**Members seeking appointment to the CPAWS SAB board for 2024-2025**

*(in alphabetical order by last name)*

**Nigel Bankes (seeking re-appointment)**

Nigel Bankes is an emeritus professor of law, having retired from the University of Calgary in 2021. Nigel spent much of his career working in the areas of energy and natural resources law, as well as international environmental law. He posts regularly on these issues on the University of Calgary's Faculty of Law blog. Nigel enjoys spending time in the mountains, cross country skiing, hiking and backpacking, and is passionate about maintaining the natural spaces of southern Alberta for the benefit of future generations. He is proud to have raised, with his wife Jane, two young adults with a love of the outdoors.

**Nicole Edge (seeking re-appointment)**

Dr. Nicole Edge brings technical skills (>25 years as a CPA-CA) and a range of experience in the nonprofit and academic sector, and has been involved in teaching, consulting, advising, and business case building. The work CPAWS is doing in our communities resonates with her values and personal actions (she and her partner are currently working toward building a regenerative market garden in Sundre) and her motivation for becoming involved is to find ways to share her skills that may be useful in supporting CPAWS initiatives and goals.

**Doug Firby (seeking re-appointment)**

Doug Firby is Editor-in-Chief of Troy Media, Canada’s largest independent source of online news, features, and commentary. He has more than three decades of experience of writing and editing for newspapers, magazines and online publications in Ontario and western Canada. He is also an award-winning editorialist. When he was Editor of the St. Catharines (Ont.) Standard, the newspaper won its second-ever National Newspaper Award. And, like many writers, he has a handful of half-drafted novels languishing on his computer.

**Elliot Fox (seeking re-appointment)**

Elliot Fox (Makoyoohkinnii – Wolf Collar) is a member of the Kainai First Nation (Blood Tribe)

– Blackfoot Confederacy in Alberta, Canada. He has over 30 years of private and public service

experience in the land, environment and natural resource conservation and management arena as

a front-line technician and senior manager. Elliot’s extensive experience includes working with

federal, provincial and First Nations governments and non-government agencies in sustainable

land use, ecosystem and natural resource conservation and management and climate adaptation.

Elliot enjoys being in the mountains with his family, hiking, hunting, fishing, relaxing and

exploring and is passionate about maintaining wild places and spaces in Blackfoot Territory and

advocating for the return of plains bison and native trout and large carnivore restoration.

**Jon Mee (seeking re-appointment)**

Jon Mee is a faculty member in the Department of Biology at Mount Royal University, where he teaches introductory and advanced biology courses. His expertise includes basic and applied ecology and genetics, and he has published over 30 scientific papers in these disciplines. Jon has also worked with the Committee on the Status of Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) to provide wildlife status updates and to identify wildlife species.

**Lana Mezquita (seeking re-appointment)**

Lana Mezquita is a finance and strategic planning professional with over 10 years of experience, primarily in the agriculture sector. Her expertise includes strategy formation, forecasting, and financial analysis. She holds a CPA designation and an MBA from Queen’s University. Lana grew up biking and hiking on the protected land near her family farm in rural Manitoba. These days, you can find her taking advantage of Alberta’s beautiful landscapes – skiing in the winter and hiking in the summer. Lana looks forward to taking an active role on the board, as she feels that preserving our beautiful land for future generations is of the utmost importance.

**Phil Nykyforuk (seeking re-appointment)**

Phil Nykyforuk is a partner in the Advocacy Department of the law firm Gowling WLG (Canada) LLP in Calgary. He has practiced law for over 30 years and has resided in Calgary since 1993. Phil was an active volunteer with CPAWS in its campaigns to protect the Whaleback and Spray Valley in Kananaskis. He regards CPAWS Southern Alberta as an important and effective voice for the many Albertans who wish to protect and preserve our wild landscapes and the species that inhabit them. Phil welcomes the opportunity to serve on the Board of Directors and help ensure that his children and grandchildren have the same opportunity to experience the wonders of nature in our province. Phil enjoys hiking, cycling, jogging, bird watching and nature photography. He and his family are frequent visitors to Alberta’s National and Provincial Parks.

**Daphne Rodzinyak (seeking appointment)**

Daphne Rodzinyak is an associate in the environmental, regulatory and Aboriginal law groups at McCarthy Tétrault LLP. She holds a law degree from the University of Calgary and a bachelor degree with a focus on environmental studies from Mount Allison University. She has a deep-seated belief in the importance of connecting with nature and hopes to serve on the Board of Directors to help conserve the beautiful wild landscapes of southern Alberta. She has an inherited love for the outdoors and enjoys exploring Canada’s wilderness with family and friends in her campervan, on a bike, and on foot.

**Connie Van der Byl (seeking re-appointment)**

Dr. Connie Van der Byl was appointed as Associate Vice-President, Research, Scholarship and Community Engagement at Mount Royal University in January 2023. She leads the office of research, scholarship and community engagement as well as Mount Royal University Institutes under the Provost. Connie was the Academic Director of Mount Royal University’s Institute for Environmental Sustainability for eight years and has been a faculty member in the Bissett School of Business since 2012 teaching courses in business strategy and sustainability. She has a PhD in Energy Management and Sustainable Development and had an early career in Alberta’s energy sector. Her research interests focus on organizations and their strategic responses to environmental issues.