



411 Seniors Centre Society

Board Biographies

2016-2017

411 Seniors Centre Society
Annual General Meeting
2016

Board of Director Candidates 2016-2017:

STUART ALCOCK



Stuart joined the board in 2013. He has served as President of the society since 2014. Stuart is the chairperson the New Facility committee and, in his capacity as President, is a member of all the committees. Stuart will be completing his 2 Year Term on the board.

Stuart is a long time Vancouver resident and an accomplished non-profit and association administrator. His strengths include expertise in policy, research and program development. Stuart's work has encompassed being Constituency Assistant to a number of MLA's, Executive Director of the BC Association of Social Workers, and Deputy Executive Director at Westminster Community Legal Services Society. He is a respected teacher and supervisor and recognized for his many years spent in the field of Social Work.

In addition to 411, Stuart volunteers in administrative support to Ballet BC. His past volunteer activities include chairing the Law Reform Committee of the BC Human Rights Coalition; membership of the Community Liaison Group, Mount Pleasant Community Plan; and co-chairing a committee reviewing the Code of Ethics for social workers in BC. He has made presentations at colleges, universities and conferences in Canada, the USA and the UK on a variety of issues related to social work and organizational development. Stuart is currently a member of the B.C. Seniors Advocate's Council of Advisers.

PATSY CRAIG



Patsy joined the Board in 2013 and is seeking a third term. She is the board representative for the Information & Referral Program and participates on the Nominations and Strategic Planning committees. Patsy is an Information and Referral Volunteer at the 'Centre, assisting fellow seniors in navigating & accessing government & community 'systems'

benefits & resources.

Over the years, Patsy developed a strong background in engaging volunteer participation, developing programs, policies and organized hundreds of volunteers in her capacity as a Volunteer, as an Accredited Administrator of Volunteer Services and as a Locum in the non-profit sector, prior to training & obtaining the designation of Registered Rehabilitation Professional in the disability management industry.

For 20 years, Patsy volunteered as a Liaison Tutor working with teams of 8 first and second-year medical students and their physician-tutors on a weekly basis, introducing the students to the social & community aspects of medicine (which included learning to 'listen to' & be a health advocate for older adults). As a Rehabilitation Consultant, she assessed capabilities & managed 'active' return to work or retraining programs for men & women with medical or injury-related conditions. Latterly in her career, she developed and directed a funding/granting department for a major Children's Charity, expanding its capabilities for services and equipment costs for individual children & their families' and Emergency Response requests and service delivery.

Helping people improve their lives has been a life-long commitment for Patsy and she is particularly dedicated to helping fellow citizen seniors access those important life changing services.

LINDA FORSYTHE



Linda joined the board in 2012; she chairs the strategic Planning Committee and is a member of the New Facility Committee. Linda is also an active member of the Program and Personnel Committees. Linda played a lead role in setting up the book club and volunteers for the income tax clinic.

She is the 411 delegate to COSCO (Council of Senior Citizens Organizations of BC). Linda has taken the training for the Seniors Ambassadors program, operated out of South Burnaby Neighbourhood House.

MOHINDER GREWAL



Mohinder was first appointed as a director by the Board in 2011 and is currently 1st Vice President. He is a member of the Strategic Planning and Personnel Committee. He has previously served on the Finance Committee.

Mohinder has dedicated his life in Canada to the well-being of immigrants and Visible Minorities, and to a just society in which all are welcome. He has worked in the area of race relations, immigrant services and cultural and social policy development and served as a member of the Convention Refugee Determination Division of the Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada. Over the past nearly forty years he has served on many other boards and committees that safeguard the well-being of immigrants and Visible Minorities in general.

His involvement with seniors' issues spans from his days as vice-chair of the B.C. Seniors Advisory Council, representing B.C. on the Canada Coordinating Committee for the U N's IYOP

celebrations, a member of the BC Premier's Council on Aging and Seniors' Issues and a member of BC Regional Review Committee for the New Horizons Program for Seniors.

Currently Mohinder is a member of the City of Richmond Seniors' Advisory Committee and Intercultural Advisory Committee, Vice Chair Metro Vancouver Cross Cultural Seniors Network Society, a director of COSCO and a director of Richmond Addiction Services Society. He is a member of the Provincial Advisory Committee for the seniors' project "Better at Home" being undertaken by the United Way. He is also a member of the Provincial Committee on Cultural Diversity and Policing. In 2015 he was appointed to the Seniors Advocate's Council of Advisors.

In 2012 Mohinder was the recipient of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal.

LOUISE LECLAIR



Louise Leclair spent 40 years working in Communications from broadcast communications to government, culture and Labour. She graduated from BCIT in 1968 and 30 years later in 2003 received a Masters Degree in Communications from Simon Fraser University.

In addition to a career that included broadcast, museums the National Museums of Canada and Le Musée du Québec. Louise spent 18 years working in Communications with Canadian Union of Public Employees in BC and Ottawa. Louise retired in 2010.

Louise is passionate about seniors' issues in particular the lack of appropriate local transportation and quality housing for seniors. She has lived in a Housing Co-Op for the past 20 years and has filled the role of president and chairperson of the maintenance committee. In addition Louise sits on the board of the Vancouver Moving Theatre, an organization that creates art and celebrates the power of the human spirit and builds shared experiences that bridge cultural traditions. Louise also volunteers with the Mid-Main Community Health Centre.

Louise brings to the board her proven experience in the field of communications and has a passion for helping to improve the lives of seniors. Louise is seeking a 2 year term on the board.

MARION POLLACK

Marion Pollack is a retired postal worker and a long-time activist with the Canadian Union of Postal Workers (CUPW). She has held Union positions at the Local, Regional, and National level.

Currently Marion Pollack is President of the CUPW Metro Vancouver Retirees Organization. With other retirees she participates in a monthly clinic to assist retiring postal workers to fill out their pension and retirement benefits paper work.

Marion Pollack is a Board Member of BC FORUM – the Federation of Retired Union Members.

She has a keen issue in women’s issues and continues to work for the full economic, social and political equality of all women. She is a former Board member and the Past President of the Canadian Research Institute for the Advancement of Women (CRIA-W-ICREF).

Marion Pollack remains a strong supporter of labour issues. She is involved in international solidarity.

KANWARJIT (KAN) SANDHU



Kanwarjit was born and raised in Punjab, India. After finishing university, he left India to travel the world. He travelled to places such as Singapore, Australia, and eventually settled in the U.K. After living there for a several years, he decided to migrate to Canada and then got married. He raised two girls in Richmond and after 36 years of service as a bank manager, he is now retired.

Kan’s life experiences have taught him to deal with many difficult issues such as racism, discrimination, being an ethnic minority, and now dealing with

senior issues. Being retired has afforded him the chance to give back to the community that provided him with so many opportunities.

Kan is very active in the community and has participated in various workshops over the years.

He has been on the Board of Directors for Richmond Multicultural Community Services (RMCS) in various capacities such as President, Vice President and Secretary. This society deals with settlement and senior issues. He actively participates in their senior's program that involves yoga, healthy eating, and dealing with various senior's issues. He is also on the board for the Indo Canadian Business Association (ICBA) and chairs the Scholarship Committee to help students be able to fund their university education.

His involvement with various workshops has created fruitful discussions on how to deal with real and living issues in our society. Such workshops include *Balance between Security, Human Rights and Accountability* at the Justice Institute of B.C., mental health issues seminars at S.F.U., *Diversity in Policing Conference* at the Justice Institute of B.C.

He was also involved with the National Association of Canadian of Origins (NACOI) and was elected as President of the BC Chapter and Secretary at the National Level. This organization facilitated regional and national conferences and liaised between provincial and federal government officials.

DEVINDER SEKHON



Devinder joined the board in 2013 and has served as Treasurer and chair of the Finance Committee for the past two years. Devinder is also an active member of the New Facilities Committee. Devinder has significant professional work experience in Private, Government and Non-Profit sectors. Currently he holds a senior level Executive position with a non profit charitable organization providing housing, health and social

services to marginalized populations. Devinder is very passionate about seniors' issues and needs. He has been active in the community and has served on the boards of number of Non-Profit organizations and community agencies. Devinder has Master of Health Administration degree from the University of British Columbia and is a Chartered Professional Accountant (CPA-CGA). Devinder is fluent in English, Punjabi and Hindi. He enjoys hiking, jogging, reading and is married with three children.

Gwen Willox



Gwen Willox, Member of 411 Seniors Centre Society, in good standing since 2013

Greetings, Fellow Seniors. I am hoping to be elected to the Board of 411 in 2016 because I believe there are contributions I can make to this dynamic community organization.

As a member of 411, I have participated in the Book Club since its inception. I have, for 2015 and 2016, been a volunteer tax preparer in the CVITP program. As well, I have attended numerous workshops and other presentations, with a special interest in poverty and housing issues.

I retired from my last employment in 2013. For 19 years I worked as a Financial Assistance Worker with the Ministry of Social Development, the last 10 years on Vancouver's Downtown Eastside. Previously I worked with women in the corrections system, working toward positive community reintegration. I owned my own business for 5 years in the 1980s. Many of my jobs involved supervision and/or management.

CURRENT BOARD MEMBERS - ELECTED AT THE 2015-2016 AGM AND BEGINNING THEIR 2ND YEAR OF A 2-YEAR TERM:

DAVID HANDLEMAN



David joined the board in 2013. He chairs the Membership and the Program Committees and is a member of the Personnel Committee. David is seeking a re-election for a 2 Year Term.

David Handelman is a retired lawyer who received his law degree from UBC. David practiced in the areas of Immigration Law, Criminal Law, Human Rights, and Labour Law. Prior to practicing law David was a teacher in School District No. 36 (Surrey) for over 15 years. David is also a member of the board of directors of the Justice Education Society and he is on the board of Burnaby Arts Council.

ERIC S. SZETO



Eric Szeto is a retired businessman who is passionate about the well being of seniors. Eric is well aware of the many challenges facing seniors in Vancouver.

Eric is also passionate about the Arts and as a performer himself, he is actively involved in a number of projects including the Cantonese Opera Association. Eric strongly believes in giving back to his community and his past and present volunteer activities include the Chinatown Society

Heritage Buildings Association; Vancouver Seniors' Culture Club and Vancouver Arts & Culture Policy Council's Advisory Committee

Eric has a background in accounting and has been the Executive Director for the Cantonese Opera Association of Canada and the Chinese Benevolent Association of Canada. He brings to the board 40 years of business experience as well as an understanding of the diverse needs of Vancouver's multi-cultural community.

DAVID YORKE



David Yorke has been on the board since 2012 and has served as Treasurer and 2ND Vice President. He is currently Secretary of the Board, the Chairperson of the Constitution Committee, and a member of the Finance and New Facility Committees. He was elected in 2015 to a two-year term as Director.

David is a retired union lawyer, having worked many years on the staff of the BC Teachers' Federation. Since retirement he has supported Seniors on Guard for Medicare, and has helped COSCO with technical advice on a number of its projects. He is a board member of the Pacific Northwest Labour History Association, and Treasurer of the On To Ottawa Historical Society.