



# BC RUGBY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

### TONY PAYNE - PRESIDENT

Tony is a seasoned executive with over 20+ years of experience in Information Technology, Audit, Finance, and Business Operations in the private and public sectors. Tony brings an innovative, well-aligned perspective, and leadership style that ensures successful stakeholder relationships and enables the digital transformation of organizations.

In addition, he currently serves on the BC Rugby Finance Committee. As a Board of Director, both from professional ICD.D designation as well as experience on governance and operational boards positions, Tony hopes to contribute to the future continued success of BC Rugby.

"Rugby is not just a sport. It is in my blood." Tony brings passion and experience across multiple countries, Clubs, and provinces to contribute to BC Rugby. Tony started playing Rugby at the age of 7, and continued to play school and Club Rugby, and then transitioned to Seniors and Masters level. In addition, he played Rugby in South Africa, Edmonton, Alberta and now in Victoria, BC. This allowed him to bring multi-country levels of knowledge and perspective to the organization. As an active player and member of Ebb Tide, Tony can represent both Club rugby and BC Rugby to the fullest.

### THERESA WEEKS - VICE PRESIDENT (GOVERNANCE)

Theresa Weeks brings years of leadership experience in the public health sector and a decade-long record of accomplishment in board governance for non-profit and athletic organizations.

Throughout her time serving on boards, she has gained valuable experience managing finances and building positive relationships with community partners and stakeholders. Her passion for Rugby and belief in its unique power to unite individuals and communities underscore her dedication to the sport.

The sport of Rugby provides young people and adults alike with life skills such as teamwork, reliance, and leadership. As a mom of two Rugby kids, she has seen up-close how grassroots





support of Rugby at the school and Club levels is the lifeblood of our sport. With a commitment to inclusivity and diversity and a background in mental health, she is keen on expanding the reach of the game among communities and finding ways to best support our athletes.

### **NISHANT NEREYETH – VICE PRESIDENT (FINANCE)**

Nishant Nereyeth brings over 10 years of rugby administration experience across India, USA, and Canada. He migrated to North America to study Sport Management at UMass Amherst and has since found himself completely at home in North Vancouver. He is currently the Director, Operations & Marketing at Major League Rugby (MLR) and has been the competition director for the past 6 seasons. His multipronged role also means that he leads various key strategic projects such as the MLR Championship. His previous rugby roles include starting the NY Ironworkers - New York's first professional rugby team, working in the events department at USA Rugby, and working as a Regional Development Officer for Rugby India.

Given the impact that it has had on his own life, Nishant has always been an advocate for sport's unique ability to educate, empower, and connect people - none more so than Rugby. He is most passionate about finding ways to spread the game beyond the existing, die-hard rugby fanbase by growing participation, engagement, and funding. When he isn't working on rugby, you can find him playing it as an active member of the Capilano Rugby Club. On the somewhat rare occasions that he isn't occupied with the game he enjoys spending time in the great outdoors of British Columbia - hiking, biking, paddleboarding, or skiing - with his wife, Mihira, and dog, Jinka.

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### **BOB STRACHAN – PAST PRESIDENT**

Bob Strachan brings a wealth of experience and passion for the sport, having served as BC Rugby President for the past two years and BC Rugby Vice President (Finance & Administration) since 2019. As a respected leader and advocate for the development of Rugby in BC, Bob will oversee the transition to Andy as a Past President.

Bob has been passionate about sports and community since his youth. After excelling in several sports, Rugby became his passion. He played, coached, volunteered and ultimately led fundraising as VP of Junior Rugby for the Vancouver Island Rugby Union. His teams of choice were UVIC and Castaway Wanderers RFC.



Bob is a seasoned business professional with a distinguished career as a CPA and Chartered Director, specializing in organizational governance and setting strategic direction. His work has extended across a wide range of organizations, from large professional national groups to provincial Not-for-Profit organizations. He's served on several Boards including Chair, CPA Canada and at Camosun College & Royal Roads. He's active within the Canadian accounting profession including recent unification of the profession and contributing to emerging standards for corporate governance.

## **JASON PENALUNA**

Jason Penaluna is a former B.C. resident, now residing in Washington, who grew up as a grateful product of BC Rugby. His Rugby career began at St. Michaels University School and progressed through the Vancouver Island and BC youth representative ranks, The University of Victoria, James Bay RFC and, eventually, the Canadian Rugby Union system culminating in selection to the 1995 World Cup squad.

His playing career took him overseas, in the mid to late 90s, where he played professionally in England and then to the United States where he played for and attended Life Chiropractic College. He and his wife, Marisa, reside in Edmonds, Washington, where they have run a Functional Neurology and Brain Injury rehabilitation practice for the last 20 years, while working with local professional teams as a consultant and sports physician.

Jason spends his off time coaching local, youth, high performance rugby in Washington, but has wanted to direct his rugby time resources back home for some time now to honour those who supported him. He intends to bring his practice experience to the board to help continue to grow ideas around player welfare, performance and injury support, player pathway clarity as well as to get more feet in boots.

## **PATRICK FULLERTON**

Patrick is a prosecutor for the provincial government and has over 18 years working with the criminal justice system as defense counsel and Crown prosecutor. He is involved with advocating in the courts to judges and juries, reviewing materials to determine whether police investigations meet the BC Prosecution Service charge assessment standard, communicating with a wide array of justice system stakeholders and organizing materials to take into court with an eye to persuasion.

He grew up in the Lower Mainland and was introduced to Rugby in high school which led to the BC Games and rep teams for North Fraser Valley. Now, Patrick is a committed fan of the



local game with having a child who plays and another who intends to play and sees how Rugby is an important activity for communities.

Patrick looks to assist and support BC Rugby to grow the game in the province and promote the sport as safe and inclusive. "Rugby in BC has a long and storied history. I want to be a part of its next chapters".

## **HARIN KALUARATCHI**

Harin is the Vice President of Mid-Market Commercial Banking for Vancouver and Victoria at BMO, where he leads a team focused on supporting mid-sized businesses with strategic financial solutions. Since joining BMO in 2011, Harin has held progressively senior roles across commercial and business banking.

Prior to BMO, he worked with RBC after earning his MBA in Asset Management from Simon Fraser University. Before his professional career in banking, Harin was an international rugby player for Sri Lanka, representing the country in prestigious tournaments including the Commonwealth Games and the Asian Rugby Championship. Rugby has been a lifelong passion and continues to be a key part of his identity.

Harin brings a unique blend of high-performance sport and corporate leadership experience to the BC Rugby Board. With deep insights into strategic planning, stakeholder engagement, and community development, he is committed to supporting BC Rugby's vision of growing the game across the province. His leadership in community initiatives and DEI advocacy aligns with BC Rugby's goals of inclusion, growth, and sustainable success on and off the field.

## **TIM MURDY**

Tim Murdy brings an exceptional depth of experience to BC Rugby. Currently serving as Athletic Director and Teacher at Shawnigan Lake School, his extensive career in education and sports leadership has seen him positively impact numerous school Rugby programs including Carson Graham, West Van and Rockridge. Tim's long list of accomplishments and awards includes winning multiple championships at the club and high school level, Rugby Canada's Lifetime Achievement Award and the CAAAA Dave Rozdeba Award as the Canadian Athletic Director of the Year.

As a lifelong advocate and contributor to Rugby, Tim's deep roots in the BC Rugby community include recognition as an Honorary Lifetime Member of Capilano RFC, and his



induction into the BC Rugby Hall of Fame. His playing days were marked by representing the UBC Thunderbirds, BC and Canada. As well, Tim has coached both Provincial and National teams, reflecting his commitment and excellence on and off the field.

Tim approaches his current role with BC Rugby with a passion to give back to the sport that has given him so much. "I am coming into this with no agenda, other than a desire to help wherever needed in this new role. Obviously, given my history with BC Rugby, I want to see the sport thrive and grow at the grassroots level while also building and further developing our elite coach and player pathways."

