



# **IMMIGRANT SERVICES SOCIETY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA**

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING September 29, 2015**

### **Biographies of Directors ISSofBC Board of Directors 2015/2016**

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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 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.

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

Brandon Hastings is a Vancouver-based Lawyer and Mediator. He completed his Juris Doctor at the University of British Columbia (UBC), where he volunteered with the CoRe conflict resolution clinic, Pro Bono legal society, and the Law Students' Legal Advice Program. More recently, Brandon completed the experience and education requirements necessary to become a member of the civil roster of Mediate BC – the BC Supreme Court's *de facto* mediator roster.

Prior to his law degree, Brandon graduated top of his class with a Bachelor of Business Administration in Entrepreneurial Leadership – a degree focused on working with people to create success in high-pressure, analytical environments. Brandon was a founding member of his alma mater’s international business case competition team, and President’s ambassadorial team.

Brandon has worked and lived with other cultures throughout his life. As a teenager, he attended Matthew McNair Secondary in Richmond BC; later he raised funds and built houses for disadvantaged people in Ecuador, lived and worked with Bedouin families during an archaeological field school in Jordan, and spent over 4 months in Southeast Asia. Most recently, Brandon completed a trade mission to China, Malaysia, and Singapore as a Junior Team Canada delegate.

During his studies at UBC, Brandon was selected to attend the National University of Singapore, taking a masters-level course in world trade law through the NYU@NUS program. This experience crystallized Brandon’s belief in the ability of intelligent policy and entrepreneurship to drive large-scale change, and create a better world.

Brandon sits as a member of the Vancouver Board of Trade’s Company of Young Professionals Program Advisory Committee, volunteers on the editorial board of the Canadian Bar Association’s BarTalk magazine, gives talks, and contributes articles to local publications.

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### **Martha Jane Lewis**

Martha Jane Lewis is a practicing lawyer and executive director of BC Centre for Elder Advocacy and Support. She lives in Vancouver, BC.

Jane was born in Winnipeg, Manitoba and attended schools in Toronto and in Switzerland. She received a BA in Economics from the University of Victoria, BC and worked in investments and then in international trade in Canada, England and Thailand. She lived in Bangkok for eight years before returning to Canada via the UK.

Jane received an LLB from the Law School at the University of British Columbia, and an LLM from the Law School at the University of Bristol, England. Her Masters courses were international human and welfare rights, international labour and welfare rights, and environmental law. She works in the area of social justice.

### **Naomi Linklater**

Naomi Linklater BFA, B.Ed., has first-hand experience in, and knowledge of, key immigration and Aboriginal issues. She is the President of the Board for Warriors Against Violence Society, based in Vancouver. She has worked for over 10 years with Native, 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 Respectful Workplace (for Provincial Health Services Authority), Aboriginal Relations (for BC Hydro), Career Gateways, and Aboriginal Peoples (for 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 First Nations and Métis 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.

Alongside her work with the Warriors Against Violence Society, Naomi is a member of the Vancouver Métis Community Association and the Immigrant Services Society of B.C. Naomi is French, Anglo-Irish and Métis (Orcadian and Cree). Her family comes from the Selkirk and Red River Settlements in Manitoba.

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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 10years.

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 expanding her knowledge and training in community counselling, as well as assisting the Language Bureau in their newest venture, the Vancouver School of Interpreting.

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 Far East, 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 and more particularly in Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. Professor Pendakur is currently a **Senior Counselor to the State Council of the PRC and the Government of Singapore.**

Dr. Pendakur was appointed an Associate 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 is also been appointed in 2004, as 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), Beijing University, Beijing University of Technology, Tongji University, Indian Institute of Management (Bangalore), Indian Institute of Technology (Kharagpur), University of the Philippines, Universidad Catolica Argentina and the Institute of South East Asian Studies (Singapore). He has also served as External Examiner for their Doctoral programs.

Professor Pendakur is a former Vancouver City Councilor and Director of Metro Vancouver and former Director of various boards and commissions including The United Way of Greater Vancouver, Vancouver Neighborhood Services Association, Vancouver Justice Council, Vancouver Public Library Board, Vancouver City Planning Commission, the Round House Community Centre and BC Transit. He is also a former Governor of the Real Estate Foundation of British Columbia. He currently serves on the Boards of Theatre Conspiracy and the Alexandra Foundation.

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### **Sasha Ramnarine (Nominee)**

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, 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. Sasha volunteers his time as the events committee Co-Chair with the Small Business Council of the Vancouver Board of Trade and Small Business BC, hosting

educational seminars for small businesses and entrepreneurs. As an Ambassador for the Vancouver Board of Trade, Sasha welcomes new members and mentors them to get the most out of the Vancouver Board of Trade. On his spare time, Sasha lectures business start-up information sessions to entrepreneurs and new immigrants with S.U.C.C.E.S.S British Columbia and other organizations. When he is not in the office, he can be found hiking, ballroom dancing, and playing competitive 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 is also the Member of Parliament Candidate for New Westminster-Burnaby in the upcoming Federal Election.

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### **Manchan Sonachansingh**

Manchan Sonachansingh was born in Trinidad & Tobago and came to Canada in 1996.

Prior to migrating to Canada, Manchan's career experiences included public accounting and development banking. He holds a CA designation and a Master of Science from Trinidad & Tobago, and a Bachelor of Commerce and CPA, CGA in Canada.

Manchan was the Director of Finance & IT at ISSo/BC from 1996, until he left in 2004 to engage in investment management and business consulting. While at ISSo/BC he was a founding member of the Equality Committee. In more recent years, he has served the board in the capacities of Treasurer, Vice-President, and President of the organization.

He also serves on the boards of businesses and non-profit organizations and has chaired the Caribbean Day Festival Committee (North Vancouver) for several years.

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### **Neal Stratton (Nominee)**

Neal Stratton is a Chartered Accountant with 20 years of global finance experience. He is the Chief Financial Officer at Westland Insurance. Prior to joining Westland, Neal was the Director of Financial Planning & Analysis at the City of Vancouver. He has also held senior finance roles at SAP, Business Objects and CHC Helicopters. Neal started his career at Ernst & Young.

Neal is passionate about seeing different points of view. He speaks Spanish as a second language and enjoys learning other languages and immersing himself in different cultures. Neal has lived in Venezuela, Costa Rica, Mexico, the United

Kingdom and the United States. He has worked in Brazil, Australia, France and China and travelled in Africa and throughout the Middle East.

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### **Jack Wong (Nominee)**

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 \$65 million in grants since 1988.

Before being named CEO in February 2011, Jack worked in finance and administration with the Vancouver Board of Trade for ten years. Prior to that, he was a project controller for major real estate development projects in Greater Vancouver. A certified member and fellow of the Society of Management Accountants of Canada, Jack holds a Bachelor of Commerce and Business Administration from UBC.

Jack also has an active volunteer life, including the Canadian Society of Association Executives, Vancouver Police Foundation, Richmond Museum Society, UBC School of Community and Regional Planning, Canadian Environmental Grantmakers Network and as a Vancouver Board of Trade Leaders of Tomorrow student mentor. 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.

Date: September 29, 2015