



## 2025 SHAREHOLDER ELECTION NEWS

Dear Shareholders,

The Nominating Committee has completed its recruitment and evaluation process and has selected four Director candidates to recommend to the Shareholders for the 2025 Director election. The Nominating Committee's 2025 candidate recommendations have received support from the Governance & People Committee and the Board of Directors of the Calgary Stampede. This year, there are nine Board positions open for election. The Director candidates recommended by the Nominating Committee will be joined by six incumbents on the ballot.

The Nominating Committee is pleased to recommend the following candidates for election for Director at the 2025 Annual General Meeting of Shareholders:

- Walsh Mannas
- Kelly Smith
- Jessica Thomas
- Michael Wetherup

Brief introductions of the candidates are provided in this publication.

The Nominating Committee worked diligently over the course of this year to identify, evaluate and recommend candidates who best meet the skill sets and requirements of the Board of Directors of the Calgary Stampede. This year's evaluation process was supported by a third-party consultant in order to reduce any real or perceived internal bias with the process. The Committee is pleased to present these highly qualified candidates to join this year's incumbents on the ballot for the 2025 Director election.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or any member of the Nominating Committee.

Sincerely,

Stuart O'Connor, Nominating Committee Chair



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## Nominating Committee & Supporting Membership:

Stuart O'Connor, Chair	<a href="mailto:soconnor@fitzroydev.com">soconnor@fitzroydev.com</a>	403.619.1041
Cherie Copithorne-Barnes	<a href="mailto:cherie@clanches.com">cherie@clanches.com</a>	403.540.3688
Kevin Gregor, DHR Global (Third Party Human Resources Consultant)	<a href="mailto:kgregor@dhrglobal.com">kgregor@dhrglobal.com</a>	403.410.6700
LaVonne Walt, Executive Management Lead and Corporate Secretary	<a href="mailto:lwalt@calgariystampede.com">lwalt@calgariystampede.com</a>	403.261.0356

## Nominating Committee Candidates



### Walsh Mannas

Walsh has volunteered with the Calgary Stampede since 2009, serving as Past Chair of the First Nations Events Committee and as a member of the Chuckwagon Committee. He is Principal of Investment Sales at Avison Young, where he leads the Southern Alberta investment brokerage team. Walsh has transacted over commercial real estate across all asset classes, expanding Avison's investment brokerage business into one of the top in Alberta.

A three-time recipient of the Award of Excellence at Avison Young, Walsh is known for his strategic focus, strong business acumen and expertise in financial analysis, cash flow modeling, marketing, legal document review and municipal zoning.

Beyond the Calgary Stampede, Walsh volunteers with the Pet Access League Society, Pheasants Forever, Top 7 Over 70, and the Real Estate Council of Alberta (RECA), where he serves as a Hearing Panel member. He is also a mentor to students in the University of Calgary and Urban Land Institute's Mentorship Program.

Walsh holds a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science with a minor in English from the University of Alberta and has held an Alberta Real Estate License since 2009.



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### **Kelly Smith**

Kelly has volunteered with the Calgary Stampede since 2007, currently as the immediate Past Chair of the Downtown Attractions Committee, where he oversaw approximately 360 volunteers across 16 subcommittees. He has also previously served as the Chair for the Downtown Attractions Committee – Breakfast Subcommittee and as an Event Volunteer for the Chuckwagon Committee.

In his professional career, he is Owner and Principal of JKS Consulting Services, providing fractional COO and CFO support for organizations in areas such as Finance and Audit Committee meetings, Board meetings, operational design, strategic planning, contract negotiations and crisis management. Prior to becoming a consultant, Kelly held several leadership roles at YMCA Calgary, including Senior Vice President of Operations and COO. In these positions, he led the operations of Health, Fitness and Aquatics Branches; the YMCA Camp Chief Hector; and the YMCA Community Branch. He also helped plan and open key YMCA locations, including the Genesis Centre of Community, Remington YMCA in Quarry Park and Shane Homes YMCA in Rocky Ridge.

Kelly is passionate about the vital role organizations play in the community and the importance of employees and volunteers in driving success. Outside of the Calgary Stampede, he volunteers with Run Calgary.

Kelly is a Certified Professional Accountant and holds a Bachelor of Commerce from Concordia University. He has completed leadership development courses through YMCA Calgary and YMCA USA, as well as the Governance Essentials Program for Directors of Not-for-Profit Organizations from the Institute of Corporate Directors.



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### **Jessica Thomas**

Jessica has been a dedicated volunteer with the Calgary Stampede since 2006. She currently serves as the Second Vice-Chair of the Royalty Committee and has previously served as the Chair of the Stampede Talent Search Committee and Education Liaison, Livestock Competitions Committee.

Jessica has worked with the Calgary Catholic School District for over 25 years and is currently Superintendent, People Services. In this role, she leads the recruitment and staffing of multiple teams and integrates HR processes to align with organizational needs and employment best practices.

A passionate mentor, Jessica has received numerous awards, including the Mayor's Excellence Award, Calgary White Hat Award, and Shepherd Leadership Award.

Jessica's extensive volunteerism includes serving on the Mount Royal University Faculty of Education Advisory Committee, as a board member for the Alberta Coalition of Health School Communities, the SAIT Nutritional Health Living Program, and the Health Physical Education Council of Alberta.

Jessica is working toward her associate member designation with the Chartered Professionals in Human Resources and completing her Spanish Language and Culture Studies Certificate at the University of Calgary. She holds a Master of Educational Leadership from the University of Alberta, a Bachelor of Education from the University of Calgary and a Human Resources Management Certificate from Mount Royal University. She has also completed the Leadership Quality Standards Program through Alberta Education.



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### **Michael Wetherup**

Michael has volunteered with the Calgary Stampede since 2000. Most recently, he served as Chair of the Art Show (Western Showcase) Committee, where he led the strategic planning of a five-year succession plan, including a name and mandate change, and laid the foundation for future leadership and organizational growth. He has also chaired the Western Agriculture & Heritage Committee and the Parade Committee.

With over 35 years of experience in Calgary's business, non-profit and government sectors, Michael is an innovative leader and real estate professional, currently working with Real Estate Professionals. He is skilled in contract negotiations, due diligence, risk assessment, corporate event planning and relationship management. Michael founded Domani Developments, where he provided tailored investment advisory services and managed renovations and developments for clients.

A passionate advocate for community spirit, Michael has volunteered with the Alberta Children's Hospital, organizing events for children with cancer. He is a capital campaign member for West Side King's Church, regular host for Feed the Hungry and Every Yard Counts, and co-founder of the Calgary Urban Project Society's Charity Golf Tournament. Michael has held several board positions with the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation throughout the years.

Michael has completed courses in Board Leadership and Governance with the Government of Alberta, Business and Management at the University of Calgary and Media and Risk with the Calgary Stampede. He has also taken Anthony Robbins' Power to Influence and Sales Mastery course.