

**Candidates to be elected to the Board of Directors at the Our Place Society AGM,  
Wednesday, September 25, 2024**

**FOR ELECTION AS A DIRECTOR FOR A FIRST TWO-YEAR TERM**

**Susan Climie**

Hope and compassion are stepping stones to healing and are embedded in the programs and services provided by Our Place Society. Susan has empathy and respect for people who face challenges, and she knows the importance of community in one's healing journey.

Susan brings decades of non-profit and investment banking experience to OPS. She has held leadership roles in non-profits, including Family Services of Greater Vancouver, Big Brothers Big Sisters, and Looking Glass Foundation. She has sat on several non-profit boards and committees. A former Executive Director, Susan's expertise includes program development, revenue generation, governance, and leadership alignment. Currently, as a coach with Victoria-based Thriving Non-Profits, Susan focuses on enhancing the impact and sustainability of non-profits.

Susan and her family and four-legged friend have a wonderful sense of hope and belonging in their lives on Vancouver Island. One of the many things that draws Susan to Our Place Society is the OPS vision, which includes a sense of belonging for all.

**FOR ELECTION AS A DIRECTOR FOR A FIRST TWO-YEAR TERM**

**Glenn Cheater**

I would like to put forward my name for consideration for the Our Place Society board. Like so many, I'm extremely grateful for the vital work done by Our Place and how it has been a beacon of hope — not only for those it serves but for the entire community. It has been so impressive how Our Place has stepped up even more during the pandemic and the growing devastation wrought by the toxic drug epidemic and homelessness crisis. During my career as an editor and journalist, I've had the opportunity to develop skills in strategic planning and execution, effective and focused communication, team-building and individual empowerment, and working cooperatively with a wide range of individuals to set and achieve goals.

My most relevant board experience comes from seven years with the Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization of Manitoba (IRCOM), which has assisted thousands of newcomers, mostly refugees, in building new lives in Canada. Although smaller, IRCOM is similar to Our Place in many ways. It provides transitional housing as well as

support services and programs for individuals who have endured trauma and face steep challenges in life. More importantly though, the two organizations share key core values. Both view clients, staff and volunteers as members of one family. To me, IRCOM's commitment "to walk beside newcomer community members on their settlement journey" and Our Place's view that "we live, share and grow together" spring from the same values.

## **FOR ELECTION AS A DIRECTOR FOR A FIRST TWO-YEAR TERM**

### **Philip Calvert**

Philip is a former Canadian diplomat who spent 34 years in Canada's Foreign Service before moving to Victoria in 2016. Originally from Prince George, since arriving in Victoria he has had various roles, including Board Chair, with the James Bay Community Project. His assignments in Global Affairs included Director General for North Asia, Deputy Ambassador to China, and Ambassador to Thailand, Cambodia and Laos. He is also a Senior Research Associate with the Centre for Asia-Pacific Initiatives at the University of Victoria.

## **FOR ELECTION AS A DIRECTOR FOR A FIRST TWO-YEAR TERM**

### **Cheryl Wenezenki-Yolland**

Cheryl sees Our Place Society as an organization whose mission deeply resonates with her core values of compassion, service, family, integrity, perseverance, and well-being. With a shared goal of providing hope and a sense of belonging to Greater Victoria's most vulnerable citizens, she feels the work is heartfelt and challenging.

With over 35 years of public service experience in the government and not-for-profit sectors, Cheryl brings a unique perspective on the intricacies of public service, public policy and the complexities of collaborating across diverse groups. As a former Deputy Minister, she facilitated the co-creation of a shared strategy, which has aided British Columbia's Advanced Education System in being more responsive to and inclusive of Indigenous Peoples. She has a strong belief in collective power and the innovation that can be achieved through these principles. Cheryl currently serves as a member of the federal audit committee for the Canadian Institutes for Health Research.

## **FOR ELECTION AS A DIRECTOR FOR A SECOND TWO-YEAR TERM**

### **Charla Huber**

Charla Huber is an Indigenous Relations and Communications consultant. She has a strong background working in both the affordable housing and non-profit sector and has a passion for Indigenous Relations. Charla has a master's degree in professional communications and has completed a fully funded research project on Indigenous ways of communicating so employers can better support Indigenous employees. Charla writes a weekly column in the Times Colonist newspaper that often highlights Indigenous issues. She works as associate faculty at Royal Roads University. Charla is the Human Resources Committee Chair of the Victoria-Esquimalt Police Board and President of the BC Association of Police Boards. Charla's family is from Fort Chipewyan, Alta., and she has both First Nations and Inuit roots.

## **FOR ELECTION AS A DIRECTOR FOR A SECOND TWO-YEAR TERM**

### **Catharine Read**

Catharine Read values Our Place Society's pursuit of nourishment, hope and belonging for individuals and the community of the Our Place Family. The Society's values and principles govern the delivery of its many, much needed programs and services. It has demonstrated the ability to adapt and expand programs and services, engage skilled and caring staff and volunteers, and thrive in the face of the COVID-19 challenges. Catharine has worked for governments and in the private sector. She has been Chair of an independent tribunal, Deputy Minister and Assistant Deputy Minister for the BC government (10 years) and for the Yukon government (10 years). As a consultant, she has worked for First Nation organizations, including negotiations, governance advice and treaty implementation. Catharine is also on the Board of James Bay Community Project and she has a master's degree in economics from Queen's University.

## **FOR ELECTION AS A DIRECTOR FOR A THIRD TWO-YEAR TERM**

### **Scott McGregor**

Scott brings over 28 years of policing experience working with the most vulnerable in our communities. As a former Senior Manager of the VicPD Community Services Division, Scott gained tremendous insight into the complexities of homelessness, mental health and addiction and developed strong and collaborative working relationships with housing, shelter and other service providers (including those with lived experience) to find practical solutions. Scott believes that everyone has a place in our community and deserves a fighting chance to make positive change in their lives.

