

Alberta Central

BIG FUTURE

Innovation Grant

Big Future Judges

Jill Belland

Co-Owner
Barre Belle and The Belle Bod
online fitness program

Canadian TV Personality

As a born and raised Albertan, Belland began fitness studio Barre Belle in Calgary after a successful 20-year career as TV host and producer at CityTV Calgary. She will apply her entrepreneurial spirit and knowledge of the Alberta business landscape to her judging role for the Big Future Innovation Grant.

“It’s great to see an opportunity like the Big Future Innovation Grant be offered to countless businesses in Alberta,” said Belland. “We have certainly had to apply innovative thinking to pivot our business amidst this uncertain year, and I’m looking forward to seeing how other Alberta-based businesses are doing the same.”



Loree Gray

Chief Strategy
Transformation and People Officer
Alberta Central

Loree is passionate about driving transformational change: building highly engaged and productive teams, partnerships and networks are some of her favourite things. As Chief Strategy, Transformation and People Officer, Loree leads transformation at Alberta Central by implementing the methodologies, programs and processes needed to help achieve our vision.

Loree has 30 years of experience in financial services, spanning a wide range of roles including retail banking, wealth management, insurance and operations. Most recently, as President and CEO of the Vehicle Sales Authority of B.C., Loree was responsible for the regulatory body that administers and enforces the legislation governing personal vehicle sales in the province. Her leadership experience across industries and provinces provides value to the credit union system, something she is enthusiastic about supporting.

“To me, innovation is all about creating value for customers and value is something customers will pay for. This is critical to any small business model: identifying a need and producing a solution that customers will see as value added. And its not a one time event - it requires constant focus in order to remain relevant.”

Loree has a BA from the University of British Columbia and has since done certifications with the Institute of Canadian Bankers, the Canadian Institute of Financial Planning, Canadian Securities institute and Lean Sensei International. She has served as BC Chair for the Loran Scholarship Foundation since 2012 and as assessor/interviewer since 2006. She currently sits as Director on the Coast Mental Health Society Board and is chair of the Operational Performance committee.



Brett Oland

CEO,
Bow Valley Credit Union

Brett Oland is the CEO of Bow Valley Credit Union that operates in the trade areas of Banff, Canmore, Calgary, Airdrie and Cochrane.

Brett was elected to Alberta Central's board of directors in April 2014 and was chair of Alberta Central's board from 2016-2019 and is currently serving as vice-chair. He brings a wealth of knowledge from his days in a senior management role at Canadian Western Bank and working with other financial institutions in Alberta and in the Cayman Islands.

“Small business is essential to the progression of Alberta. Innovation is a necessity in today's economic and political environment, to get ahead of global competition. By supporting innovation, it may just give small business the grassroots funding required to drive success for the future generations of Alberta. “

Brett holds an ICD.D designation for the Institute of Corporate Directors, is a Chartered Professional Accountant and gained extensive experience working with many industries while articling with PricewaterhouseCoopers in Calgary. Brett also holds a Bachelor of Commerce from the University of Calgary.

Brett is an avid outdoor enthusiast and takes advantage of the being in the mountains with his family at every opportunity.



Nathan Charrois

Senior Relationship Manager
Servus Credit Union

Nathan is a Senior Relationship Manager with Servus Credit Union. Nathan has been actively managing business banking portfolios for over 8 years and has been a part of the Credit Union System for 13. Nathan is active in employee groups and is the current Chairperson of the Emerging Leaders of Alberta program which fosters leadership development of Credit Union employees from across the province.

Nathan is also passionate about Diversity, Inclusion, Equity, and Belonging and is an active member of his Credit Unions Diversity & Inclusion Council.

“Innovation allows businesses to adapt and pivot in different environments. In today’s ever-changing and demanding economic and social markets, a business has to be able to think and move quickly. If a business is truly innovative, they should and would handle challenges better than their competition, allowing them to be more desirable by investors and customers alike. “

In his free time during the summer, Nathan enjoys running, playing fast ball, and spending time with friends and family outdoors. In the winter months, Nathan enjoys curling and skiing in the mountains