

Men of Influence

by Paul Martin

For the eighth consecutive year, *Saskatchewan Business Magazine* is pleased to recognize some of the province's most influential men.

Murad Al-Katib One of the rising young Turks in the province's business community, he has earned a high profile in the agricultural processing sector. A former employee of Saskatchewan Trade and Export Partnership, this Davidson native jumped to the private sector as founding CEO of Saskcan Pulse Trading, a leading global pulse crop processor and exporter, which is now part of Alliance Grain Traders. A former BDC Young Entrepreneur of the Year and a Top 40 Under 40 recipient, he has emerged as a leading player on the provincial value-added agricultural scene.

Richard Florizone After earning a PhD in nuclear physics from MIT, this Prince Albert native returned to his home province to become vice-president of finance and resources at the University of Saskatchewan where he obtained his bachelor and master's degrees. Previously he headed the strategy unit at Bombardier Aerospace and was a consultant. He recently was named to head a provincial effort to explore the potential for further uranium development in Saskatchewan.

Jim Hopson He was the first to be named the Saskatchewan Roughriders' chief executive officer and has been instrumental in the club's transformation into a winning franchise once again. Since his arrival in the executive office the team has brought home the Grey Cup and is a nationally recognized force in the CFL. A popular and well-known figure throughout the province, his understated approach has strengthened the team's ties with fans throughout the Rider Nation as the team enjoys unrivaled support and loyalty.

Grant Isaac With economics degrees from the U of S and a PhD from the London School of Economics, Dr. Isaac returned to his native province to become dean of the business school at the University of Saskatchewan. Strengthening the links between the academic institution and the business community, he has helped the college attract millions in private sector contributions. An expert in international trade, he is a senior associate with the Estey Centre for Law and Economics in International Trade, with the London School of Economics' International Trade Policy Unit and is a member of the Canadian Agri-Food Marketing Council.



Pictured (left to right):
Murad Al-Katib, Richard Florizone, Jim Hopson, Grant Isaac



Back row (left to right):

Craig Lothian, Greg Maindonald,
Dave Marit

Front row (left to right):

Rob Pletch, Warren Sproule,
Malcolm Wilson

Craig Lothian One of the few locally grown and resident oilmen in Saskatchewan, he holds a law degree but devotes his attention to building Saskatchewan-based oil companies. He recently sold his most recently formed company to a major Calgary player. Influential in political circles in the province, he sits on the board of directors of Enterprise Saskatchewan, the province's primary economic development advisory agency. He was also a founding shareholder of the Crave restaurant in Regina and Terra Grains, the ethanol producer located at Belle Plaine.

Greg Maindonald After stints in Winnipeg as president of General Scrap and in the executive suite of IPSCO's Chicago offices, he returned to Regina to become the senior Canadian executive at the Saskatchewan steel making operations now owned by Evraz. He is a member of the Regina Regional Economic Development Authority board and is a past director of the Canadian Association of Recycling Industries.

Dave Marit In his role as president of the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities, this south-central Saskatchewan farmer and municipal leader influences policy development at the regional and national levels, particularly in agriculture, as SARM remains among the few farm-related voices in the province with any credibility. He sits on a number of boards and is a founding director of Enterprise Saskatchewan.

Rob Pletch A senior player in the province's legal and business community, he is chair of MacPherson Leslie and Tyerman, one of the province's oldest and its largest law practice with offices in Regina, Saskatoon, Calgary and Edmonton. Close to Premier Brad Wall, he also chairs the board of SaskEnergy and is chair of the Saskatchewan Roughriders board of directors.

Warren Sproule A managing partner with the Regina firm of Kanuka Thuringer, he chairs the board of directors of Saskatchewan Government Insurance. A former member of the SaskTel board, he is an invited member of the Insolvency Institute of Canada and was listed in the 2008 edition of The Best Lawyers in Canada in the areas of banking law and financial and restructuring law.

Malcolm Wilson Growing emphasis on climate change has pushed Malcolm Wilson to the forefront of global efforts to develop new ways of looking at energy and environment. With an undergraduate degree from England and a PhD from the U of S, he is adjunct professor of engineering and graduate studies and research, and was the director of the office of energy and environment at the University of Regina. He also acts as director of the International Test Centre for Carbon Dioxide Capture, was involved in the initiation and development of the International Energy Agency Green House Gas Weyburn Monitoring and Storage Project and was a founder of the Prairie Adaptation Network and Prairie Adaptation Research Collaborative. He also was one of the principal developers of the Petroleum Technology Research Centre. ■