



Our Board of Directors

Our Board of Directors oversees the strategic direction of NBIS, and helps us form community partnerships that support our Peer Support, Education, and Navigator Programs. We are grateful for their dedication. Learn more about becoming a [NBIS Board Member](#).

[tom.jpg](#)



Tom Grauman, President

Tom has had a lifetime involvement with non-profits, both as a social worker and board member. Until he retired a year ago, he was the Executive Director of Columbian Centre Society. He has taught at universities in Canada, the United States, and México. Tom and his wife Wendy have three grown children and have called Nanaimo home for 13 years. He has been helping NBIS for more than a year to enhance its governance policies and practices.

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Wendy Pratt, Vice President

Wendy Pratt joined the NBIS board in December 2018 and comes with in-depth experience of the non-profit world including client based volunteering, board/governance work, and administration. She finished her career after 15 years as Executive Director of Nanaimo Community Hospice during which time she served for 8 years on the boards of the BC and the Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Associations. She was also President of the Vancouver island Federation of Hospices for 6 years and chaired many local working groups related to this sector of health care. Wendy is a native daughter of Nanaimo, she has two grown sons and four grandchildren, and is excited to be able to continue to contribute to building a healthy and vibrant community through the work of NBIS.

[heather.jpg](#)



Heather Stadler, Treasurer

Heather Stadler is a retired Human Resources Professional and is committed to volunteering in her community. With over 35 years of experience in the education sector, she gets pleasure in supporting others through her work. Her background has given her a range of leadership, guidance and mentoring skills. She appreciates opportunities to collaborate with others to initiate new balanced programs that streamline business processes.

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Ashleigh Wasner, Secretary

Ashleigh is a Registered Psychiatric Nurse, with training through the Brain Injury Association of America as a Certified Brain Injury Specialist. She is currently the Director of Care for Bill's Place Support Services which provides housing and personalized support to individuals whose lives have been impacted by acquired brain injury. Ashleigh works directly with families, multidisciplinary teams, and individuals with brain injuries ranging from mild to severe. Along with volunteering as a member of the NBIS Board, Ashleigh also presents NBIS's "Understanding Brain Injury" public workshop. When not working and volunteering Ashleigh enjoys spending time outdoors with her husband and four kids.

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Miki Flynn

Miki Flynn is a Registered Clinical Counsellor in private practice. She has experience working in addiction and recovery, brain injury recovery, trauma resolution, grief and loss, and crisis management. Her work in brain injury recovery includes supporting individuals who are attending VIU, returning to work, healing from trauma, and learning new skills for independence. Miki believes that thriving brain injury recovery involves survivors, family, and our community. She also recognizes that recovery is often intertwined with other life factors and does not occur in isolation. In her counselling work, Miki loves supporting clients who are experiencing changes in their lives, and assisting them in moving towards more joy, peace, and passion.

[rick.png](#)



Rick Bevis

Rick Bevis is a Professor in the Faculty of Education at VIU, Nanaimo. He holds a Master's degree in Health Education, Counseling Psychology and Human Performance from Michigan State University. At VIU, Rick leads coursework that focuses on Leadership, Coaching Education and Sport and Physical Activity for individuals of varying ability, and distinct populations. Areas of Community engagement include Sport Psychology consults with emerging elite athletes from a variety of sports, including athletes working to "return to play" after a concussion. Rick has lived in Nanaimo since 1990, and is looking forward to providing support to NBIS and their programs.

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Nicole Smith

Nicole Smith is a partner with Ramsay Lampman Rhodes in Nanaimo, practicing primarily in the area of personal injury law. The majority of Nicole's clients have been involved in accidents, (vehicle or otherwise), that have left them with significant and long-lasting injuries, including brain injuries. In addition to volunteering with Nanaimo Brain Injury Society, Nicole volunteers with Access Pro Bono and she is a coach for the University of Victoria's Client Consultation team (a law school team). She previously served as vice-president of the board of the Nanaimo Child Development Centre.