

The Notary Foundation

MEET THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS *Profile: C. Keri Martens*



Born in Abbotsford, Keri Martens has lived in other areas of the province—Port McNeil, Nanaimo, Terrace, Prince Rupert, Kelowna, and Vancouver; she attended private school in Saskatchewan for grades 11 and 12. She has a twin brother.

A former legal assistant, in 1983, Keri was working on a Criminology degree at SFU, with plans to attend law school. After a personal diversion, she decided to qualify as a Notary Public. “It appeared to be an excellent career, in every way,” Keri says.

In 1985 she chose to open her practice in Coquitlam “because I had lived in the area for several years, and had quite a few contacts here in the banking and real estate industries.”

For Keri, the best part of being a BC Notary is serving clients’ noncontentious legal needs. “I enjoy helping my clients, especially those who are a little uneasy.

I enjoy spending extra time with new clients, to ensure they know I am here to represent them, and that their work will be performed in a timely and professional manner.”

Keri is honoured to have served as a Director for the Foundation for seven years. “I enjoy the Board meetings; it’s an opportunity to meet with my colleagues, and administer Grants to various legal educational organizations in the various communities in British Columbia. The Board also helps finance the Education program of The Society of Notaries, and provides funding to the Legal Aid Society of BC. Her years on the Foundation have afforded her the opportunity to attend International Union of Latin Notaries Congresses in Amsterdam, Cartagena, Berlin, and Buenos Aires. Due to the global upheaval after Sept. 11, she unfortunately missed the 2001 Conference in Athens.

A member of the Coquitlam Chamber of Commerce and a former Rotarian, Keri gives back to her community through working with families whose lives have been affected by the disease of alcoholism and addiction.

She lives with her two children. As tutor and mentor, she likes to help with their university studies, and generally spend time together as a family. Her hobbies include gardening, reading, playing bridge, entertaining and going to movies with family and friends, hiking, and travelling (most recently, to Nepal). Her goal is to visit all the continents before retirement. ▲

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The 12-member Board of Governors of The Notary Foundation is comprised of:

- eight members of the Board of Directors of The Society of Notaries Public of BC;
- one representative from the Attorney General’s office in Victoria;
- two Directors-at-Large, appointed by the Attorney General; and
- the Executive Officer.

The eight members from The Society are elected by the Directors of The Society from among their ranks, for a three-year period.

Current Governors

Ken Sherk: Chair
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Robert Adamson: AG’s representative
Jennifer L. Harry: Director-at-Large
Eleanor Sleath: Director-at-Large

The Governors of The Foundation have the responsibility of guiding The Foundation in its mandate to disperse the funds generated by interest on Notaries’ Trust Accounts for the following purposes.

1. Legal education
2. Legal research
3. Legal aid

4. Educational and continuing education for Notaries and applicants for enrollment as Notaries
5. Establishing, operating, and maintaining law libraries in BC
6. Contributions to the special fund established under the *Notaries Act of BC*.

G. W. (Wayne) Braid, Executive Officer of The Foundation, is responsible for administration of the office, staff, and the diverse investment funds of The Foundation.

The Board of Governors meets quarterly to consider applications for funding from various organizations, to set policy, review The Foundation’s financial status, and provide direction for the administration of The Foundation.