



## Elyse Gawley

**NEW MEMBER:**

January 2016

**Hometown:**

Victoria, BC

**Current Community:**

Surrey, BC

### Inspiration

I have had the opportunity to work closely with Coast Capital Savings as a community partner over the last three years, and have seen first-hand the impact they make in community. I was inspired by the stories I heard about the other projects they support and wanted to get more involved.

### Fun Fact

I lived in France when I was nine years old and attended school there. It was a really neat experience to see how different countries manage their educational institutions. I have dual French and Canadian citizenship as well.

### What do you hope to achieve on the Council?

I'm looking forward to learning more about different non-profit organizations in our community, and how Coast Capital supports them in achieving their goals and dreams.

### What accomplishment are you most proud of to date?

Two weeks after graduating from high school, I left for a six week volunteer trip to Ghana. It had a huge impact on me that I will never forget. I returned to Ghana eight months later for another month and still remain in contact with the orphanage that I worked in. I truly fell in love with the country, its culture and people.

### Bio

Elyse Gawley is a graduate of the Marketing Communications Management program at the British Columbia Institute of Technology. A love for event planning has led her to Pace Group, where she currently works as a coordinator of conferences and events. She has worked managing numerous events including the Rogers Santa Claus Parade, and the Canuck Place Adventure Race.

Elyse was born with a genetic condition called polycystic kidney disease, which affects the function of the kidneys and other organs, but this hasn't stopped Elyse. She works closely with the Kidney Foundation of Canada and has volunteered with them for numerous events. Promoting awareness on the importance of organ donation is something she is passionate about, and through B.C. Transplant, has spoken to thousands of people about her personal experience living with the kidney disease.

In addition to her commitments with these organizations, Elyse also serves as an advisory committee member for the YWCA Women of Distinction Awards, a position she has held for the past three years. The awards honour female community leaders, while raising funds for YWCA programs and

services. Elyse looks forward to applying her vast volunteer experience and event expertise to the Fraser Valley Young Leaders Community Council.



Elyse discovered a new passion while traveling in Cuba in 2013 - scuba diving. She hopes to become certified in the next few years.