



Gara Pruesse

Director (Independent)

Nanaimo

Term: 2024 – 2027



As a computer scientist with university governance and union leadership experience, Gara brings three things to the table: quantitative analysis, understanding of systems that have collective and individual well-being at

their centre, and experience in leadership and teamwork. She believes in the co-operative enterprise model and appreciates the opportunity to put her skills to the service of Coastal Community Credit Union to ensure its strengths make our communities strong and our members thrive.

As the chief bargainer and subsequently president of a faculty union of approximately 700 members, Gara has experience with complex regulatory environments. Her position involves administering and negotiating employment contracts, work which falls under the BC Employment Standards Act and Provincial labour law.

Her background also includes serving on the Senate at Vancouver Island University for six years. During her service, she helped determine matters of policy, procedure, planning and priorities, academic governance, etc. She also sat on several Standing Committees and chaired the Governance Practices Standing Committee for two years.

Gara is a strong advocate for a sharing community. To build trust, she believes co-operatives should both meet the needs of members and clients and share the benefits of employment and profit within the communities they serve.

2025

Education/Designations

- B.Sc.(Honours), University of Victoria
- M.Sc. and Ph.D. in Computer Science, University of Toronto

Other Board Appointments (Current)

- President, Vancouver Island University Faculty Association

Committees

- Conduct Review & Corporate Governance Committee
- Nominations & Elections Committee (Chair, May-Dec)
- Investment & Lending Committee (May-Dec)

Coastal Community Subsidiaries

- N/A

Attendance

Regular Board Meetings=18/18

Committee Meetings=19/19

Subsidiaries=N/A

Educational Activities

- BC Financial Services Authority: Regulator Forum