

Brent and I served for three years together as board directors of St James Community Service Society. As a health professional it was an honor to serve on the board of an organization that each and everyday makes a difference in the lives of those needing shelter and economic security, compassionate and high quality care for those with terminal illness and a source of community and support for individuals with mental health and addiction challenges. It was also an honor to work with the leadership team and a group of committed and diverse board colleagues to ensure that the organization continued to grow and evolve to meet the needs of clients. Indeed it was this longstanding, strong and unwavering commitment to a range of community needs that drew me to serve on the St James board.

It was during this time that I had the opportunity to work closely with Brent, gain a clear sense of his qualities and values and most importantly to experience his leadership as a board chair and colleague. When I joined the board Brent had recently become the Acting Board President. What I experienced was a leader who was willing to accept the responsibility of this position at a time when the organization was in need of renewal and in need of building support amongst all board members in order to move the organization in a direction that best met the needs of clients and residents. Brent's leadership was instrumental in this regard.

The true test of leadership is in times of challenge and change ...especially when that journey of change may be a difficult one. Brent's integrity, honesty, transparency, clear sense of purpose and respect for group process were central to his success in facilitating significant positive change. His understanding of his own and the boards accountability, his attention to detail and fair process and deep respect for each board members' opinions and historical contributions to the organization were key in creating a milieu that allowed the governance team to focus on making the decisions necessary to best support the organization and its clients. His leadership style, strength in building consensus and central focus on the needs of the clients, guided the board through a critical period in the life of the organization.

As is so often the case as we get to know people better, we see that the values and qualities that we have come to know in one context, in this case as board colleagues, are the same ones that guide them in other key areas in their lives. So it came as no surprise when Brent announced that after 5 years on the board that he would be leaving his longtime home in Vancouver and moving to Calgary to be closer to his parents in their time of need. Brent brought the same qualities of compassion, commitment, sense of purpose and accountability to the care and support of his mother in her journey with ALS and in his educational and fundraising commitment to ALS following her passing. His commitment to family and his community is long standing. He is an experienced leader with a rich background and record of contribution in the corporate, public and community sectors and is committed to improving people's lives and the communities they live in.

Kind Regards,  
Kate Dilworth

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