

## **2026 ESAA Board Election**

### **Candidate Biographies**



**Christina Colenutt**  
Environmental Consultant  
SWAT Consulting Inc.

Christina Colenutt is an environmental consultant with over 16 years of experience in Alberta's environmental services sector. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Environmental and Conservation Sciences from the University of Alberta and is a Professional Biologist (P. Biol.). She currently serves as a Project Coordinator with SWAT Consulting Inc., where her work focuses primarily on coordinating Phase I Environmental Site Assessment portfolios, training and mentoring junior authors, regulatory reporting, and business development activities.

Christina has worked across government, nonprofit, and private consulting environments, and has authored and senior reviewed hundreds of environmental site assessments throughout Alberta. Her experience navigating regulatory frameworks and working with regulators, landholders, Indigenous communities, and industry stakeholders has given her a practical

understanding of how policy and liability considerations influence day-to-day project decisions.

Born and raised in Alberta, Christina grew up in a family connected to the oil and gas industry, giving her a long-standing appreciation for the sector's role in the province's economy and communities. She values thoughtful collaboration across consultants, contractors, laboratories, operators, and regulators.

Christina values constructive governance, professional integrity, and collaboration across industry segments, and looks forward to contributing thoughtfully to the Association's work.



**David Nuell**  
Senior Environmental Scientist  
Nichols Environmental

David Nuell is an Executive Vice President of Environmental for Nichols and has been with the firm since 2007, when he started the Calgary office. While with Nichols, David's continued growth in the senior management team led to an opportunity to become a Partner in 2021. David owes a lot of his development in the environmental industry to Rob Dickie, who founded Nichols in 1997 and retired in 2022. In total, David has dedicated over 23 years to the environmental and geomatics industries.

David graduated from Lethbridge College in 1998 with a Diploma in Renewable Resource Management, and from the University of Calgary in 2002 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Environmental Science. David is a Professional Agrologist in Alberta, British Columbia, and Saskatchewan and is responsible for supporting Nichols operations and environmental programs. David is described by his peers as a self-starter and a problem solver who values innovative solutions to complex environmental issues. Since graduating from university, David has been an ardent supporter of the environmental industry and ESAA.

David believes that leadership is an action and not a position. His favourite part of being with Nichols is the role he plays in supporting junior and intermediate engineers/scientists/technologists and helping them grow and develop into strong and passionate leaders. While away from Nichols David enjoys being with his family, which is active in the soccer, ringette, and volleyball communities.



**Ian Young**  
Commercial Manager Canada  
SLR Consulting (Canada) Ltd.

Ian Young is an environmental professional with over twenty-five years of experience in the consulting sector. Based in Edmonton for his entire career, he spent many years working in the field and managing projects for energy clients across Alberta—gaining firsthand appreciation for what it’s like to collect soil samples in  $-25^{\circ}\text{C}$  weather with a clipboard that’s colder than the drill rig. Over time, he moved into progressively senior leadership roles and now serves as SLR’s Commercial Manager for Canada, supporting national strategy, operational performance, and cross-functional teamwork. His technical background includes environmental site assessment and remediation,

along with long-standing experience in project management and regulatory liaison.

Ian has also contributed to provincial governance in the recycling and waste management sector. From 2018 to 2024, he served as a Board Director for the Alberta Recycling Management Authority (ARMA), representing ESAA as one of the voting organizations. During this time, he served on the Finance and Governance Committees, gaining practical experience in policy oversight, program evaluation, and organizational accountability.

Outside of work, Ian is an active member of his community and has spent many years coaching youth hockey. At home, he and his wife are raising three teenage boys—an experience that combines equal parts patience, strategic communication, and resilience, which he insists has only strengthened his leadership skills. He enjoys spending time outdoors, especially skiing, camping, travelling, and playing hockey.



**Katie Oliver**  
Director, Corporate Development  
KBL

Katie Oliver is the Director of Corporate Development at KBL Environmental, with over 20 years of experience in the environmental sector. A certified Environmental Manager and Project Management Professional (PMP), Katie has led numerous environmental consulting, waste management, and remediation projects. Her expertise spans regulatory affairs, government relations, and ESG initiatives.

Notably, she served as Chair of the City of Leduc’s Environmental Advisory Board, where her efforts earned national recognition for sustainability. Katie is passionate about fostering partnerships with Indigenous communities and stakeholders to promote environmental innovation and sustainable practices in the industry.

---



**Steven vanNieuwkerk**  
Senior Environmental Specialist  
McElhanney

Steven vanNieuwkerk is a senior environmental professional with more than 23 years of experience delivering environmental assessment, remediation, and regulatory compliance services across Western Canada. His career includes executive and senior leadership roles in environmental consulting, where he has built and led multidisciplinary teams, driven business growth, and supported clients operating within complex and evolving regulatory frameworks.

Since February 2018 – in parallel with his professional career, Steven has served as an elected City Councillor for the City of Beaumont. In this role, he has been actively involved in municipal governance, budgeting, multiple strategic planning exercises, and has represented the City on numerous

regional boards and commissions focused on wastewater, waste management, water services, and regional economic development.

Through this work, he has developed extensive experience in government relations, including collaboration with advocacy firms and regular engagement with elected officials and senior administrators at both the municipal and provincial levels across Alberta. Steven brings a practical, industry-informed perspective to governance and advocacy, with a strong understanding of how policy decisions translate into operational, financial, and environmental outcomes.

His combined experience in environmental consulting, public office, and government advocacy enables him to effectively bridge industry, regulators, and municipalities in support of sustainable, economically viable environmental services.