



David Thieme

I have been on the board of directors for Saskatoon Co-op for seven years. I currently hold the position of secretary on the executive, serve as chairperson of the Finance & Audit Committee, and member of the Governance Committee. I have been on Member Relations, Sustainable Growth, and Facilities & Environment Committees.

My background is Manager of Food Stores including over seven years in the Co-op Retailing System and owner/operator of C-Stores. I am retired and spend my time volunteering with Saskatoon Downtown Lions Club, Saskatchewan Lions Foundation, Crohn's & Colitis, and Sutherland School. I believe it is important to support the community through volunteerism.

I appreciate the opportunity to serve as a board member for Saskatoon Co-op. This has provided a great chance to network and learn new skills. I believe in the co-operative principles and support the direction our co-op is taking. I am proud of our employees and management team that work hard to make our co-op a success. Their dedication to the safety of our members and customers during the trying time of COVID-19 is exemplary and greatly appreciated.

I would appreciate your support in continuing for another term.



Derek Vanthuynne

My name is Derek Vanthuynne and I live in the city of Warman. I have been a credit union and coop member since the age of 12 when I opened my first account at Watrous Credit Union.

After graduating from the University of Saskatchewan with my Bachelor of Commerce, I continued my cooperative roots by working in the credit union system for the past 25 years. I currently work as the VP Strategy & Innovation for Innovation Credit Union and prior to that as a manager with Affinity Credit Union.

I was a board member of the Watrous Coop in the late 1990's and have been an active coop member with Watrous, Hepburn, and Saskatoon Coop throughout my life so I am looking to contribute to their future success by bringing my work experience and perspective to the board table.

Through my work career, I have been part of many different management teams and have worked with different credit union boards and delegates in facilitating and planning for the future.

My work experience in strategy and planning along with my financial experience and cooperative passion make me a great candidate to consider for the Saskatoon Coop Board. I bring a passion for community and a perspective from rural Saskatchewan which would be beneficial with the expansion of locations outside the city of Saskatoon.



Michelle Neufeld

As a professional fundraiser, Michelle has a keen awareness of the benefit to the community when local businesses thrive. She has spent the majority of her career working for non-profit organizations and is currently working at St. Paul's Hospital Foundation as Manager of Annual Giving.

Michelle has experience with board work with the Association of Fundraising Professionals as well as the stand community organizing center. She has worked with community associations at Saskatoon Housing Authority, where she performed duties associated with being Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer.

She finished her university degree with an internship at the Saskatchewan Legislature, where she participated in committee work and gained a strong understanding of governance and the Saskatchewan political system.

Michelle is currently taking the Leadership Saskatoon program and will be complete in June. The skills learned through this program will be beneficial to the Saskatoon co-op board.

She lives in Saskatoon with her teenage son.



Pat Atkinson

Pat Atkinson is a teacher by profession. She served in the Saskatchewan Legislature representing Saskatoon- Nutana. During her 25 years as an elected MLA, she held several senior ministerial portfolios, including Finance, Crown Investments Corporation, Transportation, Rural Revitalization, Health, Education, Social Services and Post-Secondary Education.

She has chaired the Board of Directors for the Crown Investment Corporation, which oversees all Saskatchewan Crown Corporations. Pat has chaired governance committees, which included Treasury Board, Public Sector Bargaining, Planning and Priorities, Social Development and Regulations and Legislation. As a result of her experience she is considered a governance expert.

Before she was elected a sitting Member of the Legislature, she was involved in numerous civil society organizations and cooperatives. She has served on the board of the Saskatoon Community Clinic and the Cooperative Housing Association of Saskatchewan.

Presently she is a volunteer at the Saskatoon Community Clinic and is a Patient and Family Advisor to the Saskatchewan Health Authority, where she is mentoring College of Medicine Students and advising the Neuroscience Division at the Royal University Hospital. She has served on the interview committee for people who have applied for senior management positions with the Health Authority.

Over the years, Pat gained exceptional experience in governance, public policy development and implementation. She is the longest-serving woman parliamentarian in Saskatchewan history.

Since leaving elected office in 2011, Pat has worked internationally and nationally with public servants, journalists, civil society organizations and parliamentarians. She has spent most of her time as a trainer teaching citizens about financial accountability and governance. She has worked in transitional and post-conflict democracies, including Afghanistan, Pakistan, Libya, Russia, Myanmar and Ukraine.



Ron Frey

I was born in Watrous, raised on the family farm and received my elementary and high school education in Watrous.

I married my high school sweetheart and have two adult children.

My passion has always been construction, and I owned and operated a small construction company for just over 32 years, retiring in 2019.

My entire life has revolved around some sort of volunteering and board participation, from coaching minor ball, to serving on the curling club, church council, Heritage Centre and Kinsmen Club. I have always tried to do my part in making my community a better place to live. I was honored with a life membership in the Watrous Kinsmen Club, and was privileged to have served on three Telemiracle committees.

I have been a member of the Saskatoon Co-op for over 40 years. I was a board member of the Watrous Co-op for 14 years in total, spanning different stages in my life. I was part of the team that worked on the amalgamation of Watrous and Saskatoon. Having experienced that process, I feel I can offer insight should another opportunity arise.

I served as a Liaison for Watrous to the Saskatoon Co-op board after the amalgamation, and elected for a one year term at last year's AGM. Presently I sit on the Member / Community Engagement and Governance committees.

My philosophy is and always has been, to leave what I join in better shape than when I started. As a rural self-employed individual, I have lived and understood the concerns and challenges that a member in a small center experiences. My goal is to always do what is in the best interest of all our members. I believe that my past board experience in Watrous, my short time on the board in Saskatoon, and my rural roots make me a good fit for the Board table.

I ask for your support.



Sheryl Fox

Sheryl Fox is a Saskatoon native who has developed a diverse career spanning volunteerism and community service to serving as a corporate executive in a variety of business enterprises, from local family-owned companies to international, publicly-traded corporations. Most recently she was Director of Development for the North American-acclaimed Remai Modern Art Gallery, where she held responsibility for the full range of development priorities from approaching new donors to stewarding existing multi-million-dollar commitments. Previously, she served as a vice-president of energy giant Cameco, where she was responsible for several areas of corporate and investor relations, most notably community investment.

Earlier Sheryl was vice president of family-based business TGS properties, a real estate company founded in Saskatoon, and previously held senior positions at Wright Construction.

As a senior leader in a range of managerial and executive roles, Sheryl successfully managed departments and built high performing teams, working collaboratively across the organization and contributing expertise to support business development, change management and employee relations. *Sheryl understands the importance of balancing business objectives and the interests of internal and external stakeholders within the community.*

Sheryl is currently Vice-Chair of the Board of Nutrien Wonderhub and also chairs its development committee. She has served on boards and committees of numerous community organizations including the Saskatoon YWCA (Chair), United Way, Meewasin Valley Authority and Habitat for Humanity.

Sheryl studied Business Administration at the University of Saskatchewan and attended Queen's University Executive Program in Kingston, ON. She is also certified as a leadership coach by the International Coach Federation.

Sheryl lives on an acreage in Furdale, enjoys spending time with family, friends and her golden retriever, as well as a variety of outdoor activities and writing, painting and music.



Tajinder Grewal

Tajinder Grewal has a B.Sc. Agriculture (Hons.), M.Sc. and Ph.D. in Agriculture. Tajinder works as a Chief Scientist and Head of the Genomics Lab with SGS Canada, formerly Research Officer at the University of Saskatchewan. Born and raised in a farming family, Tajinder has a passion for agriculture that led him to become a Professional Agrologist. Dr. Grewal is also a member of various national and international professional organizations, such as the International Seed Testing Association (ISTA) where he has been a member of the GMO committee since 2010.

Tajinder is an active member of many sports, cultural and community organizations. Tajinder, along with a few like-minded people, started the Saskatoon Field Hockey Club in 2003 and served as treasurer from 2003-2020. In addition, Tajinder sat on the Board of Directors for the Saskatchewan Intercultural Association, Immigrant Access Fund of Saskatchewan and Saskatoon Senior Support Service. Tajinder has volunteered for the Heart and Stroke Foundation and Miles for Smiles (Children's Hospital Foundation), Commuter Challenge, Pharmacy and Nutrition Speech Craft program, and as an assistant coach for his son's U14 soccer team. Tajinder played a significant role in the establishment of Punjabi Cultural Association of Saskatchewan (PCAS) in 2004. Since its inception, Tajinder has held several executive positions in PCAS, including President from 2010-2012. Under PCAS, Tajinder has successfully preserved, promoted, and educated youth about Punjabi language, cultural arts and traditions.

Tajinder and his wife, Ravinder, live in Saskatoon with their son, Ravtej since 1999. The Grewal family have been members and loyal customers of Co-op since their arrival to Saskatoon. Tajinder's work in the agriculture and food industry, background in farming and love for the Saskatoon community make him an ideal candidate for the Saskatoon Co-op Board.

Tajinder loves dancing, reading, playing field hockey and being an active community member.



Yvonne Hanson

Growing up on a grain farm in rural Saskatchewan, Yvonne has devoted much of her life to supporting communities become healthier, more engaging and equitable places to work, learn and live. An alumni of the U of S, Yvonne's career spans between local non-profits and university. She has lived and worked in Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Nova Scotia, contributing to health research, food security, social enterprise, education and the environment.

At present, Yvonne is the provincial manager for a national health network supporting primary health care research from a patient-oriented lens. Previously, she held the simultaneous roles of Executive Director for CHEP Good Food and as Co-Manager of Station 20 West. Her leadership with CHEP maintained close connections to the Saskatoon Coop and The Grocery People (TGP), where thousands of dollars were spent purchasing food for school nutrition programs and community markets. Additionally, Yvonne's had management positions for non-profit organizations in Saskatchewan and Nova Scotia, positioning her to oversee finances, human resources, strategic program and organizational vision, while recognizing the need to uphold values dear to the community. As a volunteer she has also participated on boards and committees for numerous organizations throughout Canada and in Central America, including the Saskatoon Food Council, Herstory, Saskatoon French School and Oxfam.

From her teen years of attending the Saskatchewan Cooperative Youth Program (SCYP), then getting a paid job for SCYP as a young adult, Yvonne has always been a supporter of co-ops and cooperative values. She sat on the Good Food Junction Coop board and was a founding member of a social enterprise - Youth Action Coop. As a mother of three, she and her husband (whose small business relies on the Co-op), promoted their children to attend the SCYP through their teen years and incorporate those principles in life.