



Nominees



Your engagement in the election process of your Mid Island Co-op Board of Directors is important. It ensures your co-op board continues to be comprised of Directors with the experience and the passion for co-operative values that enables them to work on your behalf and represent the interests of our 78,000 member-owners. Your vote is your voice. Thank you in advance for casting your vote online!

JAMES BOWEN



My name is James Bowen, and I am seeking reelection to the Mid Island Co-op Board of Directors for what would be my third term. As the current Board President, a position I have held throughout my second term, I have witnessed and contributed to the remarkable growth and success of our cooperative. This is a testament to the effective management and the harmonious collaboration that characterizes our board. Together we have steered the Co-op towards greater financial health and operational efficiency, ensuring that we not only meet but exceed our members' expectations. Our Co-op has grown and diversified significantly, reflecting our commitment to building a sustainable and successful business that prioritizes the needs and well-being of our members.

Over the past six years, our board has collectively fostered an environment where transparent communication and strategic planning thrive. I believe this collaborative approach has been pivotal in enabling us to return profits to our members and support our local community through substantial donations to various groups. Our shared commitment to community well-being and member satisfaction is the cornerstone of our operations.

As we look to the future, my focus remains on ensuring that our Co-op continues to innovate and adapt to changing market dynamics while staying true to our core values of cooperation and mutual support. I am passionate about contributing to our Co-op's ongoing success and am eager to leverage my experience and insights for the continued prosperity of our cooperative community.

I humbly ask for your support to continue this journey of success and service as a member of the Mid Island Co-op Board of Directors.

DENIS HUGHES



Mid Island Co-op has been a member of our community for more than 60 years. Its vision is "...providing a diversity of services and supports in the community", yet has become a business driven by the sale of fuel, alcohol, and junk food. Setting aside social and environmental responsibilities, these products do not represent the future.

We have about 75,000 members (two thirds of whom are over age 45). This is only 18% of the potential membership for our region. To increase community support and attract younger members we must be more visible, find better products, and establish stronger connections with like-minded local businesses.

Denis is running for the Mid Island Co-op board to seek needed changes. He has a strong academic background with degrees in Science and Education; and a Masters in Administration. He has worked across Canada and overseas in senior management roles. Before he retired, Denis' last position was Director of Admissions for the UBC Faculty of Medicine. He now works on his farm and volunteers for local organizations.

Over the years, Denis has managed multi-million dollar budgets and helped organizations adapt to a fast changing economic and social climate. He has sat on regional, provincial, national, and international boards.

Denis believes in teamwork and guidance from a strong, responsible board. He has the skills and experience to help Mid Island Co-op innovate to better serve our community.

CHRIS JAEGER



Chris is grateful for the opportunity he has been given to serve you, the members of Mid-Island Co-op, over this past year. There has been a lot to learn and the knowledge he has gained has been tremendous.

Chris first joined a Co-op in the 90s and, at present, he is a member of three separate co-operatives. However, as a director, Chris has been able to more fully appreciate how co-operatives truly are "a different kind of business". Mid-Island is making meaningful differences in the communities it serves by providing a diverse range of goods and services, supporting deserving community groups, and rewarding members' loyalties. Importantly, these would not be possible without the dedication of Mid-Island's frontline and supporting employees who make everything the Co-op promises come together.

In November, Chris attended the Federated Co-operatives Ltd. Leaders' Conference. He has also completed nine of the Director Development Program courses. These courses are invaluable in helping directors to better understand their fiduciary duties and oversight responsibilities. They also present opportunities for directors to share their own distinct experiences of operating a diverse range of co-operatives across Western Canada.

Mid-Island and the larger cooperative retail system are robust. Furthermore, all parties are innovating to ensure they will be here to serve members across the Western Provinces for the next 75 years. Chris would be grateful for your support in continuing to work on your behalf, as a member of Mid-Island's Board of Directors.



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ZENI MAARTMAN



Zeni Maartman, a longstanding resident of Nanaimo, is a dedicated and engaged community member with a rich history of civic service. During her children's high school years, she notably served as a School Trustee for SD 68 from 1996 to 1999, demonstrating a commitment to education and community welfare. In the years that ensued, Zeni continued her active involvement in local affairs, contributing significantly to various City Committees and local organizations. Her dedication to community service culminated in her role as a City Councilor from 2018 to 2022, where she also served on the Regional District. Zeni's professional background as part of the management team at Nanaimo BCAA for over twenty years, has equipped her with a diverse skill set necessary for good governance. An advocate for community welfare, Zeni believes in the mission of Mid Island Co-op, which prioritizes community support and reinvestment. A member of the Co-op for many years she appreciates their dedication to keeping profits within the community, providing great jobs, building welcoming facilities, and supporting local groups and charitable organizations. Zeni's experience on Council has provided her with a solid understanding of board responsibilities, including setting visions and goals, policy and budget reviews, and a demonstrated commitment to community development. As a director, Zeni is committed to leveraging her skills and experience to further the Co-op's mission of community support and development.

HARPREET SINGH MINHAS



Harpreet Singh Minhas is currently on the Board of Mid Island Coop since 2021. He is completing his first term this year. He has contributed immensely, individually as a Director and collectively as a Board, in terms of governance, risk management, financial oversight and members and community engagement. He takes keen interest in fostering effective Board Management relationship and strongly supports innovation, diversity of thoughts, inclusivity and constructive engagement. He comes with individual opinions in the best interest of the Coop and at the same time respects what the Board decides collectively as a team. He has sharp analytical skills that help the Board from time to time. He has undertaken all the courses made available by the Coop in record time having him earned the designation of CoopD.D from University of Saskatchewan. This title represents the long time commitment of an individual towards the co-operative principles. He has done the courses pertaining to the indigenous people as well. He participates actively in various local business and community events to keep him abreast of the evolving business needs of the organization. He actively engages with fellow coops of Western Canada through District meetings, Senior Leadership conferences and AGM of Federated Co-operatives Limited. He sits on the Board of Nanaimo Airport Commission as well. He has a Master of Business Administration with specialization in human resources management. He runs his own small scale transport and food business. He lives in Nanaimo with his wife and two young boys.

ROBERT SCHIEFELE



Robert (Rob) Schiefele was born, raised and worked until retirement at Flin Flon, Manitoba. Rob's background was a career with Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co. Ltd., now HudBay Minerals Inc. in the Human Resources Dept. Rob's expertise was as Supervisor of Training and Development; Public Relations Officer; Employee and Family Assistance Co-ordinator and Benefits and Pension Administrator. Working career expanded over thirty-eight years. Rob has extensive knowledge in the workings of the Co-op system and understands what is expected as a Director having served as a Director of the North of 53 Co-op (Flin Flon) for twenty-one years, fifteen as Vice President. Rob considers himself a good listener and a prudent person. That was evident when North of 53 Coop embarked on discussions and planning over a two year period to build a new grocery store. Rob was Vice President during this period and ensured he spoke and listened to the membership because of this massive undertaking. Naturally there was resistance from some of the membership however after final deliberation the Board, with the blessing of FCL along with some funding, proceeded in building a state of the art 40,000 sq ft grocery store to the tune of about \$17 million. This was one of the most significant commercial developments in Flin Flon history. Rob and wife Bev relocated to Vancouver Island two years ago spending the first year in Courtenay and now one year in Nanaimo. Rob and Bev have two children and four grandchildren. Rob would be pleased to serve as a Director of Mid Island Coop and work towards the betterment of the Coop as a whole.