



**As of February 6, the following members have put their name forward for election to the Board of Directors of the Downtown Surrey BIA 2023-2025.**

**Directors standing for re-election:**

- Randal Dhaliwal - FASKEN
- Chris Gardner – ICBA – President
- Sonny Janda – Janda Group
- Kathrin Matadeen – TD – District VP Business Banking
- Perminder Tung – King George (Surrey) Holdings Ltd (property owner) & LK Law – partner

**New Members running for election:**

- Lutz Sprecher – WHALLEY OPTICAL

Lutz Sprecher is the owner and president of Whalley Optical and a Licensed Optician.

Lutz brings many years of Board experience to the Downtown Surrey BIA. From 1995-2007, he was Secretary, President, and Treasurer of his Strata Corporation. He also held the positions of President, Director and Treasurer for Dispensing Opticians Association of BC from 2000-2007.

From 2007 to 2013, he was a Director for the College of Opticians.

Currently, Lutz is involved with the Fraser Valley Executive Association, a business networking group, and has held the positions of Director, Vice President, President, Past President and Secretary. Lutz has been involved with the Royal Canadian Legion, Whalley Branch 229 and is on the Legion Executive Committee.

- Kristin Bishop – CIVIC HOTEL

Kristin Bishop is currently General Manager at [Civic Hotel, Autograph Collection](#), in Surrey City Centre where she previously held the position as Director of Sales & Marketing at Civic Hotel from 2016-2021. She has been an employee of [Century Group Lands Corporation](#) (real estate developer & owner/operator of Civic Hotel) since 2009.

Kristin brings 20+ years in the tourism and hospitality industry and extensive experience in sales and marketing to the Board of the Downtown Surrey BIA.

Kristin currently holding positions on the boards of both [Discover Surrey](#) and [Surrey Hotel and Motel Association](#). She has previous board experience as [Tsawwassen Business Improvement Association](#) (President, Past President, Vice President, 2009-2013) and Director with [Tourism Delta](#) (founding member & Chair 2012-2017).

Kristin has been a resident of Surrey since 2013.



- **Kirk Fisher – LARK GROUP**

Mr. Kirk Fisher is the Executive VP of the Lark Group of Companies and the CEO of our HealthTech Connex (HTC) division. Mr. Fisher's experience has been very hands-on, as he has been a part of the family business for his entire life and career. Notwithstanding, his practical experience - Mr. Fisher has also attained an engineering degree from the University of British Columbia and furthered his education by receiving an MBA from Simon Fraser University.

The Lark Group of Companies was founded By Mr. Larry Fisher and Ms. Joy Fisher in 1972 and has proudly been part of the Surrey development and business community for over 50 years. In 2015 the Lark Group of Companies added the Health and Technology District to their growing portfolio of development business and has completed five buildings within it and another six buildings slated to complete over the next 20 years.

The Lark Group developed, owns, operates, and manages two Excellent Ice Arenas, one in the Surrey and one in Kirkland, Quebec. These facilities, in conjunction with the cities they are located in, have provided 25 years of amazing training for each and every minor league hockey player in the communities they serve. The Lark Group of Companies is steadfast in giving back to the communities where they live and thrive and supports many charities including the Drive for the Cure cancer charity which Lark co-founded with Mr. Rob Jeeves to further give back. This philanthropic enterprise is now celebrating its 25th year and has raised millions of dollars that has directly benefited our local hospitals.

Lark Group co-founded Glarea Elevated Learning with Ms. Nadia Irshad in 2018 to provide a K-7 education program, based on Grit, meaning each child learns Arts, sports and Martial Arts combined with an advanced education program. This program is located in Excellent Ice, Surrey.

In keeping with our purpose and complimenting all of our business enterprises, the Lark Group co-founded Health Tech Connex with Dr. Ryan D'Arcy, in 2005. This business is a multi-faceted group of companies and was designed to dramatically improve brain health around the World. The business currently operates three divisions. NeuroCatch - which has created a measuring device for brain cognition and can provide tangible results in as little as 6 minutes, The Centre for Neurological Studies – which manages and directs world-class clinical trials for all brain related functions and lastly, The Surrey Neuroplasticity Clinic, that provides advanced treatment of all brain injuries and disease through Neuroplasticity rehabilitation.

Notwithstanding, the very active enterprises listed above; Mr. Kirk Fisher also provides daily executive leadership to our Development, Construction and Facility Management division of our group. This group develops and builds ALL that we undertake in every business we own or develop. This division continues to be very active in the health sector and is continuously designing and building adult care facilities, biologic labs and research centers across Canada – for both the private sector and government health authorities. The Lark DEV-CON group does some work for external partners that understand our delivery model and require a best-in class team to work with.

The Lark Group of Companies has one purpose 'BOLDLY ELEVATE PEOPLE' and we live by this mantra every day in everything we do.



- **Maury Dubuque – BLACKWOOD PARTNERS/CENTRAL CITY**

Maury is the Assistant Vice President at Blackwood Partners Management Corporation, Western Canada. Blackwood is a commercial real estate advisory, asset management and transaction management company providing services to Canadian pension funds, foreign investors and both private and public companies.

Maury has worked in the commercial real estate industry for over three decades and is a leading authority on the commercial office market in Metro Vancouver. Maury's career began as an office leasing broker, he then spent over 10 years as a senior executive with a leading global real estate services firm and prior to Blackwood, was the Senior Managing Director at a global top five commercial brokerage.

Maury is highly skilled at building enterprising team cultures that encourage collaboration, superior client service and mentorship.

Maury holds a Bachelor of Arts from Simon Fraser University and a Diploma in Urban Land Economics from the University of British Columbia.

- **Sonia Parmar – DAVID PEL & COMPANY**

Sonia is a partner at David Pel & Company, a growing local accounting office located in Central City Surrey, where Sonia advises clients on Corporate and Personal Estate and Succession Planning, all the while ensuring clients have met their reporting needs. Sonia is also responsible for the efficient running of the office and also known as David's retirement plan.

Sonia has always surrounded herself with mentors that believe in giving back to the community and hence her involvement is not just with Surrey Community Cares Foundation, but also with other foundations and community boards. At David Pel & Company, even though we are a general public practice office, we also believe in giving back to the community and give generously to various community initiatives throughout the year.

Aside from running a growing practice, volunteering her time where needed, Sonia is in the process of obtaining her TEP (Trust and Estate Practitioner) designation, as a member of the Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners. Sonia obtained her CGA, CPA in 2005 after articling for the large international accounting firm.

When Sonia is not furthering her knowledge or giving her time, she is spending time with her family, reading and taking up crocheting (it is supposed to be relaxing).

- **Stephen Dooley – SFU**

Stephen Dooley became the second Executive Director of the SFU Surrey campus in November 2013. As the campus director, Steve supports an amazing team that oversees the day-to-day campus operations, which includes Facilities, IT, Fraser Library, Administration, Communications and Student Services. Steve also works closely with Nav Chima, the Director of Community Programs and Partnerships, to support SFU connections with community partners. These include the Surrey Poverty Reduction Coalition (co-chair), Local Immigration Partnership, Surrey Urban Indigenous Leadership Committee, and Community Based Research Canada (co-chair).



In terms of campus priorities, Steve helps operationalize university-wide priorities in the place-based context of the Surrey campus. That said, Steve also makes it a priority to connect with students, faculty and staff with a friendly smile, grounded to the principle of service leadership.

When not at work, Steve loves to hang out with his family, especially his grandson, Mr. Wilson. As an avid curler, Steve can be found at the Peace Arch Curling Club on most Tuesday and Friday evenings during the winter season.

**Given that there are no nominations from the floor during the AGM, as per the DSBIA Bylaws, these candidates will be acclaimed to the available vacant spots at the AGM.**



**Directors with one year remaining on their term**

- Melanie Adamczewski–Urban Systems
- Mike Nielson –Sprite Multimedia Systems Ltd.
- Brad Howard – PCI
- Nissar Dalal – Prospera Credit Union
- Soleman Hashmi – Hashmi Law
- Michael Johanson – Avalon Surrey Funeral Home
- Harp Khela – Allure Ventures
- Shirley Samujh-Dayal – Coast Mountain Bus
- Austin Zhang – Westland Living