



Take a Bite Outta Stampede
Food Judges Bio 2017



Lainey Lui

Is a Canadian television personality, reporter and infotainer and a self-proclaimed gossip maven. She pens a website, laineygossip.com and is a reporter for CTV's *etalk* and is also a co-host on CTV's daily talk series *The Social* and was born and raised in Toronto.

Connie DeSousa

Is one of Canada's Top Chefs having starred as a finalist in the Food Network culinary competition and a Tourism Calgary Culinary Ambassador and is known for her "stand-out butchery skills". She graduated on the Dean's List with honors from the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology culinary program and has a Le Cordon Bleu Paris Certification. She opened her first restaurant in 2009, the award-winning CHARCUT Roast House in Calgary alongside her mentor and business partner John Jackson. They are now co-owners of four successful restaurants and a rapidly growing Catering and Events division. Her cooking focuses on sustainable, locally grown food and community connection mastering nose to tail butchery, hunting and cultivating relationships with farmers and artisan producers.

John Jackson

Co-chef and co-owner alongside Connie DeSousa at CHARCUT Roast House and their food truck Alley Burger they have becoming leaders in the culinary community. He brought San Francisco-style collaboration to the chef community in Calgary and put his competitive bent aside to pull the profession and the city ahead through informal gatherings to share ideas and raise funds for worthy local causes. He began his career at Calgary's award-winning Owl's Nest Dining Room and after five years he accepted a position as chef de cuisine in Manhattan.

Nicole Gomes

Co-owner of Cluck n' Cleaver Nicole Gomes was born in Richmond, B.C. and has been cooking at a very young age. After an apprenticeship in Paris she sold everything and went to Australia where she worked at Darling Harbour Convention Centre and at a naval base and a Thai restaurant in Sydney and has been classically trained at Vancouver's Dubrulle Culinary School. Being a contestant on **Top Chef Canada** she managed to make it further than any other woman in that season of the TV cooking competition and not only raise more than \$70,000 for local charities by throwing Top Chef-viewing events, she also raised both her won profile as well as that of Calgary's vibrant food scene. She is one of



Calgary's most sought-after boutique catering companies with more than 1,6000 clients with Gomes and her team of more than 30 staff they will cater up to five events a day.

Dan Clapson

Is a food writer and a columnist based out of Calgary and has written for many top media sources across Canada include The Globe and Mail, Food Network Canada Online, WestJet Magazine, Culinaire, The Bay St. Bull and Avenue. He has appeared on City line and is a regular guest on various morning shows across Western Canada, including Global BC, CTV Morning Live Vancouver and Global Calgary as their restaurant and food travel correspondent.

Julie Van Rosendaal

After opening a bakery with her husband Mike back in the 90's she later closed the bakery and published her first cookbook, One Smart Cookie in the 2000. Since then she has written 7 best-selling cookbooks. She's had a food column on the Calgary Eyeopener on CBC Radio One for the past ten years and has written for newspapers and magazines across the country. She is the food editor of Parents Canada (based in Toronto) and is a contributing food editor for Western Living (based in Vancouver). She has released 8 cookbooks and even runs the famous dinnerwithjulie blog where she posts things about her life and amazing food and recipes.

Mookie Wilson

Has worked as the drive host on Country 105 and has had his career take him to Hamilton and Toronto and can now be heard in the mornings on Kiss959 Calgary

Justin Kripps

Is a Canadian bobsledder who has competed since 2006 and won his first Bobsleigh World Cup race in the men's four bob at the meeting in Cortina d'Anpezzo, Italy, January 2008 alongside Pierre Lueders, Ken Kotyk and David Bissett. On December 19, 2007, Kripps and Lueders became the first people to slide down the Whistler Sliding Centre in British Columbia. Kripps finished fifth in the four-man event at the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver.

Jesse Lumsden

Is a Canadian Olympic bobsledder and a retired Canadian football player, who played for the Hamilton Tiger-Cats, Edmonton Eskimos and the Calgary Stampeders.