

# Martin Abell *for* University-Rosedale

## My experience and my values

- I'm a first generation Canadian. My Parents settled in Toronto, on Douglas Drive, and my brother and sister and I grew up in both North and South Rosedale. I attended Upper Canada College and then the University of British Columbia where I played rugby and graduated with a degree in Agricultural Economics.
- Early in my career I worked in commodity trading in the food industry then spent several years at Ridpath's Furniture where my task was to transition the family business in preparation for generational changeover and non-family management.
- I'm an entrepreneur: In 2013 I was a founder and continue to be a board member of one of Ontario's fastest-growing craft breweries, **Side Launch Brewing Company**, located in Collingwood. We were named Canadian Brewery of the Year in 2016 – *and we make great beer!*
- I'm a part-time farmer and have repurposed the family farm into a forage operation supplying Ontario's growing equine sector. And I am currently focused on identifying investment opportunities in Western Canada.
- I'm an environmentalist and care deeply about habitat preservation: when I was chair, Ontario Region, of the **Nature Conservancy of Canada**, I helped steer the organisation toward a more systematic focus on threatened habitat sites where targeted conservation efforts would yield the best results. Two examples of sites protected are the **Happy Valley Forest** in King Twp., one of the last tracts of remaining high-canopy forest in the GTA and, in Eastern Ontario, **Elbow Lake** north of Kingston, an area of critical habitat for multiple species of birds and reptiles.
- I'm concerned about mental health and homelessness – *the two issues are closely linked*. I'm a board member of the **House of Compassion**, in downtown Toronto, a home for 21 individuals requiring supportive housing with around-the-clock care to cope with mental health challenges, and I've been a long-time volunteer with the **Out-of-the-Cold** program for the homeless at Yorkminster Park Church near Yonge & St. Clair.
- I have also served as a volunteer board member with **UforChange**, an innovative organisation that provides youth at risk, many of whom are new Canadians, the opportunity to nurture their creative passions into marketable skills in order to get a start in the job market. *Helping youth get that first real job is critical.*



- My wife Kim founded and runs the Dalton School where children aged 4-12 learn in a multicultural and multilingual environment (English, Mandarin and Spanish). *There is a proven link between learning another language and academic achievement.*
- Kim and I have four children aged six to fifteen years, who attend three different schools, and we have chosen to raise them in downtown Toronto. We live in Rosedale, near Roxborough Drive and Mt. Pleasant Road.
- I will work hard to earn your support first to be our PC candidate in University—Rosedale, and then to be an effective and responsible conservative voice for downtown Toronto. ***Together we will win in 2018!***