

Ms. Lynn Lashuk, PAg – one of AIC’s Board of Directors



Lynn Lashuk, PAg was first elected to the AIC Board of Directors in 2010 and has served as the Board’s representative to the Gender Equality Mainstreaming Working Group since that time. Lynn has also served the British Columbia (BC) Institute of Agrologists at the branch and provincial levels in various positions including Director for the Okanagan (2005), Articling Agrologist Coordinator for the Okanagan (2006), Councillor - Alternate for the Okanagan (2007 and 2008), and most recently as Chair of the Communications Committee.

Lynn has also worked on local government advisory committees, roundtables and with non-profit societies in various governance roles.

Lynn’s professional career includes work with the BC Agriculture Council where she administered the Agriculture Environment and Wildlife Fund, the BC Ministry of Agriculture and Lands, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, and various BC agriculture industry associations including the BC Cattlemen’s Association and the BC Fruit Growers Association. Lynn currently works as a Technical Representative for Engage Agro, a company involved in the registration, sales, and marketing of specialized and niche market crop protection products in Canada.

Lynn received a BSc in Plant Biology from the University of Calgary in 1984.

Mentors played a huge part in Lynn’s academic and career choices. Members of the farming and ranching community, especially family and friends, steered Lynn toward agriculture. Growing up in Kamloops, ranching was a big part of life; visits to the family and their orchard operations in the Okanagan rounded out Lynn’s exposure to agriculture. The ranchers and farmers were Lynn’s first mentors!

After high school, Lynn’s journey through post-secondary education had many fits and starts. The mentors during those unsettled years provided a sound foundation of knowledge and job experience; however, exposure to their professions led Lynn in opposite directions from their corporate agriculture or academic (research and teaching) careers. Lynn believes mentors are all around us – they can even be secret mentors -- these are the folks that you admire, that inspire you, and that teach you what you need to learn.

For anyone considering a professional career in agriculture, Lynn would advise them to get an education in an area that they are interested in and from a school where they have a good fit – this might take a few tries to get it right! Lynn believes there is no rush to begin a professional career – gain as much experience in as many different areas as you can – the young professionals Lynn has had the privilege to work with are global thinkers, curious and energetic, with great attitudes. Their world is very different from the world Lynn graduated in, and it is important for them to be able to articulate this new world to the “old school” thinkers who may end up working for them one day!

Lynn thinks it is important to become a professional agrologist if you want to grow your network to include folks working in agriculture and the natural resource fields. Belonging to an Institute will also remind you that you are bound by a Code of Ethics and that there is a commitment to continue to develop professionally. Participating in Branch and Institute activities opens your eyes to issues and

opportunities that can enrich your day-to-day life – and they often get you out of the office and into the field!

Lynn and her partner Russ own and operate a commercial apple orchard in the heart of the District of Lake Country in the rural community of Winfield, British Columbia, just north of the Kelowna Airport. Russ is the full-time farmer; Lynn keeps the farm books and joins the harvest every year. Lynn's off-farm work has been a necessity – like most Canadian small farms. The ability to operate as a small commercial farm in BC is challenging; figuring out a way to do it ultimately means figuring out a way to be profitable, so an off-farm income becomes a part of that calculation!