
BIOGRAPHIES

Chuck Davidson (co-chair) is the president and CEO of the Manitoba Chambers of Commerce (MCC), the largest business organization in the province of Manitoba. Prior to joining the MCC, he spent close to a decade at the Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce as the vice-president of policy and communications. Davidson has also served as president to the South Winnipeg Community Centre board of directors, the Waverley Heights Community Centre and chair to the Riel Community Centre board of directors.

Joe Masi (co-chair) has been the executive director for the Association of Manitoba Municipalities since 2001. Masi has experience serving as a board member on the Portage Credit Union for 18 years.

Darrell Brown is the president of both Kisik Clean Energy, an organization that focuses on Indigenous renewable energy projects, and Kisik Commercial Furniture, an Indigenous-owned and operated furniture company. He is also the founder and chair of the Aboriginal Chamber of Commerce. Over the past 15 years, he has built several successful businesses, and worked as an advisor and consultant to a number of Indigenous organizations.

Louis Allain has been the executive director of the Conseil de développement économique des municipalités bilingues du Manitoba (CDEM) for over 12 years. He has contributed to the creation of economic development agencies in Mali and Burkina Faso. He has a deep commitment to the Métis community, and his passion and dedication named him to the Order of Francophones of America in 2005 and the Riel Prize in community development in 2007.

Marilyn Crewe has been the economic development officer for the Town of Neepawa for over five years. She has experience in municipal government, non-profits, business coaching and community growth strategies. She has served on several boards including the Economic Development Association of Manitoba (EDAM) and GlobalLight Projects.

Kerry Swanson is the CEO of the Southern Chiefs Economic Development Corp., an organization focusing on the pursuit of economic reconciliation in developing and maintaining strategic partnerships in order to create employment and training opportunities for Indigenous workers on a full-time or contract basis. He has acted as a consultant over several industry verticals and has experience as the president to Herzing College, a senior manager with Purolator Inc. and as an expert business generalist for a variety of Manitoba-based companies.

Jeff Hood is a chartered accountant and business advisor with MNP. He works primarily with small- to medium-sized enterprises in Brandon and the surrounding area. He attended Brandon University and graduated with a bachelor of business administration. He has experience as controller of the Brandon Sun and during that time, formed a small construction and real-estate development business. He is a past member of the Valleyview Community Centre board, a current member of the Investment Committee of the Brandon and Area Community Foundation and the president of the Brandon Chamber of Commerce.

Gail Halko is the new chief executive officer of SpiritRx Services. Prior to this, she was a shareholder and director of operations with Grand Medicine Health Services. A graduate of the University of Manitoba, Gail has always worked on the business side of health care including five years with an international pharmaceutical company. Prior to joining Grand Medicine, Halko owned and operated a community pharmacy.

Charlotte Unrau, together with her husband, owns and operates Precision Land Solutions in Winkler. It is the only full-service agricultural water management company in Manitoba, and helps farmers across southern Manitoba and Canada's Prairie regions sustainably manage risk and increase profitability through tile and/or surface drainage, and irrigation development systems.