



## Nominations Report

In accordance with the Bylaws of the Society, separate elections must be held for each office on the Board. At the 2020 AGM, elections for the different offices on the Board will be conducted in the order set out below and as follows:

**President – one (1) person to be elected**

**Vice-President – one (1) person to be elected**

**Secretary – one (1) person to be elected**

**Treasurer – one (1) person to be elected**

**Director-at-Large – up to seven (7) persons to be elected**

The nominees are outlined below.

First Name	Last Name	Position	Alternatively
Gordon	Alteman	President	Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, At Large
Marilyn	Bergen	President	At Large
Don R.	Campbell	President	At Large
David	Matheson	President	At Large
Carol	Crow	Vice President	At Large
Angena	Kalhar	Vice President	At Large
Taslim	Akbar	Treasurer	At Large
Cullen	Goodyear	Treasurer	At Large
Eduarda (Eddie)	McWhirter	Treasurer	At Large
Aziz	Walji	Treasurer	At Large
Patrick	Beirne	Secretary	At Large
Donna	Burdick	Secretary	At Large
Anish	Somani	Secretary	At Large
Peter	Brasso	At Large	
Fernando ( Fred)	Cirillo	At Large	
James	De Hoop	At Large	
Nabih	Faris	At Large	
John	Milobar	At Large	
Naved	Noorani	At Large	
Jaz	Poole	At Large	
Caroline	Smart	At Large	

**Note: As of September 22, 2021, nominees Karim Chandani and Radmila Ionides have asked to have their names removed from the roster.**

## **Bios of Nominees for Directors in Alphabetic order**

### **Taslim Akbar – Treasurer or Director at Large**

Contributions to Quest: Ongoing food donations to Quest through family connections. Food donations to support Christmas hamper drive.

1. Directly and indirectly involved with family food business for the last 30 years.
2. Worked for the financial industry as an Investment Advisor for more than 26 years.
3. Currently working as an Insurance Advisor. (Selling ICBC, Home, Auto, commercial insurance)

### **Gord Alteman – President or Director at Large**

Contribution to Quest: Financial donations to Quest since 2003. Held various positions on Quest Board over the years; Chair, Vice-Chair, Director and current Senior Advisor. Provided expert real estate legal advice for Quest's purchases and leases. Raised Quest awareness within the community with introductions to high profile food suppliers and donors. Provided volunteers from the law firm to campaign for Vancity's \$1M grant. Quest won the \$1M grant.

### **Patrick Beirne – Secretary or Director at Large**

Patrick Beirne is currently the Secretary for Quest and has served on the Board since 2003. He is a lawyer practising strictly criminal law both privately and for the Crown. He first became involved with Quest, peeling potatoes etc. when Quest ran a soup kitchen out of the St. James church in Gastown near his office. He was asked to be a Director and have been so for over 20 years. Patrick is the longest serving Director on the Board and have been involved in all our growth and transformation to where we are now, a major player in alleviating hunger. None of our Boards of Directors have been dysfunctional and we've had many good people involved over the years, resulting in the present strong organization. That being said, it is Patrick's opinion that the present Board is the strongest, hardest working and most capable I have been on. Patrick had considered retiring but the issues of the last year, particularly Covid and Quest's response to it caused him to change his mind. Patrick says "I believe I can contribute to the process with this strong and focused group."

### **Marilyn Bergen – President or Director at Large**

Marilyn Bergen is currently the Board President for Quest and has served on the Board since 2011. Marilyn believes in the vision of Quest Outreach Society to provide a healthy shopping experience for people in our society who need a hand up during difficult times. After ten years as a director including at large, Secretary and now as the current President of the Board, she is deeply committed to the leadership of Quest and the impact in the communities we service.

Marilyn recently retired with over 25 years experience in food distribution, including roles as purchaser, supply chain management, and Director of Marketing and Procurement with one of the largest food service distributors in Canada.

### **Peter Brasso – Director at Large**

Peter Brasso has been a Director of Quest since 2007 and was President from 2008 to 2018. He works in the car business, as CEO of the BPL Auto Group since 2000. BPL owns

and operates three car dealerships in Greater Vancouver - Richmond Honda, Surrey Honda and Richmond Acura – employing over two hundred people. During Peter's time with Quest, BPL has contributed over \$400,000 to Quest to support its transportation needs. In 2020, Peter was one of five national shortlisted nominees for the Canadian Auto Dealer "Dealer Laureate" award. Peter is also a long time Director and Past President of the Richmond Auto Mall Association and the B.C. Honda Dealers Ad Association.

Before the car business, Peter was a corporate lawyer and internet entrepreneur. Peter has coached his kids' soccer teams with Vancouver United Football Club for the past ten years. Peter lives in Vancouver with his wife, two kids and dog Mimi.

### **Donna Burdick – Secretary or Director at Large**

Has been an Assistant Store Manager for Walmart which resulted in acquiring contributions from fundraising from 14 Walmart stores. A truck from the Walmart Walton family worth \$100,000 US. Ongoing food and household donations from the Walmart stores. Recent connections with Loblaw City Market resulting in food donations.

### **Don R Campbell – President or Director at Large**

Contributions to Quest: Provided significant financial and food donations to Quest since 2011. Hosted events on the farm to raise awareness about Quest. As an ambassador for Quest, sourced donations of over \$100K for Quest during 2 critical budget deficit years. Made connections to the Abbotsford community (University, City and major food suppliers) to donate food and potentially open a grocery market in Abbotsford. Offered advise on greenhouses to promote Quest's sustainability in produce.

### **Fernando (Fred) Cirillo – Director at Large**

Fred Cirillo is a new nomination for the Quest Board. Fred has over 40 years of experience in the food service industry and early 4 years working in Media for CKWX and CKKS radio back in the 80's. Fred grew up in a loving home and was taught to respect and help those less fortunate. He feels Quest is a great organization in the community that assists those in need with discreet dignity. He has had the good fortune to volunteer some of his time at Quest while on a leave. He helped by reaching out to his foodservice contacts in search of quality food donations. Fred feels very strongly about the "Charity with Dignity" model that he experienced while working at Quest and would like to bring his skills and food expertise to help the Board in any way he can.

### **Carol Crow - Vice President or Director at Large**

Carol Crow is currently the Vice-President for Quest and has served on the Board since 2018. Carol has over 30 years of experience in the management of human resources, finance and operations across a variety of industries including financial services, manufacturing, technology, tourism and health care. Carol currently offers human resource consulting services to small and medium businesses in the Lower Mainland, advising businesses on human resource strategy and operational best practices in the areas of performance management, employee relations, employee engagement and retention, compensation, organizational effectiveness, employee wellness and appreciation/recognition programs. Prior to consulting, Carol held executive level HR roles with a number of organizations. Carol holds an Honours Business Administration degree from Ivey Business School at Western University and has been a Chartered Professional in Human Resources since 2007.

### **James de Hoop – Director at Large**

James de Hoop is currently a Director at Large for Quest and has served on the Board since 2018. James has over 20 year experience in various management roles in municipal government. He is a Registered Professional Planner (RPP) and Member of Canadian Institute of Planners (MCIP). For the last 4 years he has been the Senior Manager of Planning with Vancouver School Board. His previous Board experience includes the Canadian Municipal Information Systems Association, the Canadian Public Sector Chief Information Officer's Council, the Ontario Non-Profit Housing Association and Queen's University Apartments and Housing. He has a Bachelor's degree in Urban and Regional Planning from Ryerson University, a Master's of Education from Queen's University and a Master's of Public Administration from Queen's University.

### **Nabih A. Faris – Director at Large**

I strongly believe in the Quest model and I have been a supporter and contributor of Quest for the last eight years. The family has been very instrumental in opening the North Vancouver Grocery store. Throughout my business career of over 45 years, I have served on public and private Boards of some of the most successful Canadian companies. I have also been a supporter and contributor to many foundations, especially BC Children and Lions Gate hospital foundations.

### **Cullen Goodyear – Treasurer or Director at Large**

President for 6 years strata board. Member of private club community. Broad based community and governance experience in Canada for many years.

### **Angena Kalhar – Vice President or Director at Large**

Contributions to Quest: During a critical time when the pandemic was announced, provided financial donations of approx. \$300K. As an ambassador for Quest, networked with the industry to source and direct substantial financial and food donations to Quest. Financial support for Quest's Christmas hamper drive during a Covid year.

### **David N. Matheson – President or Director at Large**

I am a CPA, CA with over 40 years experience as a senior executive of public and private companies, primarily in the oil and gas industry. I will contribute to the Society's fundraising activities as well as its financial reporting and governance obligations to Members.

### **Eduarda (Eddie) McWhirter – Treasurer or Director at Large**

Eduarda (Eddie) McWhirter is currently the Treasurer for Quest and has served on the Board since 2018. Eddie is a professionally designated CPA with over 30 years experience in diverse public and private companies. In her role as an executive senior leader she has led with a passion to drive sustained strategic change in dynamic environments, and has established a proven track record for planning, implementing, and managing strategic plans and initiatives. Eddie considers herself a visionary leader that gets results through collaboration, coaching and motivation, as well as hardwork.

Giving back to the community is something Eddie has done for most of her adult life in varying capacities. Helping others is a passion of hers. Until recently, volunteer work complemented

her demanding corporate career, then in 2020, she transitioned to solely focus on volunteering with a few non-profit boards in the Vancouver area.

### **John Milobar – Director at Large**

John K. Milobar is currently a Director at Large for Quest and has served on the Board since 2015. John has over 35 years of experience in accounting, and operations mostly focused on the food distribution and lubricant manufacturing business. A long-time resident of Vancouver east side, John has held the position of President, CEO, COO in 4 different organizations over the past 30 years. In addition to being a Board member for Quest Outreach he also serves on the Boards of St. Jean's Cannery and Organic Ocean.

### **Naved Noorani – Director at Large**

1. I have volunteered in the past for Quest and believe in it's Mission and Objectives.
2. My professional experience – 4 decades in the Food industry in a leadership role.
3. My current role as Exec. Dir at Potluck where I find synergies with Quest's mission in fighting hunger with Dignity, I have a good understanding of the Non Profit sector as well as the needs of the community.

### **Jaz Poole – Director at Large**

Jaz Poole was appointed to the Quest board in March 2018. She brings 15 years of progressive financial and executive/C-Suite consultancy experience. Her background includes sector experience in real estate, software, apparel, and food & beverage.

Jaz is partner at Tandem Innovation Group, with a focus on sustainability, social impact businesses (B Corps) & raising capital for underrepresented groups. Her last deal in the food sector was Very Good Food Co.

Jaz is a CPA, CGA and also holds a CPHR designation. She has executive MBA's from both Queen's University (ON) & Cornell University (NY). She also is a board member at This Fish (software for seafood industry). When she isn't working, she is typically chasing around her 3 year old daughter

### **Caroline Smart – Director at Large**

Caroline Smart is a new nomination for the Quest Board. Caroline has over 40 years of experience in the food service industry working in both distribution and in the restaurant industry. She was the Director of Purchasing for the JOEY Restaurant Group from 2006 to 2019 and currently is assisting as a Purchasing Category Specialist on a part time basis. She is a long-standing resident of East Vancouver and has experienced first-hand the need for food security solutions. She is passionate about the work that Quests does and feels her food experience and her network will be helpful to the Board.

### **Anish Somani – Secretary or Director at Large**

Contributions to Quest: Financial donations. Volunteered time to source real estate to relocate Quest's grocery markets in Surrey and Downtown East Side.

### **Aziz Walji – Treasurer or Director at Large**

Financial donor since 2009. Contributions to various programs at Quest. Financials and tax knowledge. Donations supported a healthy snack program for 250 students over 5 inner city schools, safety boots and safety jackets for Quest drivers, financial donations for Christmas hampers to support agencies that did not have budget to buy Christmas hampers from Quest. Donated turkeys for Quest volunteers. Made milk donations accessible for the markets.

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