

Small Business Council member spotlight

Dee Dhaliwal, Publisher, *Vancouver Courier* and *WestEnder*

Q: What is success to you?

Success is setting a goal as a team and having fun achieving it. An important by-product needs to be personal growth for everyone on the team.

Q: What is one of your accomplishments that you are most proud of?

One area is my own commitment to give back to the community – I have a variety of causes that I have volunteered with and as clichéd as it sounds – every time I donate my time I feel as though I get more out of the experience that I have given. The other is the people that I have worked with and that have gone on to accomplish great things. It is a real pleasure to watch people grow and accomplish all that they should and to play a part in that – however small.

Q: What do you love about Vancouver?

I love the sense of community

pride that exists in each of the different neighbourhoods, and the communities of interest that Vancouver seems to create so easily – just look at the number of meetups that are planned for anything and everything. There is a desire to connect in this city and that creates a wonderful backdrop for establishing new and innovative businesses and I love hearing about those and meeting the founders.

Q: What advice do you have for small business owners?

Have your goals written down. Plan with your team. Help your team outgrow the roles they are in. Give back to the community. Rinse and repeat.

Q: What charities/causes do you support?

There have been hundreds of causes that I have supported through my roles in local media, but I have given a lot of personal time to: Lions Gate Hospital Foun-

dation; Chamber of Commerce boards, and currently am helping with Kitsilano Neighbourhood House and HAVE Society.

Q: What has been your favourite experience with The Vancouver Board of Trade?

I have been really impressed with the Leaders of Tomorrow program. It shows a commitment to improving Vancouver's economy and being prepared to do the tough work of mentoring and preparing young people to take a role in creating opportunities for themselves and others.

Q: Who is your role model and why?

Richard Branson. He has an ability to identify and nurture entrepreneurs on his staff and he has the ability to let them run their own businesses under his brand umbrella. It has allowed Virgin to go from selling albums and CDs to vodka and wedding gowns. His other qualities I admire are his sense of adventure and willingness to try things that he and Virgin could fail at — and his sense of fun.



Dee Dhaliwal

On the move

VBOT transportation committee co-chair joins Global Public Affairs

Long-time member and co-chair of **The Vancouver Board of Trade's** Metro Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, **Marian Robson**, has landed a new position with **Global Public Affairs**, Canada's largest independently-owned public affairs consultancy.

The firm recently announced Robson had joined its Transportation, Infrastructure and Communities practice as Senior Associate. She was previously the B.C. Senior Associate with True North Public Affairs, an Ottawa-based consultancy which has merged its operations with Global.

Based in Vancouver, Robson brings a rich professional background and multi-modal expertise to Global. Amongst her previous senior leadership roles in the transportation sector over the past 40 years, Marian served as Chair and CEO of the **Canada**

Transportation Agency, the body responsible for economic regulation of all modes of transport under federal jurisdiction (1996-2006).

Earlier in her career, Robson was Chair of the **Vancouver Port Corporation**. She also held senior management positions with **British Columbia Railway** and **CN**. At the federal level, she was Industry Assistant to the Minister of Transport.



Marian Robson

Robson continues to be actively involved in the local Vancouver community, contributing to national and regional policy discussions about a wide range of transportation and trade issues. She currently serves as Chair of the Pacific Chapter of the **Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport, North America** (CILTNA) and as co-chair of The Vancouver Board of Trade's Metro Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

The Vancouver Board of Trade

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