

Diane Campbell

Born in Halifax, Diane Campbell graduated from Acadia University in 1964 with a Bachelor of Arts Degree and received her Bachelor of Laws Degree from Dalhousie University in 1967. That same year she married Wesley G. Campbell, P.Eng., LL.B. Diane was admitted to the Nova Scotia Barristers Society in 1968 and practiced law with Daley, Black, Moreira and Piercey for several years before becoming involved in family business opportunities.

Over the years, Diane has served on the boards of numerous charitable organizations including The Canadian Cancer Society (Nova Scotia Division), Victorian Order of Nurses (Halifax Branch), Neptune Theatre, Zonta Club of Halifax, and the Discovery Centre.

She has also served on the boards of the Halifax Herald Limited, Victoria General Hospital Board of Commissioners, The Victoria General Hospital Foundation, Acadia University Board of Governors and the Nova Scotia Business Capital Corporation.

Diane currently serves on the board of the Canadiana Fund - Ottawa, Dalhousie Medical Research Foundation, and the Board of Trustees, First Baptist Church and is a member of the Campaign Operations Committee for the Acadia University Tides Are Turning Campaign.

Diane is a member of First Baptist Church Halifax. She and her husband have two children, Catherine and David, both of whom are Acadia graduates, and two grandchildren.

Diane has been President and CEO of Berkeley Holdings Limited, operator of The Berkeley Retirement Residences since 1994. She is a owner and a director of Maritime Digital Colour Inc. The Berkeley operates retirement residences in Halifax, Dartmouth and Bedford with a fourth building in the early stages of construction on Gladstone Street in Halifax.

Entrepreneurial Story

In 1994, Diane purchased The Berkeley when it was in receivership. It was the first retirement residence in Halifax and the building was not filling up as quickly as the original investors had anticipated. At that point, in the fall of 1993, a Receiver was appointed. The idea of retirement residences was a new concept, at least in Nova Scotia, and despite the travails of the Berkeley's early years, Diane believed the organization could be a viable business opportunity. With a great deal of diligence, the belief in building a dedicated and loyal employee base, a practical but flexible business model and a targeted marketing plan, Diane proceeded to build a prosperous business which she then grew from one building to four. The Berkeley Dartmouth opened in 1996, The Berkeley Bedford in 1999, The Berkeley at Gladstone Ridge opened in 2008 and a 12-unit addition was added to The Berkeley Dartmouth in 2014. She recognized growth opportunity at the Ben's Bakery site and intends to build a fifth building as soon as the joint project is given approval. As President and CEO of The Berkeley, Diane has illustrated that she possesses vision, leadership and an understanding of her business that allows her to grow while managing risk.

Source: JA Files (nominations)