

Jill Zinszer

Why are you interested in joining our board?

Accessibility to healthy organic foods should be a top priority for all communities. I would like to be involved with the decision-making processes that help guide the Co-op to grow in a healthy and prosperous way and to further sustain food security among our local growers and community members. As the corporatization of food systems increases, I believe the role of the Co-op is ever more important, and I want to be an integral part of this vital community hub as it supports the longevity of our resilient and thriving town.

What do you see as the most important role of our Co-op in our community, now and in the future?

Helping to establish and maintain food security is the most important role of the Co-op in our community. This includes providing healthy, nutritious, and affordable food to our community members. In the future, I believe that the Co-op could help provide greater food security to our community through helping support of our local growers and food makers, whether through financial support, grant initiatives etc. Furthermore, I see that the Co-op can be a huge resource in educating the community on Laws or Bylaws that help or hinder products that the Co-op supports (for example, the Co-op's education around Bill C-224)

What personal values will you bring to our board?

Integrity, ethical leadership, and accountable collaboration are skills and personal values that I will bring to the board. Personally, I value and will bestow authenticity and have the courage to ask tough and challenging questions. Of significant importance are commitment, hard work, and diligence which I bring to all facets of my life. I also have deep reverence for land stewardship and environmental sustainability, which I impart in all decision-making processes.

Occupation (current and/or former)

Massage therapist and acupuncturist

How will your personal or professional skills and experience benefit our Co-op?

Being a Nelson resident for the past 20 years and business owner for the past 16 years, I understand the ever-changing dynamics of our thriving town and how businesses must adapt to the changing needs of our community. I have strong skills in community collaboration, problem solving, authentic relating, and much human resource experience. Health is one of my greatest passions as it is my number one priority and I understand the direct correlation between healthy food and a healthy body.

Do you have experience in the areas that the board seeks this year - HR, law, leadership?

Through the experience of being a self-employed business owner for the past 16 years, I have enhanced my professional skills in problem solving, self reliance, marketing, client relations, community collaboration and leadership.

Environmental stewardship is of utmost importance to me as the health of the environment is directly correlated to the health of community. I have much experience in land stewardship and engaging in community collaboration for environmental initiatives.

What skills or experience do you have in working cooperatively or collaboratively?

I am currently holding the roles of secretary and treasurer of the Blewett Community Society's board of directors and am having direct experience in understanding roles and responsibilities of being on a board. It has been an enriching

experience working in collaboration with other board members as well as the community at large. Working at Stepping Stones and as well, working as an active travel guide, I have worked in close collaboration with a wide range of colleagues which has helped refine direct communication and team building skills that were necessary to be a part of a healthy working environment.

