

Seekings, Werbicki join SDCF board; Martyniw steps into Chair's seat



Ryan Werbicki and Pam Seekings have joined the board of the Selkirk and District Community Foundation. Aaron Martyniw, (left), has moved into the Chair position.

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Pam Seekings and Ryan Werbicki are the two newest members of the Selkirk and District Community Foundation's (SDCF) board of directors, and both bring a wealth of experience and enthusiasm to their positions.

Seekings, who works as the Deputy Registrar of the Court of Queen's Bench and Staff Justice, was nominated for the board position by Lord Selkirk School Division Trustee Lena Kublic due in no small part to her energy, enthusiasm and positive attitude.

For Seekings, she's embracing both the nomination and the opportunity.

"I was very humbled by this appointment," Seekings said.

"I feel incredibly honoured to sit on the SDCF board, among such amazing individuals, both current and past."

Seekings has worked for the Selkirk Court Office for the past 29 years and, along with her husband Pete, has raised three children, now adults – PJ, Jeff and Christopher.

A lifelong resident of East Selkirk, Seekings has always made time to volunteer in the community.

She chaired a collaborative committee, called the Tri Party Committee, with representatives from the RM of St. Clements, Happy Thought School, East Selkirk Middle School and East Selkirk Arena, for more than 10 years and during the same time period also chaired the Parent Advisory Council for Happy Thought and then East Selkirk Middle Schools.

She was co-chair of the U&I Team, a volunteer group that raised funds to install playgrounds at both schools and facilitated the construction of the asphalt trail.

She also sat on the Grad committee and was chair in her final year.

Seekings was a member of the Red River Work Camp Committee, and chair of the Selkirk United Church's Christian Education as well as the Sunday school teacher. She also ran the nursery program, chaired the Worship and Stewardship committees and is currently Vice Chair of the church.

Prior to her nomination to the SDCF board, Seekings served on its Grants Committee.

Her involvement with the Grants Committee gave her insight into the workings of the Foundation and enlightened her to its extensive reach in the community.

"To be able, in a small way, to support so many great organizations within our community, is important to me," Seekings said.

"Supporting our community has always been very important to me, so I am thrilled for this opportunity to give back."

Werbicki, who's employed as the Special Assistant to the Premier, was nominated by the RM of St. Andrews and Mayor Joy Sul.

Passionate about his community, Werbicki said he's looking forward to being part of the SDCF and making a difference. All communities face challenges, he said, and the Triple S region has a history of facing those challenges together.

"Being a SDCF director affords the opportunity to work with community-minded individuals who together, have a direct impact on our region by ensuring we create and support opportunities that make our home an even better place to live, work and play," Werbicki said.

Werbicki has held several positions in the Provincial Government, including Special/Executive Assistant to the Minister of Agriculture and Constituency Assistant/Legislative Liaison in the Selkirk and Gimli PC constituency offices.

He was also a seminar coordinator/teaching assistant in the University of Manitoba's Department of Political Studies and a Managing Partner at Earls Restaurants.

As a member of the SDCF board Werbicki is looking to help increase the Foundation's profile in the community.

"Along with the team, I seek to increase SDCF's presence in the community and throughout the region by focusing on various initiatives to expand opportunities for communication and outreach," he said.

"Additionally, public education is a particular passion of mine and therefore, I hope to expand SDCF's impact by supporting greater educational opportunities that will remain *'here for good'* for our youth now, and in the future."

Martyniw steps into Chair's seat

Along with the two new board members, the Foundation is excited to announce Aaron Martyniw as its new Chairman.

Martyniw, who's been a board member for the past three years, is looking forward his new role with the Foundation.

"I feel privileged and honoured to take over as Chair of SDCF," Martyniw said.

"In the past couple of years, I've been able to see the positive impact of endowment based giving and its connection to a community's wishes and dreams."

For Martyniw, serving the community on the Foundation board was truly a great learning experience and he's now well versed in its breadth and influence, which he admits was not the case prior to his joining.

And, he says there's solid evidence of the good the Foundation does throughout the region.

"Look no further than our Annual Grant Reception. Annually, we fill the Selkirk United Church with donors and grant recipients," Martyniw said.

"The sheer number of people in attendance speaks to the impact our Foundation has on our communities and the organizations that serve our communities. With great pride I share that in 2019 we granted over \$360,000 to these community organizations."

Martyniw gave credit to SDCF staff, past and present board members and past Chair Gord Henrikson, for their amazing contributions to the success of the board over the years.

"Gord Henrikson and his predecessors have done an inspiring job in leading the board and guiding the Foundation since its inception. My goal is to follow their example by showing as much commitment, leadership and enthusiasm as they did," Martyniw said.

"And I couldn't have asked for a better board. They are talented, engaged, and eager to give back with their own unique skills and perspectives. I tell people that this is one of the best boards I've worked with and our two new additions have added to this remarkable group."

The Selkirk and District Community Foundation is a charitable organization that provides financial support to charitable causes and agencies in the region, which includes Selkirk, St. Andrews and St. Clements. Gifts from donors enable the Foundation to support countless groups and individuals in our community. The Foundation has given in excess of \$2.4 million to more than 125 local charities and community organizations over its 23+ years. For more details contact SDCF Executive Director Bev Clegg at 204.785.0547.