MEET THE CANDIDATES

Election Dates, Times and Location

- **Voting takes place at the Elks Hall, 172 Holloway Street**
- **Friday, November 27th from 9am until 4pm**
- **Saturday, November 28th from 9am until 1pm**
- Must be a Canadian Citizen, age 18 years or older.
- MUST have photo ID with proof of residence.
- Open to eligible voters residing for 12 months or more within the boundary of Catfish Creek and Holmes River.

Megan MacPhee

I am a recent transplant to the area! My husband and I relocated to the Robson Valley in June 2026.

I hold a Bachelor's degree in GIS and a Technical Diploma in Recreation, Fish and Wildlife, both from Selkirk College, and am a North American Wildlife Technician with a background in conservation, forestry, and natural resource management. My experience includes GIS work with Canfor, block layout, biological surveys, tree planting, wildfire fighting, parks and trails management with BC Parks as a Park Ranger, and trail work with regional districts. I currently work with the East Kootenay Invasive Species Council, where I have developed extensive experience in invasive species management, non-profit operations, grant writing and reporting, project planning, science communications, and community engagement. I would bring a combination of technical knowledge and hands-on experience to the board, contributing to informed land management decisions and thoughtful consideration of forest health, wildlife habitat, recreation, and community interests. As a board member, I hope to deepen my understanding of the forest that embraces this valley and the important role it plays in the local economy, recreation, and ecological health of the region. I look forward to bringing a fresh perspective, learning from the knowledge and experience of local residents, and building connections within the community. Most importantly, I hope to give back to a community that has welcomed us so warmly, contribute my skills where they are useful, and support the long-term sustainability and success of the McBride Community Forest.

Dustin Vike

I have lived in McBride for one year. I have past logging experience that makes me familiar with forestry operations. I would like to look out for the best interests of the community and represent all sectors well. I would like to be able to represent the Crescent community. I believe my business background and practical knowledge would help this board perform well.

I want to have a better understanding of what takes place in the McBride Community Forest and be an advocate of the general public to see their wishes moved forward. I have really enjoyed being a part of the community of McBride and want to find a way to give back.

Tammy Vandermeulen

I have lived in McBride for 29 years. I believe my 12 years of experience serving as a treasurer for the MCCSA has given me a foundation in financial responsibility, decision-making, and working in the best interest of an organization and its members. I value making informed decisions, asking questions, and taking the time to understand the issues before moving forward.

My goals are fairly simple to start with; I'm looking forward to learning more about the Community Forest, the work it does, and the projects it supports. I'm honoured to have been asked to put my name forward and see this as an opportunity to contribute to the future of our community in a meaningful way. I hope to bring my experience, work ethic, and willingness to learn to the board and be a positive contributor to the team. As I learn more, I look forward to seeing where I can be most helpful and how I can contribute to the continued success of the Community Forest.

Simon Grant

I was born and raised in Prince George and have lived in McBride for 5 years.

Throughout an extensive career as a Heavy Equipment Mechanic I have developed strong problem-solving skills, collaborated well with others and I am dependable and adaptable. Working around forestry during my career has exposed me to many aspects of the industry from logging and trucking operations to finished products from a mill. As the owner and operator of a small local business, I am aware of the hard work, budgeting and decision making required to sustain its operation.

As a board member, I would like to help maintain a sustainable forest and promote coordinated public sector partnerships to drive consistent community growth and strong funding opportunities for programs and development. Monitor operational expenses to ensure maximum contributions for current programs and develop new funding opportunities while engaging transparently with community members to ensure new and current projects meet the needs of our community. My family decided McBride is where we want to live. I want to help families feel supported and ensure that the Valley has enough opportunities for them to grow.

Bruce C W McGee

I have lived in McBride for six years and bring more than 35 years of experience building and leading companies in the energy and environmental sectors. In 1991, I founded McMillan-McGee Corp. and grew it into an internationally recognized environmental remediation firm serving major industrial clients, Fortune 500 companies, and the U.S. Departments of Energy and Defense. I continue to serve on the Board of Viya Environmental, which acquired a majority interest in the company. I currently serve as a director or advisor to several environmental and technology companies and have experience as a public company director. I also mentor entrepreneurs through the Creative Destruction Lab and, through the McMillan-McGee Foundation, support innovation and entrepreneurship programs at 14 Canadian universities. My wife and I are also the proud owners of Bark Custom Woodworks in McBride. I hold graduate degrees in electrical and chemical engineering and retired from the Naval Reserve as a Commander and Executive Officer of HMCS Nonsuch. Throughout my career, I have gained practical experience in governance, finance, strategy, project delivery, and team leadership.

The Community Forest belongs to all of us, and I want to help ensure it delivers lasting value to McBride. As a Board member, I would support strong financial management, responsible forest stewardship, and opportunities for local economic growth. This includes balancing harvesting with wildfire risk reduction, watershed protection, and recreation, while encouraging innovation, value-added wood products, and productive use of forest resources. I am committed to constructive stakeholder engagement and a McBride-first approach. Thank you for your consideration.

Al Birnie

I have lived in McBride for 17 years. I was on the MCFC Board 2008-2010 until dismissed for refusing a gag order on speaking publicly about MCFC business. Then I co- founded Take Back Our Forest, dedicated to returning MCFC to originally-intended valley-wide public ownership. I was Chair of the Library Board, and Joint Library-Museum Board, during the successful campaign for a new building. I was Treasurer of McBride Elks #247 for 12 years, and Secretary-Treasurer of Fraser Headwaters Alliance for 15 years. I am a member Robson Valley Recreation Coalition and regular volunteer at RV Music Festival. Prior to McBride I was Chair/Treasurer of a co-operative daycare, Printing Union Shop Steward and Negotiating Team member, and a Journalist for 6 years.

I will work towards ensuring that the following goals direct MCFC operations: forest recreational values and non-timber resources have a high priority; logging and reforestation practices carried out will fully maintain the availability and quality of timber resources (sustainability), and maintain high environmental standards; local operations producing value-added timber products receive a reduced rate on timber (stimulating local job creation); and that surplus generated by the forest be primarily directed towards local job creation, and secondarily towards projects that benefit the Valley community as a whole. Also that residents negatively impacted by proposed logging operations nearby, are given full consideration in ameliorating the situation.

Jared Williamson

I have lived in McBride for 6 years. I have served in many roles for corporations in my 15 years as a tradesman, including Foreman, Project Manager and Director. My experience with clients and other professionals will be my largest qualifier.

I see a great deal of value in the McBride Community Forest Corporation. My hope is to be able to optimize on the value of the MCFC, not just as an economic agent, but as a major player in our Community Commonwealth.

Dakota Lucas Miller

I have lived in McBride for just over 8 years. Since I don't have a forestry degree or certification, the only thing that qualifies me for this position is my drive. As a young man who's starting his family here, I think it's important that we protect the industry that has made this town what it is. I am very passionate about protecting forests when necessary and harvesting resources when it's appropriate to do so. Logging is a huge part of the bones in this community and it's important that we take it seriously and respectfully in order to keep it alive for future generations.

While being on the board my biggest goal is to learn the 'ins and outs' of how the forestry industry is managed locally, so that we can do whatever we can in order to improve and maximize our logging infrastructures. Ensuring we can maintain and refine one of our biggest local industries plays a major role in long term sustainability for McBride and its growing families.