

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, Jan. 23, 2015



Our Place Strengthens its Board of Directors

VICTORIA, B.C. – Our Place has experienced incredible growth over the last year. In response, its Board of Directors is pleased to welcome four new community members in its continued commitment to meet the growing needs of the impoverished in our community.

Joining the board are:

- The Right Rev. Dr. Logan McMenamie, Bishop of Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands, and the community of Kingcome. McMenamie was the Dean and Rector of Christ Church Cathedral for 8 years.
- Shellie Gudgeon is a former City of Victoria councillor, downtown business owner and neighbourhood advocate. Shellie believes passionately that as residents, businesses, local government and non-profits working together, we can achieve an inclusive community where everyone's needs are met.
- Geoffrey Huggett is a business and real estate lawyer at the law firm of Hutchison Oss-Cech Marlatt. Geoff's past community experience includes volunteering with the Justice Education Society of BC, the UBC Law Students' Legal Advice Program and the Disabled Sailing Association of BC.
- Stephen Hammond is a member of the Law Society of British Columbia, a professional speaker, and a workplace consultant. His expertise is in the field of harassment, bullying, discrimination and the "Changing Face of Canada".

"We have ambitious plans for the future," says Susan Haddon, board chair. "And the skillset of our new directors is a welcome addition to the board. Along with our new Advisory Cabinet, these community leaders will further strengthen our board and enhance the vision of the organization."

The board currently includes: Susan Haddon, board chair; Diana Butler, vice chair; Scot Hooker, treasurer; Scott Daly, secretary; Shannon Renault, past chair; John Ducker; Keven Fletcher; Larry Pedersen and Bernice Kamano.

The Our Place volunteer board is dedicated to the governance and vision of the organization, and its directors contribute to the Society through their passion, dedication, experience and business acumen.

Along with new board members, Our Place has added a strategic advisory group of volunteers who act as ambassadors with the purpose of helping raise philanthropic donations and community profile for the organization. The advisory cabinet consists of:

- Andrea Jakeman Brown, Director of Scotia Private Client Group, advisory cabinet chair. Andrea has worked for 35 years in financial services, and served with Crime Stoppers, United Way and WestCoast Motorcycle Ride to Live.
- Eric Charman is a key player in Victoria's arts scene. Now retired from his real estate business, Charman has contributed to Victoria through his efforts as a volunteer, master of ceremonies, auctioneer and philanthropist.
- Fiona Hunter is a partner at Horne Coupar, named one of Canada's Top 5 Trusts & Estates Law Boutiques. Fiona practices exclusively in estate planning with an emphasis on trusts, and acts as a mediator in estate litigation.
- Keith Dagg, president of Keith Dagg Consulting Inc., worked for Imperial Oil for 10 years and was a partner in CFAI from 1965 to 1980. He was also the founding partner of Copeland Communication in 1980.
- Shelagh Rinald, president of Rinald Tax Advisory Inc., is a tax specialist and trained facilitator who has been working in the industry for over 25 years. In 2012 she was named Victoria Chamber of Commerce Business Person of the Year.
- Chris Hunt, branch manager at Scotia Bank, is Kwakiutl from the Kwak waka wakw people. He became interested in volunteering because Our Place treats Victoria's most vulnerable citizens as family where everyone is welcomed, respected and loved unconditionally.
- Peter Schenk, senior wealth advisor, ScotiaMcLeod, is a specialist in financial market applications. He holds the Chartered Investment Manager, Fellow of the Canadian Securities Institute, Personal Financial Planner, and Accredited Investment Fiduciary Professional designations.

Our Place is an inner-city community centre serving Greater Victoria's most vulnerable: working poor, impoverished elderly, mentally and physically challenged, addicted and the homeless. Individuals and businesses provide the majority of financial support for its programs and services. Our Place provides 45 transitional housing units, over 1,500 meals per day, hot showers, education, counseling and outreach services. Most importantly, it provides a sense of hope and belonging to our neighbours in need.

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