

Todd Johnston

Why are you interested in joining our board?

I'm interested in joining the board because the Kootenay Co-op is a strong example of how a community-owned organization can advance local resilience, sustainability, and shared prosperity. As a Co-op member and Nelson resident, I'd value the opportunity to contribute my experience in program development, partnership building, and public-sector governance to support the Co-op's continued evolution and success.

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

I see the Co-op's most important role as strengthening a resilient local food system – one that supports producers using regenerative practices while improving long-term food security for the community. Looking ahead, I think the Co-op can deepen that role by expanding investment in local and value-added supply chains, while also advancing affordability through practical measures such as expanded bulk staples and efficient product sourcing. Supporting sustainability and accessibility together will help ensure the Co-op remains relevant to the needs of the members and the community at large

What personal values will you bring to our board?

I would bring values of environmental stewardship, integrity, transparency, respectful collaboration, and thoughtful innovation. In my professional work, these values guide how I build partnerships, communicate clearly, and work through complex issues in a practical, solutions-focused way.

Occupation (current and/or former)

Environmental Coordinator

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

My background in environmental science, program management, and local government would benefit the Co-op in several ways. Over 18 years in public-sector roles, I've worked in policy development, contract and financial management, stakeholder engagement, board reporting, and partnership building. I've led projects, supported regulatory and operational improvements, and communicated complex issues clearly to staff, partners, the public, and decision-makers. I believe those skills would help me contribute thoughtfully to governance, strategic planning, and community-focused decision-making at the Co-op.

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

My strongest experience in these areas is in leadership and regulatory/policy work. I've held leadership roles as a team supervisor and nonprofit manager, and I completed the 10-month Leadership Victoria program. In my current local government role, I help amend and implement bylaws in alignment with provincial and federal requirements, and I support staff in interpreting and applying that framework. I bring a collaborative leadership style grounded in listening, accountability, clear communication, and practical problem-solving.

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

Collaboration has been central to my professional work. I've worked across divisions, municipalities, contractors, regulators, and community partners, often with different priorities and working cultures. I've found that effective cooperation depends on active listening, authentic effort to understand others' perspectives, finding common ground, and

communicating context on my position. I try to approach collaborative work with flexibility, respect, and a focus on shared outcomes. Whether coordinating with operational contractors or working through everyday family decisions, I value the give-and-take needed to build trust and move forward productively.

