

BIOGRAPHY

Nezhat Khosrowshahi was born, into a prominent industrial and mercantile family in Iran in 1949.

From an early age Nezhat learned about her family's business and was generally aware of and involved in its development.

She completed her secondary education and after a comprehensive training program in law, accounting, finance and planning, joined the purchasing department of Melli Industrial Group, the largest manufacturer of footwear in Iran employing over 12,000 people.

In 1970 she founded the City Trading Co. as an importer and distributor of safety equipment. City supplied the equipment to manufacturers as well as to municipal, state and national government organizations. In less than eight years City became the market leader in its field in Iran.

She also served on the Board of Directors of Melli Industrial Group, Alvand Investment Company, a holding company in banking and insurance, Mino Industrial Group the leading manufacturer and distributor of confectionery products, baby formulas, pharmaceuticals and cosmetics in Iran and a number of non-profit organizations.

She left Iran in 1978 and settled with her family in Vancouver in 1981.

She worked closely with her husband, Hassan Khosrowshahi, in founding the Inwest Group of Companies. Inwest founded Future Shop Ltd. which it subsequently sold to Best Buy Inc. in the U.S. Through its subsidiaries, Wesbild Holdings Ltd. and Drug Royalty Inc., Inwest is a major real estate developer and invests in royalty streams in the pharmaceutical industry. Nezhat is a member of the Board of Directors of Inwest investments Ltd.

From 1983 onwards, Nezhat was able to devote time to her charitable and community interests. She has served on the founding Board of BC Women's Foundation and the Vancouver Symphony Foundation, the Board of Directors of York House School, Lester B. Pearson College of the Pacific, Vancouver Museum, YVR Art Foundation, and the Board of Directors of The Nature Conservancy of Canada. She also served on the Board of Trustees of the Encyclopaedia Iranica Foundation at Columbia University in New York and Simon Fraser University in Burnaby, B.C. Additionally, she was on the committee for 100th Anniversary Celebrations of St. Paul's Hospital and the Children's Hospital. Currently, she serves on the Board of CBC-Radio Canada and Honorary Governors' Council of Vancouver Foundation.

She joined the Board of Vancouver Symphony Society in 1989. She has been a Vice Chair, Chair of Fund Raising and member of the Executive Committee of the Society. From 1997-2000 she was Chair of the Board of Directors of the Society. During this time Nezhat was instrumental in returning the Society to financial health while eliminating the accumulated deficit. In 1999 she was the recipient of "Outside Lines" B.C. Arts & Culture Award.

In 2001 she was elected as Honourary Life Vice President of the Vancouver Symphony Society.

Nezhat is married with two children aged 38 and 36, and two granddaughters. She enjoys skiing and tennis. She lives with her husband Hassan in Vancouver.