



## Board of Directors Nomination Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Atty Bressler \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ atty.bressler#wsp.com \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ 780-903-8106 \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_ #20 27320 TWP Rd 534, Spruce Grove, AB T7X 3R9 \_\_\_\_\_

Job Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Environment and Regulatory Discipline Lead \_\_\_\_\_

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_ WSP E&I Canada Limited \_\_\_\_\_

1. Identify the sector you would be representing:

- Government of Alberta
- Other Government (Indigenous, federal, municipal etc.)
- Industry
- Other (including individuals, academia, research, non-government organizations)

2. Describe your professional, volunteer and/or work experience, and describe how it relates to our work.

I am a current board member of AISC, with 25 years experience in environmental consulting as a project manager, group lead and as weed and pest management specialist. I educate and advise clients and fellow colleagues /young professionals on the importance of invasive species management including regulatory requirements and best management practices.

I have been an advocate locally in the Edmonton and surrounding communities helping residents, agfieldmen, and regulators with identifying and control of regulated weeds, including other invasive species (wild boar, whirling disease etc) that I personally encounter. I assist with awareness and provide guidance and direction where possible, and refer to various AISC resources available to our membership and general public.

I come from an agriculture (dairy) background and studied agriculture (B.Sc in Agriculture – minor in animal science, P.Ag), working for an applied agricultural research non-profit group (Gateway Research Organization) in my early career, and still enjoy working with farmers,

agfieldmen and regulators throughout the central Alberta region on crop production, weed control, erosion and conservation farming.

Currently in am a environmental and regulatory team lead and a consulting form (WSP – formerly Wood), working with various existing clients including cities, municipalities, governments (Alberta Transportation), oil and gas, solar, and other private companies. Where possible I enjoy working on integrated pest management programs and assist in awareness. I have been an invited speaker to conferences on regulatory and technical weed invasive species management issues, and guest lecturer for university of Alberta plant science courses, and really enjoy mentoring young professionals.

3. What skills, experience or perspectives would be of particular value to the Alberta Invasive Species Council.

Industry and regulatory experience, agriculture degree, and farming background, vegetation ecologist, rare plant and clubroot pest management specialist.

4. Describe any relevant experience you have involving non-profit Boards, charities, community groups, professional associations, etc.

I have been a AISC board member 2020-2023 and previously worked for non-profit research organization (Gateway Research Organization) and am a member of Alberta Institute of Agrologists (AIA). As such understanding non-profit organizations, funding needs and strategic planning. I have been volunteering locally for various community sports organizations for the past 10+ years as manager/coordinator or coaching functions (soccer, hockey).

5. Tell us why you want to serve on our Board?

Expand my knowledge and experience, willing to contribute expertise to our community and increase awareness of invasive species' impacts on our environment for future generations.

6. Other relevant background or information.

If elected to the AISC Board of Directors, I will adhere to the AISC's Code of Conduct Policy.



## Board of Directors Nomination Form

Name: Neil Ritokoski

Email: neilthebugguy@yahoo.ca

Phone: 780-203-3000

Mailing Address: 8019 22 aveune NW Edmonton AB T6K 1Z2

Job Title: Technical Supervisr

Employer: Ecopest Inx.

1. Identify the sector you would be representing:

- Government of Alberta
- Other Government (Indigenous, federal, municipal etc.)
- Industry
- Other (including individuals, academia, research, non-government organizations)

2. Describe your professional, volunteer and/or work experience, and describe how it relates to our work.

In my work at Ecopest which is a cutting edge Ecofriendly pest control company, I identify arthropods and others of concern and am on constant watch for invasive creatures as especially relates to our work such as the latest tramp ants we have noted in the last few years. I have an insatiable curiosity to study and understand nature in terms of its effect on humans and our effects upon it. My background includes forestry, landscaping, family farm work, fruit farm worker along with a personal interest in biology, entomology, etc. I am attempting on LinkedIn to create a group of individuals both academically, professionally and laypeople interested in environmental concerns including pest control.

3. What skills, experience or perspectives would be of particular value to the Alberta Invasive Species Council.

As outlined above I identify creatures and plants partially for a living and also as a personal hobby. I travel fairly extensively throughout central Alberta for work from North of Athabasca to South of Red Deer West of Drayton Valley (used to be Hinton) to East as far as Lloydminster so I get to observe a large section of the province. I have a keen interest in maintaining populations free of invasive plants and animals.

4. Describe any relevant experience you have involving non-profit Boards, charities, community groups, professional associations, etc.

I am not presently involved in many non-profits or such other than helping at our church. I have my GreenPro and QualityPro certifications as regards pest control, my structural pesticide sprayer license, am a member of the Pest Management Association of Alberta. Several years back before I was so involved with the business of pest control I served on a few citizen committees in Northern Ontario which gave me an understanding of non-profit boards and the structures involved

5. Tell us why you want to serve on our Board?

I wish to serve on the Board as I believe I would be an asset from the industrial sector to help get this sector more involved in invasive creature and plant notification and possibly even control. Also I have a genuine concern as regards effects invasive species may have on several different aspects of our environment and life in general.

6. Other relevant background or information.

I work in several different venues during pest control including government sites, food product sites, academic sites, industrial sites and also residential sites. I deal with a plethora of different places with subtly different views on matters which gives me an opportunity to understand issues related to possible invasive matters from quite a number of different perspectives as to the effects that could be involved.

If elected to the AISC Board of Directors, I will adhere to the AISC's Code of Conduct Policy.

Please send your completed form to [execdirector@abinvasives.ca](mailto:execdirector@abinvasives.ca)



## Board of Directors Nomination Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Nicole Kimmel \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ nicole.kimmel@gov.ab.ca \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_ Office \_\_ 780 427 7791 \_\_\_\_\_ Cell 780 975 3793 \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_ 6<sup>th</sup> Flr Forestry, 9920 108 Street Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2M4 \_\_\_\_\_

Job Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Aquatic Invasive Species Specialist \_\_\_\_\_

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_ Alberta Environment & Protected Areas \_\_\_\_\_

1. Identify the sector you would be representing:

- Government of Alberta
- Other Government (Indigenous, federal, municipal etc.)
- Industry
- Other (including individuals, academia, research, non-government organizations)

2. Describe your professional, volunteer and/or work experience, and describe how it relates to our work.

Nicole Kimmel Received a B.Sc. of Environmental Conservation Sciences from the University of Alberta in 2000 with a Specialization in Wildlife and Rangeland Sciences. She began working with Alberta Agriculture upon graduation, as a research assistant. Her work involved addressing weed management issues in forages and non-traditional crops. After 10 years in agricultural research, her role evolved to Weed Specialist, for an additional 7 years of employment. In 2018, she moved to Environment & Parks as the Aquatic Invasive Species Specialist. There she supports the five elements of the AIS program; Policy & Legislation, Education & Outreach, Monitoring, Watercraft Inspections/Decontamination and Response. Nicole is approaching 23 years of service with the Government of Alberta.

3. What skills, experience or perspectives would be of particular value to the Alberta Invasive Species Council?

I have been fortunate enough to serve as a director on the AISC for the past three years, and I am hoping to be re-elected for a second term.

Previously, I maxed out a 6-year board of director term on AISC in 2018.

Invasive Species has been my life for the last 23 years evolving from weeds to aquatic species.

4. Describe any relevant experience you have involving non-profit Boards, charities, community groups, professional associations, etc.

I sit on numerous international committees in regards to aquatic invasive species and can bring a wealth of insight to those species.

- Provincial-scale invasive species policy, coordination and implementation
- Local-scale creation and implementation of invasive species control plans
- Working relationships and partnerships with NGOs and community groups

5. Tell us why you want to serve on our Board?

I feel it is important to be connected to AISC and ensure aquatic invasive have a representative at meetings and for work plan development.

- To have the opportunity to partner and work with like-minded individuals from across Alberta
- To bring my knowledge and insight to the group, from an aquatic invasive species perspective

6. Other relevant background or information.

Have sincerely enjoyed working with the AISC board for the past three years, and would welcome the ability to continue for a second term.

*Thank you for your interest in the  
Alberta Invasive Species Council!*

Please send your completed form to [execdirector@abinvasives.ca](mailto:execdirector@abinvasives.ca)



## Board of Directors Nomination Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Chad Verpy \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ cverpy@mvcountry.com \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ 403-559-7411 \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_ 1408-TWP Rd 320, Postal Bag 100, Didsbury, AB TOM 0W0

Job Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Manager of Agricultural Services

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_ Mountain View County \_\_\_\_\_

1. Identify the sector you would be representing:

- Government of Alberta
- Other Government (Indigenous, federal, municipal etc.)
- Industry
- Other (including individuals, academia, research, non-government organizations)

2. Describe your professional, volunteer and/or work experience, and describe how it relates to our work.

Currently I am the Manager of Agricultural Services for Mountain View County. I oversee our weed and pest inspection programs to ensure the Alberta Weed and Pest Act are being adhered to within the County. This involves training staff and assisting residents identify weed and pest species and develop management practices to control or eradicate those species. I have spent the last 5 years as the Agricultural Coordinator with MVC and was hands on with dealing with invasive species in the County.

3. What skills, experience or perspectives would be of particular value to the Alberta Invasive Species Council.

I received a diploma from Olds College in Land and Water Resources with a Major in Land Reclamation. I started weed identification in 2009 as a weed inspector for Rocky View County. then went on to do reclamation in the oil and gas industry where I completed assessments on wellsites and had to identify various grasses, forbs and weeds all across Alberta. I spent the past 5 years as the Ag Coordinator, overseeing the County weed and pest inspection program as well as attending identification courses each year.

4. Describe any relevant experience you have involving non-profit Boards, charities, community groups, professional associations, etc.

AISC Board member since 2020

Current member of the AAAF

Active with Mountain View County's Ag Service Board

Registered Technical Agrologist with the Alberta Institute of Agrology

5. Tell us why you want to serve on our Board?

I want to continue promoting and educating people on the importance of controlling invasive species. I am interested in the networking opportunity and being able to see firsthand what other invasive species issues are ongoing in Alberta, as well as what options are being used and the success of those options.

I have enjoyed my last 3 years on the board and look forward to continuing working with the board members and leading the fight on invasive species.

6. Other relevant background or information.

If elected to the AISC Board of Directors, I will adhere to the AISC's Code of Conduct Policy.





## Board of Directors Nomination Form

Name: Mike Jenkins

Email: mike.jenkins@edmonton.ca

Phone: 780 918 7731

Mailing Address: 8924 C 144 Ave NW, Edmonton, AB T5E 5V4

Job Title: Pest Management Coordinator

Employer: City of Edmonton

1. Identify the sector you would be representing:

- Government of Alberta
- Other Government (Indigenous, federal, municipal etc.)
- Industry
- Other (including individuals, academia, research, non-government organizations)

2. Describe your professional, volunteer and/or work experience, and describe how it relates to our work.

Pest Management Coordinator (City of Edmonton) 2018 - current

- Supervised City of Edmonton's Pest Management Lab & Operations section, including surveillance and monitoring for invasive insects, fungal pathogens in the urban forest, mammals and aquatic species. Developed integrated pest management plans for invasive and native species.

Sr Biological Sciences Technologist (City of Edmonton) 2005 - 2018

- Supervised City of Edmonton's Pest Management Lab

Biological Sciences Technical Assistant (City of Edmonton) 1991 - 2005

- Conducted surveys, monitoring and experiments related to aquatic invertebrates, and other invasive species in and around Edmonton region

Society to Prevent Dutch Elm Disease

- Current Past-Chair
- Chair 2016 - 2022
- Chair of province-wide NGO dedicated to monitoring and prevention of invasive pests of the urban forest, particularly Dutch elm disease and its vectors, emerald ash borer, Asian long-horned beetle

3. What skills, experience or perspectives would be of particular value to the Alberta Invasive Species Council.

Thirty+ years of experience of monitoring for invasive species in an urban environment, within a major municipality, and networking information between multiple municipal, provincial, and federal agencies. Co-ordination of efforts in monitoring across the Edmonton region.

Regular presentation of monitoring data and integrated pest management techniques related to invasive species to professional conferences, governmental groups, and community stakeholders

Certified Aquatic Invasives Inspector

4. Describe any relevant experience you have involving non-profit Boards, charities, community groups, professional associations, etc.

Current Past-Chair of Society to Prevent Dutch Elm Disease (STOPDED)  
Former Vice-President of Wagner Natural Area Society  
Former Head of Bug & Spider Group for Edmonton Nature Club

5. Tell us why you want to serve on our Board?

I think it's important to maintain and strengthen ties between City of Edmonton and all groups managing invasive species in the region. Invasives don't recognize borders, and represent a considerable threat to urban ecosystems and infrastructure. I want to make sure that Edmonton is an active part of the effort to manage these species.

6. Other relevant background or information.

If elected to the AISC Board of Directors, I will adhere to the AISC's Code of Conduct Policy.

Please send your completed form to [execdirector@abinvasives.ca](mailto:execdirector@abinvasives.ca)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Jay Byer \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ jaylbyer@gmail.com \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: 403-741-6706 \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Box 1321 Stettler, T0C 2L0 \_\_\_\_\_

Job Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Soil Conservation Analyst \_\_\_\_\_

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_ Gateway Research Organization \_\_\_\_\_

1. Identify the sector you would be representing: Government of Alberta  
Other Government (Indigenous, federal, municipal etc.)  
**Municipal** : ASVA (Association of Summer Villages of Alberta)  
Industry :  
Other (including individuals, academia, research, non-government organizations)

2. Describe your professional, volunteer and/or work experience, and describe how it relates to our work.

With a lifelong career in agriculture, I have always been exposed to the impact of invasive species on livelihoods, the soil and the environment. All of this related directly to AISC and its activities. Through these professional as well as voluntary activities, I have developed linkages, connections, experience over a wide variety of disciplines impacted by invasive species. Recently with GRO we have been able to:

- help arrange and support research into expansion of herbicide registrations on specific invasives,
- support college activities as they study in a course dedicated to the identification and eradication of listed noxious and prohibited weed species,
- raise awareness of serious species and their concerns to Summer Villages and their associations. These villages are often on the forefront of the war against a variety of invasive species of all types, and
- support awareness of the biocontrol program and help folks make connections with this program.

As past president of the AISC I am very proud of its continued development and expansion. I support its efforts in continuing to raise awareness of vertebrate pests such as wild boar at large, prohibited and noxious weeds, and the impact of invasive biota on soils.

As a supporter of summer village life, awareness efforts have been made to increase awareness of various programs relation to invasives as it pertains to lakeside living. Helping to ensure environmental health within the boundaries of these villages continues to be a priority within our cluster of communities and beyond.