



DIANE BYFORD
Cranbrook

Start Date: 2013
Term Completed: 2023

Meetings attended: 35 of 35

Merger Discussion meetings attended: 2

Committees:
Conduct Review
Investment and Lending – Chair
Audit

Compensation Paid (including stipend and travel time): \$5,425.00

Expenses (including training and travel costs): \$573.00

Career: Heritage Resource Officer/
Consultant

Education: B.A. in Social Anthropology

Credit Union Director Achievement Program (CUDA) program completed - Levels A, B, C

Directorships (personal): Past director Cranbrook Garden Club, Kootenay Country Fair, Festival of the Performing Arts, City of Cranbrook Heritage Advisory Council and SD5 PAC

Credit union member since: 1984

MORE ABOUT DIANE...

If you had to pick a metaphor for credit unions, gardening is likely in the top five. Just like gardeners, credit unions work to plant the seeds of well-being in their local community, and, with love and care, they help nurture those seeds into nourishing fruit for the benefit of the community. But before the metaphor begins comparing credit union members to plants, it's time to introduce an actual gardener who volunteers with East Kootenay Community Credit Union, that being Diane Byford.

As a UBC Vancouver alumni, specializing in Social Anthropology, Diane has led a career dedicated to preserving and interpreting local and regional heritage sites and history. From her time as the Visitor Services Manager for Fort Steele Heritage Town, to her work as a Curator for the National Exhibition Center in Castlegar, it is safe to say that regional heritage sites have benefited from Diane's commitment.

As a Board Member for EKC, Diane brings her passion for heritage and gardening with her as she works to support her community. If you were to ask her what EKC's role in the community is, she would probably tell you that as a co-op, a credit union can play a significant role in giving young people the opportunity to earn a living locally, instead of having to leave town to find work. In other words, by nurturing the community's economic potential, EKC is able to foster growth that has local results, making local communities more attractive for our youth.

Diane's love for gardening has made her a passionate supporter of local agriculture. She buys local, grows her own food, and supports local restaurants and grocery stores that do the same. In retirement, Diane plans to develop an unused acre of land into a fully productive farm, contributing to food sustainability in the Kootenays. With experience like hers, Diane is looking forward to mentoring the next generation of credit union supporters as they put down their own roots in the Kootenays.



Don Holt, Diane and Jody Burk, CEO (pre-COVID image)