, Family & Civil Litigation, Corporate Legal Services, Immigration Law and Estate Planning and Administration. Premmal is dedicated to community service and actively serves as a board member with Westman Immigrant Services and the Brandon Downtown Development Corporation. She has contributed to and participated in Business Negotiations, International Trademarks, Arbitration and Mediation, Constitutional Law, and Property Law. Premmal believes in economic development and inclusivity, focusing on growth at the personal, community, and city level. Beyond her legal career, Premmal enjoys dance and fitness programs and is a dedicated mother to her son, who has a passion for dinosaurs. She emphasizes the importance of work-life balance for personal happiness and professional success.

## **Rand Tashman**

Rand Tashman has been with Westoba, a division of Assiniboine Credit Union, for over 2 years. She has been in the financial services sector for 14 years. She is currently Branch Manager of both Westoba's Victoria and Souris locations. Rand held a BBA degree and enrolled in Advanced management certificate at the University of Manitoba. Rand is all about giving back to her community through participating in a different volunteering initiative, community events and serving as a board member with Westman Community Futures.

## **Vicki Davis**

I have worked in the Credit Union industry for the past 12 ½ years with the recently merged Assiniboine Credit Union, previously Westoba Credit Union. My new role is VP Corporate Real Estate and Facilities Management, previously I was VP Finance at Westoba Credit Union. This fits with my desire to constantly learn and grow as I switch my focus to one area of facilities management at a larger credit union. I have a philosophy of learning something new each day, sometimes small, sometimes big. I have worked as an accountant in manufacturing, oil and gas and public accounting before coming to the Credit Union system. As VP of Finance, I was responsible for financial reporting to the Board. This was achieved by managing a team of 18. I was responsible for Treasury management, Financial reporting and Deposit and Payment Services. These three streams all had requirements for Board and regulatory reporting. Leading a strong team to accomplish deadlines throughout the year. In my spare time I enjoy sports – watching, playing and coaching. In recent years I have spent much of my time watching various levels of hockey from beginner to as many NHL games as I can attend. I have season tickets to the Blue Bombers. I also enjoy golf and running. In the past my kids directed my time and energy, so I have participated in boards mainly as treasurer. This involvement helped to keep the programs running for the kids in the community. As my kids are now grown up, I am expanding and seeking new opportunities. I grew up in small town Manitoba and retain the community spirit instilled in me as a child. I have lived in cities and a small town as an adult. I moved to Brandon in 2021. Working at Westoba Credit Union has provided a good avenue to support our community. The opportunity to be on the Brandon Chamber of Commerce will provide more opportunity to give back to the community where I live.

## **Lisa Andrew**

Lisa Andrew is a Chartered Professional Accountant and Partner at BDO Canada LLP, where she provides strategic financial and advisory services to clients across southwestern Manitoba. With over 18 years in public accounting, Lisa brings extensive expertise in financial management, governance, and business development, working closely with business owners, farmers, and organizations to help them succeed. A lifelong resident of Brandon, Lisa is deeply committed to the growth and well-being of the local community. Beyond her professional work, she has contributed to several local boards, including Brandon Crime Stoppers and the Brandon Regional Health Centre Foundation, and currently serves as Treasurer for Helping Hands Soup Kitchen. Lisa and her spouse, Cory, are proud parents to their daughter Riley. Lisa values the strong sense of community in Brandon and is passionate about giving back to the city that has given so much to her. Lisa is honoured to be nominated to the Board of the Brandon Chamber of Commerce and looks forward to contributing financial insight, governance experience, and a strong local perspective to help support and grow Brandon's vibrant business community.