

## 2018 MIA NOMINEES FOR PROVINCIAL COUNCIL MEMBER SEAT

### TERRY BETKER, P.AG., CAC, CMC



Terry is President and CEO of Backswath Management Inc., a company that provides management expertise to farmers, primarily on strategic, business and succession planning, financial analysis and human resource management. A popular speaker on management issues, Terry has delivered presentations to agriculture organizations throughout Canada, the U.S., Mexico, Chile, the Netherlands, New Zealand and Poland. He teaches at university and serves on national and provincial committees. Terry has completed the executive program for agricultural producers at Texas A&M University. His credentials include certification in mediation theory and strategic planning, and a science degree in agriculture from the University of Manitoba.

### CASEY FOX, P.AG.

Casey Fox is currently Associate Vice-President, Agriculture with Concentra Financial. In this role, Casey is responsible for the development and implementation of corporate policies and procedures related to the agricultural assets of Concentra as well as financial product development for Concentra's agriculture portfolio. Casey also is responsible for managing Concentra's relationships with its credit union partners across Canada and oversees Concentra's agricultural loan syndication program. Over the last ten years, Casey has held various roles in the agricultural finance industry with several Canadian chartered banks. Casey holds a B.Sc. (Agribusiness) and an MBA (Finance) from the University of Manitoba and is a 10-year member of MIA, serving on the Audit Committee for the last three years.

Casey lives in Winnipeg with his wife and two children.



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### ROBYN HARTE, P.AG., MSC.



Robyn began her career in agriculture after her undergraduate program at the University of Alberta. Working in a segregated early weaning barn she learned what it took to be committed to raising the food we eat day in and day out. She learned that hard work, dedication and learning everyday how to be better and smarter at what you do is the key to success. Returning to University Robyn earned her Master’s Degree in Animal Nutrition. She worked for a swine genetics company in Alberta that exposed her to agriculture around the world. From South America to Asia, Robyn provided nutrition and management information to producers who were eager to improve their productivity and education. In 2006, Robyn moved to Manitoba to further her career in swine nutrition and found herself as the Business Development Specialist –Swine with Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Development.

As a provincial swine specialist Robyn is challenged every day to provide timely and relevant information to producers. She develops programming and extension pieces to help producers continue to raise the best pork they can. Robyn also helps with the Manitoba Swine Seminars as the Co-Chair and with Hog and Poultry days.

Over the last 15 years Robyn has come to respect and deeply admire the producers she works with and strives to give to them the best she can.

### DENNIS SCHINDLER, P.AG.

- Professional Agrologist, Manitoba Institute of Agrology (1992-present).
- Bachelor of Science in Agriculture, Soil Science Major, University of Manitoba, 1991.
- Bachelor of Arts, Geography Major, University of Winnipeg, 1977.
- Over 35 years progressive experience in soil/land management, public land policy and land use planning in the public sector.
- Most recently has served as the Special Assistant to the Minister of Agriculture for the Province of Manitoba.
- On April 5, 2018, has founded Schindler & Associates which focuses this wealth of experience on facilitating sustainability and profitability solutions for government, non-governmental agencies and the private sector.



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**MICHAEL VAN WALLEGHEM, P.AG. (AKA MICKVAN)**



My substantive position is a Compliance and Enforcement Officer for Health Canada’s Pesticide Compliance Program (PCP). I have worked in the Federal Government since 2000 and previously in the Private Sector for 15 years in both corporate leadership capacities and as an entrepreneurial developer (Innovan Enterprises).

I earned two Bachelor degrees from the University of Manitoba; first in Agricultural Sciences and then in Business Commerce (Honours). I am a Professional Agrologist (P.Ag.) and a member of the Manitoba Institute of Agrologists. I have also been founding member of a number of industry associations such as the; Manitoba’s Environmental Industry Association, Canadian Environmental Technology Advancement Corporation, Eco-Canada, Manitoba’s Bed Bug Consortium, and now working on gaining access to Zebra Mussel control in Manitoba and western Canada.

I live on a small hobby farm on the LaSalle River with my family and dogs, horses and a donkey. My passions include making wines, sausages, and cheeses and enjoying many outdoor activities such as fishing, cutting wood, and riding horses, quads and snowmobiles. I am an avid Internet researcher on any, and many, topics of interest that I (previously) didn’t know. I do not have any “shows” to watch on TV.

**KARIN WITTENBERG, PH.D., P.AG.**



Dr. Karin Wittenberg has a doctorate in Ruminant Nutrition from the University of Manitoba, where she is now Dean, in the Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences. An initiative led by Karin has resulted in the recent establishment of the National Centre for Livestock and the Environment (NCLE) at the University of Manitoba. Completed in 2007, NCLE plays a major role in training and research related to the complex economic, social and environmental issues facing animal agriculture. Undergraduate and graduate students training in this program are highly sought by employers as a result of their field experience and ability to work on large, multi-disciplinary teams. The Centre’s mission is to further the economic and environmental sustainability of integrated livestock and crop production.

Karin also led the concept development, fundraising and construction for the recently opened Bruce D Campbell Farm & Food Discovery Center which features interactive displays and programming to explain the role of science in making food. To date, more than 15,000 visitors have come to the Centre to participate in activities that help them understand current food production in Canada.

Karin’s work as a university academic and professional Agrologist reflects the continuing need to improve economic competitiveness and to address key issues facing animal agriculture. Most recently, she provided a keynote address entitled “Moving toward Prairie Agriculture 2050” at the 10<sup>th</sup> annual Alberta Institute of Agrologists, based on a green paper that considered adaptation and resiliency of Western Canadian food production in light of a changing climate. Wittenberg has been recognized for her contributions by the Canadian Society of Animal Science Award for Excellence in Nutrition and Meat Science in 2004, the YMCA Woman of the Year in Science and Innovation in 2008, the Education award from Manitoba Pork Council in 2009, and a Canadian Society of Animal Science fellowship award in 2013.

Karin’s research has focused on the plant and animal interface with more than 200 publications. This includes technology development to improve harvest and storage of forages as hay and silage; the study of animal energetics in grazing systems and application of novel technologies to allow us to estimate greenhouse gas emissions from cattle in commercial production systems.

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### **YILAN ZHANG, PH.D., MBA, P.AG.**



Yilan has been passionate about agriculture from the time she was a teenager! She has studied Plant Protection (BSc.) and Pest Management (MSc. level) in China before moving to Canada. She came to Canada to do her Master's degree in Plant Pathology at the University of Manitoba (MSc. 2004). She later received her Master's in Business Administration (MBA) from the University of Manitoba in 2009.

Yilan has worked in the agriculture, biotech and business sector for over 12 years. She managed a \$10M national agricultural research program (Growing Forward - Science Cluster 2010-2013) and coordinated with multiple stakeholders including grower groups, government and research institutes during her role as Crop Production Research Manager at Canola Council of Canada. She has a strong background and knowledge of canola agronomics and regulatory affairs related to international trade (SPS, biotech traits, etc.). She is currently with the Canola Trait&Pipeline Delivery in Monsanto Global Breeding organization co-managing the site's greenhouse operations, contract staff, QMS (Quality Management System ISO 9001:2008) and ESH (Environment, Safety and Health) to deliver the next generation Roundup Ready canola.

Yilan has also specialized in developing and assessing business plans to commercialize new technologies and to conduct business development. She has participated in five international business plan competitions during her MBA study, and won the Outstanding Written Plan in Global MOOT Corp Business Plan Competition in Texas, USA in 2009 representing a new venture team. She has successfully co-founded and managed a non-profit dance school and a local Montessori School (daycare center) in Winnipeg, MB.

Yilan has served on the Audit Committee (2016-present) and Ownership Linkage Committee (2013) of MIA, and served on the Board of Directors of a non-profit cultural arts group in Winnipeg, Manitoba for more than ten years. She will bring the provincial council her combined knowledge and experience in science and business, her experience on boards, and her devotion to serving the community and the agriculture industry.