

ARTHUR A. DEFEHR

Birth date: 1942

Birthplace: Winnipeg, Manitoba

Address: Palliser Furniture

70 Lexington Park

Winnipeg, Manitoba R2G 4H2

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Family

Wife: Leona

Daughters:

- Shanti (husband Dan Nussbaum, sons Leo and Sachin, daughter Colette)
- Tara (husband Peter Tielmann and daughter Mila)

Education

MBA from Harvard Business School, 1967

- Baker Scholar
- Emphasis on strategy, finance and organizational behavior.

BA Economics from Goshen College, Indiana, 1965

- Active in social movements of the time including civil rights.

Bachelor of Commerce, University of Manitoba, 1964

- Isbister Scholarship
- President of AIESEC (International Exchange program) including summer in Europe

Honors

Officer of the Order of Canada, 2004

Order of Manitoba, 2011

Honorary Doctorate of Laws, University of Manitoba, 1998

Honorary Doctorate of Laws, University College of Cape Breton, 2002

Honorary Diploma, Red River College, 2003

Goshen College – Alumni Award, 2011

Prairies' Lifetime Achievement Award, Ernst and Young, Entrepreneur of the Year program, 2001

Entrepreneur of the Year, Manitoba Business Magazine, 2000

Canadian Manufacturers Hall of Fame, 2009

Canadian Home Furnishing Alliance - Lifetime Achievement Award, 2012

Spirit of Life Award, City of Hope and The National Home Furnishings Industry Chapter, recognizing contributions to the organization's humanitarian goals, 2003

Memberships

Canadian Council of Chief Executives (CCCE) (formerly Business Council on National Issues) – member since 2000

Trilateral Commission – member since 2002

Business Council of Manitoba – former Chair (2003 – 2005) and currently Director Emeritus

YPO/WPO – member since 1984

CMU (Canadian Mennonite University) – Board of Director since 2010 – currently Vice Chair of Board

LCC International University – since start of LCC in 1990 – currently Director Emeritus

World Economic Forum – member and participant for many years

Languages

English

German – Adequate verbal skills. Minimal reading and writing.

Professional Experience

Palliser Furniture – since 1967 and CEO since 1984.

- Palliser is a family-owned business active in the residential furniture market. Palliser has 2000 employees and produces in Canada and Mexico.

Lithuania Christian College, Founder 1991

- English-speaking University-level institution that is fully accredited and operates today on a new campus. Initial Chairman of the Board and continues to act as Director.

Landbridge Program (Cambodia border) 1980, 1981

- One of the organizers of the emergency “unofficial” cross-border program to provide supplies to Cambodia at the end of the Khmer Rouge period when the International Community could not agree on policy for Cambodia.

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to Somalia, 1982-1983

Mennonite Central Committee – Bangladesh, 1972-1974

- First Director of program immediately after the civil war. Focus on agricultural restoration and innovation plus work with Bihari refugees. This program is still active today.

International Experience

Soviet Union/ Russia, 1989 to present

- Active in the region in many sectors. This included organizing and leading four Conferences on Business and Ethics (1990-92), starting a high tech farm equipment plant in Siberia, and initiating several social/humanitarian programs that are active today.

South Asia

- Bangladesh – In addition to MCC assignment, was involved in missions for Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and others.
- India, Nepal and Vietnam – variety of involvement over the years.
- Burma/Myanmar – sponsored and participated in Peace-building event in Yangon in December 2013

Africa

- Extensive travel working primarily in Horn of Africa and Sudan.
- In addition to UNHRC assignment, was involved in analysis and supply of food to Ethiopia in the period before the famine became a public event.
- Worked in Sudan on food issues during the period when sharia law was declared.

Europe

- Student work exchange during summer of 1963
- Active in business and personal interests in most countries of Western Europe

Institutional Experience

Pearson Peacekeeping Centre (PPC)

- Board Member, 2008. Canadian-based institution dedicated to making international peace operations more effective through research, education, training and capacity building.

Asia-Pacific Gateway Corridor Initiative (APGCI)

- Strategic Advisor, January-May 2007. Federal Government initiative to address the challenges and opportunities in further developing and exploitation of Canada’s role in the Asia-Pacific container trade.

Canadian Foodgrains Bank (CFB)

- Founding Chairman of Board, 1976-1980. Farmers’ donations and CIDA fund the CFB. It provides food and related assistance in emergencies around the world.

International Development Enterprises (IDE)

- President of IDE in Canada in early years. Founded in 1984, IDE provides market-oriented solutions to development problems. Work is in Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Cambodia, Vietnam and recently African countries. Primary program provides low cost solutions to irrigation, sanitation and drinking water supplies.

Soviet Union Network

- Founder and Chairman of an organization that operated primarily from 1989-1995 to promote links between church-related entrepreneurs in the Soviet Union and the West.

National Education Initiative

- Chairman of initiative to bring German-style technical university education to Canada’s wood products sector. Resulted in new program at University of British Columbia funded and supported by various governments and broad coalition of industry.

Universities

- Founder with others of Lithuania Christian College, 1990.
- Active role in merging colleges in Winnipeg to create the new Canadian Mennonite University.

Immigration

- Leader of Manitoba Business Council initiative to promote a substantial permanent increase of immigrants to Manitoba. Program known as the Provincial Nominee Program.

Travel Experience

- Extensive travel for business, international assignments and personal reasons. As of 2014 have visited 128 countries.

Other Activities

- Active with Habitat for Humanity in various ways since its founding.
- Active in refugee policy and settlement programs in 1980s.
- Lectures to business, university and other audiences about business and social topics.