

## **Daphane Nelson**

Candidate, British Columbia

### **CANDIDATE STATEMENT**

Daphane Nelson has lived, worked and played in vast and unceded Secwepemcul'ecw, the land of the Secwépemc people, for the majority of her life.

Ms. Nelson is not just a consultant, she is a catalyst for change.

With the incorporation of CoActive Developments Worker Co-op in September 2022 focusing on business conversion to worker cooperatives, she hopes to leave a lasting impact on the Canadian cooperative system.

Daphane believes that when people come together with a shared vision, a democratic process and built in cooperative principles great things can be achieved.

Daphane introduces herself as an idealistic community builder because she loves her community and is passionate about finding innovative ways to solve difficult social and economic development issues using the cooperative model.

As a current member of CoActive Developments Worker Co-op and Secretary on the CoopZone board, she is seeking election to the Canadian Worker Cooperative Federation board to liaise with both organizations and encourage continued evolution of the Canada-wide cooperative movement.

### **ABOUT DAPHANE NELSON**

Starting her career in 2005, as a commercial lender, Daphane learned the most conservative approach to business analysis. Through questioning management practices and robust financial analysis, risk was strictly managed which was challenging for business owners during the 2008 economic crisis. It struck her that not everyone had the same opportunity for success, and as a volunteer on the Community Futures loan committee, Daphane learned that Community Futures seek to equalize imbalance.

She found social impact lending to be a pleasant experience, incorporating a client's character and history within a community and illuminating the human side to businesses lending. This application of financial analysis led her to seek opportunities with other purpose-driven organizations to provide much needed balance to her work-life.



Over the seven years a director with Interior Savings Credit Union (ISCU) Daphane achieved designations as an accredited Credit Union Director and a Governance Professional of Canada, attesting to her notable experience with board governance as well as her commitment to lifelong learning. During the onboarding process with ISCU in 2016, Ms. Nelson became enthralled by the cooperative model and has been amassing a knowledge base on the topic since then. She embarked upon the online two-year Advanced Cooperative Development course through CoopZone Developer's Network Cooperative, from which she graduated in June 2020, and is now the secretary and governance chair for that board.

With the incorporation of CoActive Developments Worker Co-op in September 2022, her focus on business succession planning through transition to worker-owned enterprises has allowed her to emphasize the benefits of collaborative decision-making, shared values, and equitable practices. The icing on the cake is the owner's legacy of an employee-owned business, allowing them to retire comfortably knowing their achievement has been left in good hands.