



# **IMMIGRANT SERVICES SOCIETY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA**

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING September 21, 2017**

### **Biographies of Directors ISSofBC Board of Directors 2017/2018**

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#### **Maria M. Braungart**

Maria Braungart is a graduate from the University of New York at Buffalo with a B.A. in interdisciplinary Sciences and a Minor in Psychology. Prior to relocating from Buffalo to Vancouver, Maria was employed at Leica Inc. a worldwide, 11,500 employees, one billion dollar manufacturer and supplier of scientific, ophthalmic, optical and electro-optical instruments and systems. She was with them for 20 years moving up the ladder from company librarian to Conventions & Exhibits Manager. Starting in 1994, she had been part of The Vancouver Board of Trade's membership team for 18 years. She started her professional career at The Board first as a Membership Consultant, promoted to Manager, Membership Services and then as Director, Membership Services. Throughout her career with the Board she had been actively involved in membership engagement and retention. She oversaw The Board's Membership Committee and Ambassadors Club volunteers and ensured these Committees were effectively chaired and managed. She also managed The Board's value-added membership events and secured sponsors for these events. In 2011 The Vancouver Board of Trade recognized Maria with the Chairman's Award for her outstanding contribution as a member of the staff at The Board for 18 years. Maria is a balcony gardener and a member of both the White Rock & District and the Richmond Garden Club. She immensely enjoys travelling throughout Europe, visiting family in Montreal, hiking, knitting and baking. She also hosts the Maria Breakfast Club, a monthly networking get-together with colleagues and guests. After a 40 year career, Maria has been enjoying retirement bliss for the last four years.

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#### **Joseph Chan**

Joseph Chan is a graduate of Simon Fraser University in Computing Science and Behavioral Psychology. He was formerly a military officer in the Canadian Armed Forces, and has since worked in technical aspects of health care and telecommunications consulting.

His past advocacy activities include co-authoring and publication of studies on issues of the Vancouver Downtown Eastside, law enforcement and criminal justice for Simon Fraser University and the University College of the Fraser Valley.

Joseph was a volunteer with the Host Program. He speaks English, French and Cantonese.

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### **Catherine Der**

Catherine Der is a Chartered Professional Accountant, Certified Management Accountant, Chartered Accountant (CPA, CMA, CA) by profession and has her own public practice. Catherine has over 30 years of work experience in public practice that includes working with not-for-profit entities.

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### **Brandon D. Hastings BBA(Dist.), JD**

Brandon is a lawyer, and qualified civil and family mediator. He holds a *Juris Doctor* (JD) from the University of British Columbia Faculty of Law, and a Bachelor of Business Administration in Entrepreneurial Leadership, with distinction, from Kwantlen Polytechnic University. Brandon also sits on the Canadian Bar Association BC Branch's *BarTalk* magazine editorial board and court services committee, and is a frequent contributor to a variety of legal publications, including the *CBA National* magazine, where he focuses mainly on legal futures.

Brandon believes that a scientific approach, including innovation, knowledge sharing, and intelligent policy can create large-scale change and a better world. Brandon co-founded Vancouver Legal Hackers, which is part of a global movement aimed at solving some of the most pressing issues at the intersection of law and technology. Brandon is enthusiastic about ISSo/BC's capacity to make far-reaching, scalable change in the way settlement services are delivered.

Brandon Hastings was born and raised in Richmond, British Columbia. He has built houses in Ecuador, lived and worked with Bedouin families in Jordan, and spent over 4 months in Southeast Asia, including working, living and attending University in Hong Kong, China, Malaysia and Singapore. Many of Brandon's closest friends were helped by ISSo/BC when they first came to Canada, and Brandon wants to see ISSo/BC cementing itself as an active leader in the global NGO settlement services community.

### **Naomi Linklater**

Naomi Linklater BFA, B.Ed., has first-hand experience in, and knowledge of, key immigration and Aboriginal issues. She is a member of Vancouver Metis Community Association and a past president of the board for Warriors Against Violence Society. She has worked for over 10 years with Indigenous, immigrant, multi-barriered, and at-risk youth and adults in visual/performing arts, ESL, cross-cultural competency, conflict resolution, and life-skilled classes.

As a partner in The Drive Learning Consultants, Naomi has consulted on the creation of several online and face-to-face programs, including Indigenous Peoples, History and Cultures (City of Vancouver) Respectful Workplace (Provincial Health Services Authority), Aboriginal Relations (BC Hydro), Career Gateways, and Aboriginal Peoples (Vancouver Community College).

Naomi coordinated a Family Violence and Cultural Teaching Workshop Series for Native Education College, Vancouver. Naomi has coordinated the recruitment of Elders, Spiritual Teachers and cultural workers from Indigenous communities to incorporate Aboriginal cultural protocols and teachings into workshops for promoting cultural awareness and self-identity, and facilitating positive change for members of the Aboriginal community.

Naomi is Métis and a member of Vancouver Métis Community Association and a past-president of the board of Warriors Against Violence Society.

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### **Nicolas Lozovsky (Dip Arch, M Arch) (Incumbent)**

Born in Russia, grew in the Middle East and Europe, trained as an architect he immigrated to Canada in 1969. Has been a member of AIBC for 40 years, served on the examining board, certification board and is a past Chairman of the Examining Board for Architects.

He was a partner at UNECON Partnership and UNECON Architecture, specializing in institutional projects namely Vancouver Public Aquarium and St. Paul's Hospital.

Nicolas is a member of ISSo/BC since 1990 and was president of ISSo/BC for 10 years.

He served as treasurer as well as premises committee member.

He was a board member and treasurer at AMASA and Canadian Folk Society.

He is a member of the Russian Community Centre of Vancouver and was president for 10 years.

In 2012 he was awarded the QUEEN ELIZABETH II DIAMOND JUBILEE MEDAL.

Nicolas loves folk music, plays in the Russian Folk Orchestra, and enjoys travel, dance and scuba diving.

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### **Joann McKinlay**

A Spanish-English translator and writer for over two decades, Joann has worked with Mexican and Canadian companies in translations, media relations and consulting. She grew up in Vancouver, BC, obtained a degree in Latin American Studies, and then moved to live in Mexico City, Mexico for 12 years. Her previous positions include financial journalist, industry consultant, counselor at an international high school and contemporary dance teacher, as well as the administration of a non-profit professional association. She has also served on the boards of the Mexican Business Association of Canada as president, and on the Society of Translators and Interpreters of BC. She is currently Registrar at the Vancouver School of Interpreting and Translation (VanSIT), and launching her new venture of providing counselling support for interpreters and those working with immigrants and refugees.

She is a current member of ISSo/BC Board of Directors and Governance Committee.

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### **Dr. V. Setty Pendakur**

Professor V. Setty Pendakur taught at the University of British Columbia for 32 years (1966-98) and started a new life as a Consultant and Senior Advisor to a number of Asian governments. He has published more than 100 papers in refereed journals and **authored several books commissioned by the UNDP, UN Habitat, UN Economic Commission for Africa, UN Economic Commission for Asia and the Pacific, Inter-American Development Bank and the World Bank.**

Professor Pendakur is currently President of Pacific Policy and Planning Associates, a firm specializing in Policy and Planning for International Development. He has worked in more 30 countries including Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. He is currently a **Senior Counselor to the State Council of the PRC and the Government of Singapore.**

Dr. Pendakur was appointed a Member of the National Academy of Sciences and the Institutes of Medicine (USA), recognizing his scientific contributions to the National Academy and the Transportation Research Board. He is the Founding Chair of the Standing Committee on Transportation in the Developing Countries of the TRB. He was appointed, in 2004, an Honorary Professor at the Graduate School of Engineering and the Graduate School of Management, National Academy of Sciences of the China.

Dr. Pendakur has been a Visiting Professor/Scholar at more than 25 universities around the world, including the Eastern and Southern African Management Institute, University College of London, University of Paris, University of Bologna, Asian Institute of Technology (Bangkok), Chulalongkorn University (Bangkok), Thammasat University (Bangkok) and Beijing University (Shenzhen), Beijing University of Technology, Tongji University, Indian Institute of Management (Bangalore),

Professor Pendakur is a former Vancouver City Councilor and Director of Metro Vancouver and BC Transit Authority (predecessor of TransLink). He has also served as Director/President of various boards and commissions including the United Way of Greater Vancouver, Vancouver Neighborhood Services Association, Alexandra Housing Society, Vancouver Justice Council, Vancouver Public Library Board, Vancouver City Planning Commission and the Round House Community Centre. He also served as a Governor/President of the Real Estate Foundation of British Columbia during 1991-2004. He currently serves on the Boards of ISSofBC, Western Theatre Conspiracy Society, Balance and Dizziness Disorders Society and as President of the Alexandra Foundation.

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### **Sasha Ramnarine (Incumbent)**

Sasha Ramnarine joined Remedios & Co. after practicing at a boutique Vancouver business law firm. He has experience in corporate/commercial law, wills and estates, real estate and business transactions, entertainment law and securities law. Ever since the age of nine, Sasha has explored his entrepreneurial spirit and passion for business. For ten years, he helped grow his father's restaurant to make it into a successful Trinidadian bistro in Kitsilano. Sasha completed his Bachelor of Business Administration degree at Simon Fraser University concentrating in finance, and then spent two years providing financial advice for families and small businesses. With the aspiration to practice business law, he entered law school at the University of Ottawa and thereafter articulated at a boutique corporate real estate law firm serving large companies and real estate developers. He then practiced at a Vancouver boutique business law firm serving start-up companies and entrepreneurs. A tireless lawyer, Sasha is dedicated to providing his clients with high value and creative legal solutions for their business and personal life.

Sasha is a strong supporter of the business and greater community. As an Ambassador for the Greater Vancouver Board of Trade, Sasha welcomes new members and mentors them to get the most out of the Vancouver Board of Trade. Sasha is also a police board member with the New Westminster Police Board. When he is not in the office, he can be found hiking, swimming, and playing cricket. Sasha's Mission Statement of life is to "Inspire and touch the hearts of as many people as I walk the path of life". Sasha Ramnarine was the Member of Parliament Candidate for New Westminster-Burnaby in the last Federal Election.

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### **Jim Tallman**

Jim Tallman has been a Training Consultant since 1979, working with clients in business, industry and government. He has conducted course development projects across Canada, the U.S. and overseas. He is president of North Pacific Training & Performance Inc., a company that creates skills-based training and assessment systems for the natural resource sector.

Over the years, he has been a settlement mentor for many families and individuals through the ISSo/BC Volunteer Connections Program, and has served on the ISSo/BC Board of Directors since 1995. He has also served on the board of AMSSA.

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### **Jack Wong (Incumbent)**

Jack Wong is the Chief Executive Officer of the Real Estate Foundation of British Columbia. The Foundation makes grants to support land use and real estate practices which contribute to resilient, healthy communities and natural environments. As a funder with a unique mandate in BC, the Real Estate Foundation has approved over \$75 million in grants since 1988.

Before being named CEO in February 2011, Jack was the Assistant Managing Director of the Vancouver Board of Trade. A certified member and Fellow of the Society of Management Accountants of Canada, Jack holds a Bachelor of Commerce and Business Administration degree from UBC.

Jack also has an active volunteer life, currently serving as a Director for the Housing Foundation of BC, Immigrant Services Society of BC, Vancouver Police Foundation, Richmond Museum Society, and the Canadian Environmental Grantmakers Network. He also is the Chair of the Social Innovation Working Group at UBC Farm, as well as serving on the advisory councils for the School of Community and Regional Planning at the University of BC and the Faculty of Environment at Simon Fraser University.

He is a fellow of the Ford Foundation's Regional Sustainable Development Program, member of Lambda Alpha International, and associate member of the Real Estate Institute of BC.

He lives in Steveston with his wife Alanna, and has 2 grown daughters.

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