

2013 International Legislators Forum Biographical Information – Dignitaries

Diane Gray, President and CEO of CentrePort Canada Inc.

Ms. Diane Gray is the founding President and CEO of CentrePort Canada Inc. CentrePort is Canada's first tri-modal inland port and Foreign Trade Zone and encompasses 20,000 acres in the North West quadrant of Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Diane Gray previously worked for the Province of Manitoba from 1995 to 2009 and simultaneously served as Deputy Minister of Finance, Deputy Minister of Federal-Provincial and International Relations, and Deputy Minister of Trade. In December 2010, she was awarded the Lieutenant Governor's Medal for Excellence in Public Administration for Manitoba and in May 2013, awarded the Women of Distinction Award for Management and Leadership.

Ms. Gray currently serves on the boards of Biomedical Commercialization Canada; Manitoba Film and Music; MITACS; the Royal Winnipeg Ballet; the Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters, Manitoba Division; the Canada West Foundation; the Associates of the Asper School of Business; the World Trade Centre Winnipeg; and is a member of the host committee for the 2014 Junos.

Ms. Gray is a graduate of the University of Manitoba's and University of Winnipeg's Joint Masters of Public Administration Program and has an undergraduate degree in political studies from the University of Manitoba.

Scott A. Thomson, President and CEO, Manitoba Hydro

Scott graduated with an HBA from the University of Western Ontario (1986) and obtained his designation as a Chartered Accountant (1988). He worked for Ernst & Young as a management consultant from 1990 through 1999 in London, Vancouver and Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

Scott spent 12 years at Fortis BC Holdings, Inc. and its predecessor companies, most recently as Executive Vice-President Finance, Regulatory Affairs and Energy Supply as well as Chief Financial Officer. In February 2012, Scott started his new role as President and Chief Executive Officer of Manitoba Hydro.

He is a Director on the Boards of the Canadian Electricity Association, the Canadian Gas Association, CIGRE Canada and a number of volunteer boards. He is also a volunteer pilot for Angel Flight of BC.

Scott is married to Dr. Silvia Vidas, TCM, and they have two children.

Paul F. Robson, CEO, Canad Inns

Paul Robson is a native Winnipegger who earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Education at the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks while on a football scholarship.

After graduation, Robson and his wife, Margaret, returned to Winnipeg where, from 1964 to 1972, he played football with the Winnipeg Blue Bombers and taught high school full-time. Retirement from football brought a career change, as Robson became the Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent of Schools in the Transcona Springfield School Division.

In 1974, Robson was offered the job of Assistant Manager of the Bombers, which began his 13-year career as a front office administrator with the Winnipeg Football Club. He became General Manager in 1983. Robson later managed the Ottawa Roughriders. He returned to Winnipeg as Assistant Deputy Minister for Tourism.

A dramatic career change came as Robson was appointed publisher of the Winnipeg Sun in 1990. A year later, the amalgamation of the Sun with Sanford Evans Communications Ltd. added to his responsibilities as Vice President of the company. In yet another career move, Robson was recruited to be CEO of the Red River Exhibition Association (RREA).

The Canadian Association of Fairs and Exhibitions recognized the RREA's achievements by naming Robson "Fair Manager of the Year" in 1995. He has been the Chair of the United Way of Winnipeg, Sport Manitoba, Travel Manitoba, and the vice-chair of the Winnipeg Football Club.

Robson is currently the CEO of Canad Inns, a chain of hotels headquartered in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Canad Inns operates 12 hotel properties in the province of Manitoba and one in the U.S. in the state of North Dakota. Canad Inns also operates restaurants, pubs, nightclubs, water parks, and banquet and conference facilities within its hotel complexes. In 2000, Canad Inns was named one of "Canada's 50 Best Managed Companies." In 2009 and 2010, the Winnipeg Free Press named Canad Inns one of Manitoba's Top 25 Employers.

Timothy L. Cipullo, Consul & Principal Officer, U.S. Consulate, Winnipeg

Tim Cipullo arrived in Winnipeg, Manitoba on August 5, 2011, to take up the post of Consul and Principal Officer at the U.S. Consulate. As such, he is responsible to explain and advance the interests of the United States to the residents of Manitoba, and to report their views and issues to the U.S. Embassy in Ottawa and to Washington. His expected tour of duty is three years.

Mr. Cipullo joined the State Department on September 10, 2001, and has served overseas as a Consular Officer in Chile and a Political Officer in the Philippines, as well as working at the State Department in Washington. His last assignment was as the Environment and Energy Officer in Tokyo, where he was recognized with a Superior Honor Award for his work in the aftermath of the 2011 earthquake, tsunami and nuclear accident.

He speaks Spanish, Japanese and Tagalog.

Born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Tim has lived in Colorado since 1988. He received his M.A. in Economics from the University of Colorado Boulder in 1997 and his M.S. in Computer Information Systems from Colorado State University in 1999. He is married and has two small children.