

DEB OAKMAN

Recommended

Contact Information

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 [watch Deb's video statement](#)

Raised in BC, I have family and friends in communities served by the newly merged Coastal Community and Integris credit unions. With nine years of experience as a credit union director, I can offer stability during this time of change. I value continuity and long-term vision, monitoring emerging system risks and strategic opportunities. I look forward to serving on the board and believe my experience, education, knowledge, and passion for BC communities will benefit members. If re-elected, I will explore initiatives that enhance financial health, grow membership, advance Indigenous banking, and promote social purpose for the good of all members.

Work/Professional Experience

- D. Oakman Consultant: Provincial and local government interim and project-based facilitation, leadership, and management services (2017 – 2024)
- Comox Valley (Strathcona) Regional District: Progressive leadership roles and responsibilities: Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), General Manager of Corporate Services, Chief Financial Officer, Deputy Treasurer (1994 – 2017)
- North Island 9-1-1 Corporation: Progressive leadership to CAO/Corporate Secretary
- Comox-Strathcona Regional Hospital District: Progressive leadership to CAO
- Provincial Government: Ministry of Forests, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Family and Children Services (before 1994)

Experience in a Complex Regulatory Environment; Establishing Goals; Approving Major Financial Decisions

Throughout my career, I've worked with diverse teams and skillsets. I've collaborated with fire departments to build new fire halls; worked with engineers to close landfills and set up monitoring plans; partnered with joint provincial, local, and regional committees to establish a property tax that helped build two new hospitals; reviewed draft policies with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs; and helped resolve a historic, complex sewer dispute. My focus now is to work with the newly merged board to develop strategic plans, evaluate business cases, and approve both annual and long-term financial plans, while keeping the regulatory environment in mind.

Experience in Lending Expertise (Retail & Commercial); Balance Sheet Management /Treasury; Audit & Financial Management; Enterprise Risk Management; Insurance

Over the past nine years, I've expanded my board knowledge and expertise, particularly in governing within the BC credit union financial sector. Whether or not I'm assigned to a specific board committee, I make it a point to review the regular management reports on the credit union's risk factors in each area. I carefully assess all risk categories by comparing current risk levels to the board's established tolerance levels. I also had the opportunity to serve on the Insurance subsidiary, where I was elected Chair in my final year.

Background in Strong Governance

My mix of experience and education gives me a strong grasp of a director's role and responsibilities. I currently serve as a board member and have previously worked as an executive leader supporting boards for regional districts, regional hospital districts, municipalities, and the North Island 9-1-1 Corporation. My governance experience is further demonstrated by my service on the Provincial Treasury Board for the Ministry of Health, contributing to oversight of the Campbell River and Comox Valley Hospital development project. These roles have reinforced my dedication to advocating for communities of all sizes and ensuring member interests are represented and addressed.

How My Values Align with Coastal Community Credit Union

I joined a credit union very young, inspired by the principle of members helping members, treating everyone with respect and fairness. Working as a professional accountant strengthened my commitment to transparency, equity, and inclusion, and to making a positive impact on people and communities. Nine years ago, I first considered running for election because I shared the values of the credit union system. Today, I feel even more connected to those values and dedicated to improving financial health for all members. As an advocate of cooperative principles and lifelong learning, I encourage others to pursue continuous personal and professional development.

Relevant Education/Designations

- Accredited Canadian Credit Union Director (ACCUD)
- Audit Committee Certification
- Chartered Professional Accountant

Community Experience

I am an appointed public member of the Audit Committee for School District 71; my main role is collaborating with the committee to approve the external audit plan and annual financial statements. In my free time, I'm passionate about coordinating purpose-built equestrian recreational campsites and trails across northern Vancouver Island, working in partnership with Recreation Sites and Trails BC. Over past years, I've volunteered as project manager for rehabilitating more than 40kms of a trail corridor, a project funded by the Provincial Government to support communities through the Rural Economic Diversification and Infrastructure Program.

Other Experience, Competencies or Life Skills

Volunteering has always been a big part of my life, especially when it comes to leading projects for recreational trail development and maintenance that respect First Nations traditional lands, the forest resource sector, provincial goals, and community needs. I'm proud to have been recognized for these efforts, receiving the Volunteer of the Year award from Horse Council BC (2015) and from the Back Country Horsemen of BC Society (2024).