Regional Prosperity Initiative

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May 2017

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Robyn Crisanti

Director, Public Affairs, Vancouver Fraser Port Authority

Robyn Crisanti is the Director, Public Affairs, for the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority, which manages the Port of Vancouver. Robyn oversees government and media relations and drives the strategic management of issues.

Robyn has over 30 years of experience in marketing and strategic communications, working for organizations in the advertising, financial services, association, utilities, biotechnology and regulatory sectors. She has also been a change management leader and project manager on major, enterprise-wide technology implementations.

Robyn obtained her BA in psychology from the University of British Columbia and her MBA in marketing from McGill University. She is an accredited and award-winning member of the International Association of Business Communicators and a guest lecturer at UBC’s Sauder School of Business. She is also a board member for Focus Foundation and the North Shore Stars Volleyball Club and a volunteer for Junior Achievement.
Joanne Curry

Vice-President, External Relations, Simon Fraser University

Joanne Curry has made a career of advancing the cause of higher education locally, provincially, and nationally and connecting the university with business and community. Her leadership in establishing SFU Surrey and helping to create SFU’s new vision of the engaged university has improved the university’s capacity to enhance the social, economic, and cultural well-being of its communities.

As Vice-President, External Relations and member of the University’s senior leadership team, Joanne oversees a wide-range of activities and initiatives at all three SFU campuses to support university partnerships with external organizations and raise the profile of the University. She is accountable for community engagement, government relations, communications and marketing and the management of the Vancouver and Surrey campuses, the SFU Art Galleries, and Woodward’s Cultural Unit.

Joanne’s past roles have included the founding SFU Surrey Executive Director (2002-2014), Dean (pro tem) of Lifelong Learning, Director of the SFU University-industry Liaison Office, and Executive Director of the national TeleLearning Network of Centres of Excellence. Prior to joining SFU, Joanne held roles in banking, biotechnology, and consulting.

Joanne is a member of several boards including Community Living BC (a crown corporation), the Burnaby Board of Trade, and the Downtown Surrey Business Improvement Association. Joanne holds a Doctorate of Business, Bath University, UK (receiving top thesis prize); a Masters of Business Administration from Simon Fraser University; a Bachelor of Commerce (Honors) with Distinction from the University of Manitoba; and an honorary degree of laws from Kwantlen Polytechnic University for her contributions to higher education. She received top honours in the professional category at the Surrey Board of Trade Women in Business awards in 2010.
Paul Faoro

President, CUPE BC

Paul Faoro is President of CUPE BC, elected in December, 2015, after serving as secretary-treasurer for three years. He was elected secretary-treasurer of CUPE BC at the union’s 50th annual convention in April, 2013 and re-elected in 2015. Faoro was first elected to CUPE BC’s executive board as a regional vice-president in 2007, and general vice-president in 2009.

Prior to his election as secretary-treasurer, Faoro was President of CUPE Local 15 in Vancouver, representing 6,500 frontline workers employed in a variety of diverse sectors including K-12, municipal, health care and post-secondary.

Faoro is very active in municipal, provincial and federal politics and currently serves as a vice-president of the BC New Democratic Party. Faoro was elected as a regional vice-president of CUPE in November, 2015.
David T. Fung

Chairman & CEO, ACDEG Group

Dr. Fung is chairman and CEO of the ACDEG Group of companies, a global technology integrator. He has founded or co-founded 30+ business ventures in North America, Europe and Asia. He is an “investment champion” for Global Affairs Canada and a member of the Selection Committee of the Networks of Centres of Excellence of Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada, and Gateway Performance Table of Transport Canada. Dr. Fung is a strategic advisor of Cycle Capital Management Inc., one of the largest clean technology venture capital funds in Canada.

His operating experience includes:

- Sustainable aquaculture and remediation of large water bodies by integrating technologies in water treatment and microbial ecology in China, SE Asia and North America (current)
- A Canadian-German joint venture on packaging waste recycling in East Asia (2001-6)
- A major independent shipper of wood pulps into China in a joint venture with Ekman AB of Sweden, one of the largest pulp and paper traders in the world (2000-5)

Dr. Fung’s public service includes:

- Chancellor of Capilano University, North Vancouver, BC, Canada
- National board of the Canadian Standards Association, a $350M technology service business in 15 countries
- Board member of Canadian Green Chemistry and Engineering Network
- Vice-chair of the national board of Canada China Business Council (CCBC)
- Chair of national policy committee of Canadian Manufacturers & Exporters (CME-MEC)
- Chair of the national board of Chemical Institute of Canada (CIC) (2013-4)
- Co-chair of the Members of the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) (2009-14)
- Chair, China Committee of International Science and Technology Partnership Canada (2007-13)
- Board member of CentrePort Canada Inc., an inland port facilitator in Winnipeg (MB) (2009-15)

His credentials include:

- B.Eng., M. Eng., Ph.D. (Chemical Engineering, McGill); PEng (British Columbia); Doctor of Laws (honoris causa), 2014 (Capilano University); Senior Executive Program (Queen’s University)
- Chartered Director (C. Dir.), Audit Committee Certified (A.C.C.) and Human Resources & Compensation Committee Certified (H.R.C.C.C.) and a guest faculty member of Directors College (McMaster University and Conference Board of Canada)
- Canadian Asian of the Year (Business and Public Service), 2009 by Asia Network Canada
- Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal, 2012 by Governor General of Canada
Michael Goldberg

Dean Emeritus, Sauder School of Business, University of British Columbia

His academic and public career spanned four plus decades. From January 2002 to December 2004 he was Associate Vice President International at the University of British Columbia (UBC), and the HR Fullerton Professor of Urban Land Policy in the UBC Sauder School of Business where he served as Dean of 1991 to 1997. He joined UBC in 1968 on completing his Ph.D. in Economics at the University of California (Berkeley). His early research on the land use and economic impacts of Vancouver’s first rail rapid transit system (SkyTrain) documented the need to coordinate land use and transportation. His work continues to focus on cities, real estate markets, and transportation increasingly in a global setting. His housing related research appears in dozens of articles and in The Future of North American Housing Markets (1983), and The Housing Problem: A Real Crisis? (1985), For over a decade he did comparative research on Canadian and American cities leading to The Myth of the North American City (1986) with John Mercer, for which they received a 50th Anniversary prize from the Social Sciences Federation of Canada. His work on the development of international financial centres was widely cited, offering new insights into their formation and policy needs. Currently he is interested in cities, their transportation, housing and land use systems, their competitive position in the global economy and the policies needed to enhance competitiveness. He has examined globalizing real estate markets and Asian property investors notably. He is a Past Fellow of the Urban Land Institute, an Honorary Life Member of both the Real Estate Institute of British Columbia and the Mortgage Investment Association of British Columbia, a Scholar-in-Residence at the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada, and a Senior Fellow of the Institute of Asian Research at the University of British Columbia.

He served as a Director of the Canada Pension Plan Investment Board from February 2008 to June 2016, a member of the Audit and Governance Committees. Since May 2011 he is a Director of the Surrey City Development Corporation (SCDC), a development company owned by the City of Surrey (British Columbia). He became Chair of SCDC in October 2012 and is a member of the Audit & Finance and Governance, Human Resources/Compensation Committees. He Chairs the General Partnership (GP) of the Hong Kong-based Vankic Investment (Cayman Islands) Limited, an institutional investment fund targeting residential development in China. In June 2016 he became a director of Liberty Living, a top provider of student housing in the UK.

He has wholly or partly authored 9 books and well over 200 academic and professional articles and applied them successfully with diverse businesses and governments in North America, Asia and Europe, often working with citizen, business and community groups, as well as governments to help them adapt to the changing demands of the global economy. He has given 60+ invited lectures at 50+ universities and research institutes in 16 countries, and numerous academic and public talks across Canada and in over two dozen countries.
Hussein Hallak

General Manager, Launch Academy

Serial Entrepreneur, Advisor, and Speaker on Inspiring Leadership, Unleashing Entrepreneurship, and Breakthrough Performance.

General Manager of Launch Academy; Vancouver’s leading tech startup hub, Executive Director of TiE Vancouver; TiE is the world’s largest entrepreneurial organization, and Tech Panelist on Roundhouse Radio.

Helping entrepreneurs Make The Leap, Build Successful Startups, Create Breakthrough, Grow Tribes, and Move The World.

Specializing in Tech Entrepreneurship, Lean Startup, Content Marketing, Personal Branding, Strategic Thinking, Public Speaking, Social Media and Networking.

Director of Marketing at TEDxStanleyPark; one of the world’s largest and most successful TEDx with 15 remarkable speakers, 16 standing ovations and +2000 people at Queen Elizabeth Theatre in Vancouver, BC.

Director of Learning & Development / Regional Director Consultant of BNI Middle East, BNI is the world’s largest business networking organization with over 170,000 members worldwide.

Founder and CEO of INFIN8VENTURES, an award-winning communications agency that won the prestigious SNCR Excellence in New Communications Award for Social Media Marketing alongside UBC and Adobe.

Built 10+ startups, mentored 100+ entrepreneurs, led 10,000+ hours of live workshops, presented tech TV to 40+ million viewers, featured in Forbes, BBC, Entrepreneur, VancityBuzz, TextBook, Roundhouse Radio, and Notable.
Anita Huberman

CEO, Surrey Board of Trade

Anita Huberman is the CEO of the Surrey Board of Trade. She has been with the Surrey Board of Trade for 21 years, and CEO for 10 years. She guides a 19-member diverse industry Board of Directors to support a growing list of businesses, initiatives and government policies from an economic lens. Anita was a nominee of the 2013 YWCA Women of Distinction Award and a recipient of the 2011 Business in Vancouver’s Top 40 Under 40 award. She is a Trustee of Canada’s National Film Board. She has also been appointed to:

1. The Metro Vancouver Transit Police Chief’s Community Council
2. Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology – SFU on the Dean’s Advisory Board
3. SFU India Advisory Council
4. Co-Chair, City of Surrey Local Immigration Partnership Committee
5. The First Indo-Canadian woman appointed as an Honorary Captain in Royal Canadian Navy.
6. Trustee, National Film Board

Since Huberman became the Surrey Board of Trade’s CEO 10 years ago, she has worked tirelessly to deliver on the following promise: The Surrey Board of Trade exists to make the community a better place in which to live, work and do business. She guides a 19-member diverse industry Board of Directors to support a growing list of community groups, initiatives and government policies from an economic lens. She has developed the following unique award programs, which celebrate community, volunteerism, leadership, family and health, which are inextricably linked to a successful business community:

1. Top 25 under 25 Awards
2. Leadership Surrey Business Series focusing on policy issues
3. International Trade Initiatives and Awards
4. Workplace Development and Education issues/programs
5. Youth Leaders of Today - entrepreneurial program for Grade 10-12 students
6. Police Officer of the Year Awards
7. Surrey Industry Tour
8. Surrey Innovation Awards

Under her direction, the Board has produced and presented high profile policy papers to all levels of government:

1. Business & Families: advocating for more and stronger services and childcare support for Surrey families to lower absenteeism, create less stressed employees and employers, and more productive workplaces.
2. Education Today Productivity Tomorrow: seeking government support of k-12 and post-secondary education in Surrey to support the growing demand for employees and entrepreneurs.
3. Surrey Business Action Plan on Homelessness: both federal and local initiatives that homelessness is harmful for community and business.
4. Supported increases in the B.C. minimum wage: much of the board’s work was noted in the government’s minimum wage increase.
Peter Leitch

President, North Shore Studios and Mammoth Studios and Chair, Motion Picture Production Industry Association of BC

Peter Leitch is the President of North Shore Studios and Mammoth Studios and Chair of the Motion Picture Production Industry Association of B.C. He is also a director of BlueShore Financial.

Peter holds a Bachelor of Commerce degree from UBC and is a Chartered Professional Accountant. He successfully completed his ICD.D course from the Institute of Corporate Directors.

Peter is a member of the Board of Governors of the BC Business Council, a Past Chair of the North Vancouver Chamber of Commerce and former director of the B.C. Chamber of Commerce. He has also served on Canada Revenue Agency’s Small Business Advisory Committee and Film Advisory Committee.

Peter was honoured with a fellowship by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of BC, a Queens Diamond Jubilee Medal and an honorary doctorate degree from Capilano University.
Val Litwin

President & CEO, BC Chamber of Commerce

Entrepreneur and local Chamber leader Val Litwin became the new President and CEO of the BC Chamber of Commerce on September 7.

Most recently, Litwin served as CEO of the Whistler Chamber of Commerce for three years, where he grew its membership, launched a world-class educational partnership with the Gustavson School of Business at the University of Victoria (which was recently featured on Forbes.com) and reinvigorated the Chamber’s brand.

In 2007, Litwin co-founded a first-to-market concept, Blo Blow Dry Bar, which has since grown to more than 70 locations worldwide. In 2011, as Vice President of Franchise Operations at Nurse Next Door, Canada’s largest homecare company, he helped drive the franchise system’s fast growth into the US market. Litwin also knows the social enterprise space. In 2002, he co-founded Extreme Kindness and launched volunteer tours and a web series based on committing random act of kindness across Canada and the U.S. The tours evolved into a best-selling book on corporate social responsibility and the power of communities to build social capital.
Rob MacKay-Dunn is Director of Public Policy and Communications for the Greater Vancouver Board of Trade, Western Canada’s most active business organization. For 129 years, the Greater Vancouver Board of Trade has helped shaped the communities of B.C.’s Lower Mainland and promote the region as a Pacific centre for trade, commerce and travel. In 2016, Rob led one of the organization’s most significant pieces of policy work in decades — the Greater Vancouver Economic Scorecard 2016 — an unprecedented study that compared and measured Greater Vancouver against 19 other regions around the globe. Prior to joining the Board of Trade, Rob served as Chief of Staff to a number of Senior Cabinet Ministers in British Columbia’s Provincial Government, including the Minister of Tourism, Sports and the Arts and the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure. During his time with Government, Rob was directly engaged in complex public policy development, stakeholder relations, and communications and issues management for many of the largest capital infrastructure projects in B.C.’s history.
Greg Moore
Chair, Metro Vancouver Board of Directors

Greg Moore was elected as Port Coquitlam’s 15th Mayor in 2008, after serving as City Councillor from 2002 to 2008. Greg Moore believes community engagement results in better Council decisions, and began his term by revising Council’s committee system – with Council’s consent – to include citizen advisors in the decision-making process.

He has a Masters of Business Administration and Bachelor of Urban Geography/Planning, and as Port Coquitlam’s Mayor he serves as Chair of the Metro Vancouver Board of Directors and Vice Chair of the Intergovernmental Committee, among other committee appointments. His volunteer work includes co-chairing the Capital Fundraising Task Force with the New View Society and sitting on the HR MacMillan Space Centre Board of Directors.
Evi Mustel

Principal, Mustel Group

Evi Mustel is the co-founder and one of the principals of Mustel Group, a Vancouver-based market and opinion research company. She has over 30 years’ experience in the research industry. With extensive experience conducting research in virtually every sector of business, Evi has specialized expertise in communications, public affairs and customer satisfaction research.

Her clients include provincial, regional and municipal governments, federal government agencies, corporations, not-for-profit organizations and business and professional associations. Evi has designed and conducted studies on many of today’s most important economic, environmental and social issues.

Ms. Mustel is a Certified Market Research Professional (CMRP). She holds a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) degree from McMaster University and is Vice-Chair of the Vancouver Board of Trade, director of the International Women’s Forum (IWF), and past director of Easy Park, and the YMCA of Greater Vancouver.
Ken Peacock

Chief Economist and Vice President, Business Council of British Columbia

Ken Peacock is Chief Economist and Vice President at the Business Council of British Columbia, an association representing 260 large and mid-sized companies that together account for approximately one-quarter of all jobs in the province. In this capacity Mr. Peacock contributes to the Council’s work on economic and policy issues of interest to the business community. He is the author of a number of regular Business Council publications dealing with the provincial economy and related policy matters.

Mr. Peacock joined the Business Council in 2002. Prior to that he was an Economist with Central1 Credit Union, an umbrella organization for the credit unions in the province. There he advised credit unions on the outlook for the provincial economy, housing markets, and interest and exchange rates.

Mr. Peacock was born and raised in BC. He attained his master’s degree in economics from Simon Fraser University and is the immediate past President of the Association of Professional Economists of BC and is a member of the BC Economic Forecast Council.
Gordon Price

Past Director, City Program, Simon Fraser University

Gordon Price is the past Director of the City Program at Simon Fraser University (2005-16) and ex-Vancouver City Councillor (1986-2002). In 2002, he finished his sixth term as City Councillor. He also served on the Board of the Greater Vancouver Regional District (Metro Vancouver) and was appointed to the first board of the Greater Vancouver Transportation Authority (TransLink) in 1999.

He blogs on urban issues, with a focus on Vancouver, at “Price Tags”. 
Andrew Ramlo

Executive Director, Urban Futures

As Executive Director of Urban Futures Incorporated, Andrew provides strategic management for leading real estate developers, investors, and retailers as well as many of Canada’s most rapidly changing municipalities, crown corporations, and public agencies. Providing unique research and consulting services on a wide range of topics—from labour force change to human resource management and market analysis—Andrew analyses how demographic and economic growth and change will shape our collective futures.

Andrew earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in Urban and Economic Geography from the University of British Columbia (UBC) in 1995 and his Master of Arts degree from UBC’s School of Community and Regional Planning in 2000. He is a member of the Planning Institute of British Columbia (PIBC) and The Canadian Institute of Planners (CIP), and has held council positions with both organizations. He is regularly quoted in the national media and is a frequent guest lecturer at UBC, SFU, and BCIT. Andrew is a highly sought-after speaker for both public and private clients, as he has an uncanny ability to turn technical analysis and demographic data into engaging, lively stories about the way we all live. With a focus on the dimensions of change—demographic, societal, economic and environmental—his research and presentations outline strategies designed to address the challenges and opportunities that organizations and individuals will face in the decades to come.
Angela Robert

CEO, Conquer Mobile

Angela has a goal to improve patient outcomes by changing the way clinicians learn. Her vision is to transform medical education using simulation, personalized learning, analytics and gamification techniques.

Angela leads with effervescent passion and inimitable style. Now CEO of Conquer Mobile, she established her credentials as a software engineer at Scotiabank, IBM and Electronic Arts (EA). At EA she worked on more than 20 games in five years and as Development Director for Skate™ and Skate 2™. From her time at EA, Angela brings a wealth of techniques for creating realistic learning experiences and motivating people to hone their skills.

She is an active voice in many trade associations including BCTIA, Acetech, Wavefront, LifeSciencesBC and Surrey's Innovation Boulevard. Angela graduated from the University of Waterloo with a Bachelor of Mathematics in Computer Science. When she's not inspiring and energizing everyone, Angela has a talent for scoring goals on the ice and creating disturbingly healthy smoothies.
Brad West

Communications and Political Action Representative, United Steelworkers District 3

Brad West is the Communications and Political Action Representative for the United Steelworkers (USW) District 3, which represents over 60,000 workers in Western Canada. The USW is the largest private sector union in North America and has members working in almost every sector of the economy, most notably in British Columbia’s mining, forestry, manufacturing and telecommunications industries.

In addition to leading the communications and political work of the USW in District 3, Brad proudly serves his hometown of Port Coquitlam as a City Councillor. Taking office at 23 years old in 2008, Brad is the city’s youngest-ever elected official. Re-elected in 2011 and 2014, Brad chairs the city’s Smart Growth Committee, responsible for planning, development and economic growth. He also serves as a member of the city’s Finance and Intergovernmental Committee and the Budget and Infrastructure Committee.

Brad is a graduate of the University of Victoria, St. Francis Xavier University and most recently, completed a Diploma program in Leadership at Harvard University. He lives in Port Coquitlam with his wife Blaire and the couple is expecting their first child in January 2017.
Michael White

Associate Vice President, Campus & Community Planning, UBC

Michael White joined UBC as the Associate Vice President of UBC’s Campus and Community Planning (C+CP) in early 2014. In this role, he leads a team of almost 50 interdisciplinary staff responsible for a broad set of municipal functions including campus planning and design, development services, sustainability and engineering, community development, and public and stakeholder engagement.

Michael and the team have been undertaking a number of exciting initiatives including strategic regional planning with Metro and the City of Vancouver, transit planning, new plans and guidelines for the gateway neighbourhood at UBC Point Grey, an update to UBC’s Climate Action Plan, a new Campus Plan for UBC Okanagan, a new Public Engagement Charter, and a range of programs to make the campus(es) healthier and happier places to live, study and work.

Michael is an urban planning professional with 19 years of experience in North America, the Middle East and Asia, and specializes in urban and regional planning, strategic planning, organizational development, and community engagement.

As a key member of the City of Vancouver’s Planning Department from 1997-2007, Michael had a leading role in community planning programs, transit integration, and citywide policy initiatives. Of particular note was his role in managing both technical teams and stakeholder engagement processes. Projects he worked on during his time with the City included Canada Line station planning, Community Vision Implementation, Neighbourhood Centres, False Creek Flats planning, EcoDensity and the City's Public Involvement Review.

From Vancouver, Michael moved on to become an accomplished international planner. As one of the founding managers of the Abu Dhabi Urban Planning Council, Michael played a key role in managing and guiding the Council’s Planning Policy team from inception in 2007 to 2011. His team led the creation of a range of plans and policies, including a new capital city plan for the UAE, revitalization plans for existing communities, and pioneered public engagement in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi. After returning from the Middle East in 2011, Michael became a Principal for AECOM Canada based in Vancouver. He led and participated in a range of projects including design guidelines for Calgary’s Centre City, a strategic plan for Toronto’s Planning Division, community plans in Western Canada and city plans in Abu Dhabi and the Philippines.

Michael holds a Master of Science in Planning from the University of Toronto, a Bachelor of Arts from the University of British Columbia and is a Member of the Canadian Institute of Planners.