



Member Memo

TO: TIANS Members

FROM: TIANS Nominating Committee

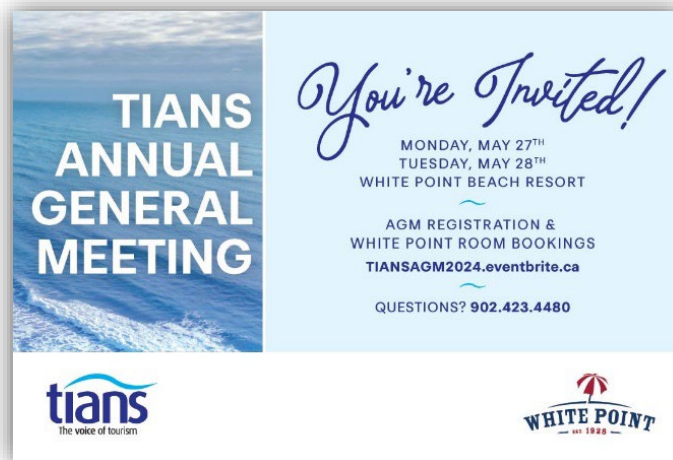
DATE: April 26, 2024

SUBJECT: Proposed Slate for 2024/2025 TIANS Board of Directors

We are pleased to provide you with the approved Slate for the 2024/2025 Board of Directors. The Slate will be presented to Membership for acceptance at the Annual General Meeting taking place at White Point Beach Resort on Monday, May 27th, 2024.

To register for the TIANS AGM, please visit our [Eventbrite page](#).

We look forward to hosting you.



TIANS Annual General Meeting | May 27, 2024

WHITE POINT BEACH RESORT

PROPOSED SLATE

2024-2025 TIANS Board of Directors

Annual General Meeting – May 27, 2024

<i>BOARD MEMBER</i>	<i>OFFICER</i>	
HRM		
Marie Manning Halifax International Airport Authority	Transportation	Sr. Vice Chair
Sean Doucet The Hollis/Manga Hotels	Accommodations; Food & Beverage	Director
Wayne Carter Tourism Consultant	Tourism Services	Director
NE NOVA SCOTIA		
Wes Surrett Ignite Atlantic	Tourism Services	Past Chair
Leslie Wilson Ski Wentworth	Recreation & Entertainment	Director
SW NOVA SCOTIA		
Pamela Wallace Trout Point Lodge	Accommodations; Food & Beverage	Director
John Simon Canadvac/Hygge Life Travel	Travel Services; Transportation	Secretary/Treasurer
CAPE BRETON		
Shauna Austin Clairestone Inn	Accommodations; Food & Beverage	Director
Kelly Deveaux Parks Canada	Recreation & Entertainment	Director
INDUSTRY AT LARGE		
*Jaison Sandhu Slumber Inn, Best Western Glengarry/Liverpool	Accommodations; Food & Beverage	Director
CHAIR OF TIANS		
Kevin Toth Fox Harb'r Resort	Accommodations; Recreation & Entertainment; Food & Beverage	TIANS Chair
CHAIR OF NSTHRC		
Beatrice Stutz Grand Pré Wines Ltd./The Inn at the Winery	Food & Beverage; Accommodations	NSTHRC Chair

*Indicates NEW Board Member for 2024/2025

2024-2025 TIANS Board of Directors | Biographies

Officers:

[Kevin Toth - President, Fox Harb'r](#)

Kevin Toth is the President of Fox Harb'r Resort in Fox Harbour, Nova Scotia. Kevin is a veteran hospitality & resort development executive who took the reins of Fox Harb'r in 2015. Previously, he was President & COO at Skyline Hotels & Resorts in Ontario from 2009 to 2015. From 2005 – 2009 Kevin was Managing Partner & Owner of Rockwater Secret Cove Resort in British Columbia. From 1987 to 2005, Kevin was with Fairmont Hotels & Resorts (CP) as Manager / General Manager starting his Fairmont career at Chateau Halifax then moving onto Hotel Macdonald, Chateau Laurier, Jasper Park Lodge and Chateau Whistler. He has been active in the tourism industry for many years. He was the Chair of the Edmonton Hotel Association and sat on the Board of Directors for the Alberta Hotel Association as well as Tourism Whistler. He held the Chairman's position with the Sunshine Coast Tourism Association as well as Jasper Hotel & Tourism Association. Kevin is presently the Nova Scotia Industry Representative sitting on the Management Committee for ACAT. Kevin has enjoyed being a long-time Member of Skål, La Chaine des Rotisseurs and Confrerie des Chevaliers du Tastevin.

[Wes Surrect - Northern Regional Manager, Ignite Atlantic](#)

Wes Surrect has more than 20 years of experience as a business operator in Atlantic Canada in a variety of settings, including various management roles. He is a Pictou County champion and proud recipient of the 2015 inaugural Fleur Mainville Tourism Ambassador Award for his contributions to tourism. He is one of the first hotel managers in Nova Scotia to receive the Professional Certification for Hotel General Manager offered through Emerit program with support from NSTHRC and CTHRC. Wes is a committed community volunteer, serving in variety of roles including Chairman of the Tourism Industry Association of Nova Scotia, Chairman of Destination Eastern and Northumberland Shores, and Chairman of the Ship Hector Society, Board of Directors Pictou County Chamber of Commerce as well as many other community boards and committees. Wes resides in the town of Pictou with his wife Kate and two children, Evan and Ella.

[Marie Manning - VP Business Development & CCO, Halifax International Airport Authority](#)

Marie Manning is the Vice President of Business Development and Chief Commercial Officer with Halifax International Airport Authority (HIAA). In this role, she leads a team that is responsible for overseeing all commercial activities, including air service development (passenger and cargo), non-aeronautical revenue development, airport experience, marketing, communications and government relations. Over the nearly 20 years in the airport industry, she has led teams that received awards for marketing, public relations, crisis communications, business development and customer service. Marie holds a Bachelor of Commerce (BComm) Co-op degree from Memorial University, a Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree from the University of Victoria, and ICD.D designation through the ICD-Rotman Directors Education Program (DEP).

[John Simon - President, Canadvac Travel Services & Hygge LifeTravel](#)

John Simon is an experienced business professional operating in both multinational organizations and entrepreneurial start-up businesses. His work experience covers a wide range of industries including travel, telecommunications, energy, government, logistics, financial services, and resources. His business and technology background has allowed him to build and manage teams in the development of new business, delivering new customer solutions, and defining and implementing new corporate strategies. Currently John is sharing his passion for travel through Hygge Life Travel, a unique organization offering customized personal travel experiences for its members, as well as through Canadvac Travel Services. Canadvac is a leading receptive travel specialist for Eastern and Central Canada which is focused on local tourism partners and providers. Canadvac prides itself in offering quality tourism products, highlighting smaller accommodations and unforgettable experiences showcasing the unique diversity of the region.

[Beatrice Stutz - Owner/Manager, Le Caveau Restaurant, Domaine de Grand Pré](#)

Beatrice Stutz was born and raised in Switzerland where she studied and graduated with a college degree in the pharma industry. In the Spring of 2000 Beatrice and her family moved to Nova Scotia and opened Domaine de Grand Pré and Le Caveau Restaurant. Fast forward, in 2021, Beatrice alongside her husband Jason Lynch opened their new restaurant,

2024-2025 TIANS Board of Directors | Biographies

Cumin Kitchen & Drink in New Minas and a couple short months later, her and her team at the winery, added The Inn at Grand Pré Winery to round out the offerings at Domaine de Grand Pre. In the Spring of 2022, Beatrice assumed the CEO position for Domaine de Grand Pre. She has gained experience in the hospitality/tourism industry over the past 24 years. The winery and restaurant have become a very popular destination for individual and group travelers from all over the world. During peak season, Domaine de Grand Pre with its vineyards, tasting room, inn and restaurant, employs roughly 90 people. Beatrice is an executive board member of the Nova Scotia Tourism industry Association and chairs the Nova Scotia Tourism Human Resource council. She is also an active member on the board of WGNS (Wine growers of Nova Scotia) and the Chair of the Nova Scotia Icewine Fest Association.

Directors:

Shauna Austin - Owner/Operator, The Clairestone Inn

A graduate of Business Administration at Acadia University Shauna is the Owner/Operator of The Clairestone Inn in Arichat. Since 2018, Shauna has dedicated herself to the accommodations sector of the tourism industry. She has significantly invested in updating The Clairestone Inn, enhancing the quality of both infrastructure and service. By developing partnerships within the region, she has created new packages driving season extension and broadening the benefits of the tourism economy to the community by supporting local suppliers, musicians etc. Shauna is committed to professional development and has participated in a number of programs through TIANS/NSTHRC including Quality mentoring, Clean it Right and e-Cornell. Shauna is VP of Trade on the Board of the Isle Madame Trade and Tourism Association, served on the Board and Marketing Committee of the Commission du Tourisme Acadien du Canada Atlantique (CTACA) from 2020-2022, and is an active member of Inns of Nova Scotia. In 2021, Shauna was named by RBC as a nominee for their prestigious, "Women of Excellence" Award.

Wayne Carter - Executive Director – FIN Atlantic International Film Festival

Now in his 9th year as Executive Director of FIN Atlantic International Film Festival, Wayne joined FIN after a time in Business Development with tech-start up success story Radian6 now a part of Salesforce. His Nova Scotia life began in 2009 after a lengthy career in Toronto. Born in New Brunswick, Carter moved to Toronto in the mid 1980's after several years of cinema management where he embarked on a career of business management primarily centred around film. Serving as Regional Director for Roger's Video, Branch Manager and National Procurement Manager at Video One Distribution, Managing Director of Canadian Operations for East Texas Distributing (ETD), Vice President and General Manager of Famous Players Media (now Cineplex Media) and Vice President, Sales for Warner Brothers Home Entertainment. Carter's passion for films is matched only by his passion for music and his history of applying his solid business acumen to roles that engage his personal interests which has contributed to a successful and rewarding career. This extensive insight into film exhibition and consumer behaviour has allowed him to take the Atlantic Film Festival into a new era of success and sustainability.

Kelly Deveaux - Parks Canada Superintendent, Cape Breton Highlands National Park

Kelly Deveaux has worked in Nova Scotia's tourism industry for 20 years, in various positions with the municipal, provincial and federal governments, as well as the private sector. With a Bachelor of Public Relations degree from Mount Saint Vincent University, Kelly spent the early part of her career with the former Nova Scotia Department of Tourism, Culture & Heritage before jumping to a Cape Breton-based marketing agency where she managed a variety of tourism clients throughout Atlantic Canada. After joining Parks Canada eight years ago, Kelly now leads a large team in Cape Breton Highlands National Park who deliver exceptional experiences to visitors. From the front lines to product development, community partnerships and park management planning, Kelly works with her team to manage day-to-day operations in a busy national park, while also planning for growth and opportunities in the future.

2024-2025 TIANS Board of Directors | Biographies

Sean Doucet - General Manager, The Hollis/Halifax Regional Director, Manga Hotels

Sean Doucet recently assumed the role of General Manager for The Hollis by Doubletree and Halifax Regional Director for Manga Hotels, providing operational direction and guidance to the hotel teams as well as working collaboratively with other disciplines to achieve operational and financial growth objectives. Prior to joining Manga, Sean worked with SilverBirch Hotels & Resorts since 2018 having held the position of Senior Director of Operations for the SilverBirch portfolio from Newfoundland to Vancouver. In October 2019, Sean was promoted to General Manager of both the Hotel Halifax and the Barrington Hotel. Prior to Sean's tenure with SilverBirch he managed the Operations team at the Hotel Halifax as well as having held the position of Executive Chef from May 2002 to September 2009. Sean holds a culinary arts diploma and by all accounts still considers himself to be "a foodie". He is committed to the professional development of the industry through training and mentorship opportunities. Sean has also served over the years on a number of tourism related boards and committees including TIANS, the Hotel Association of Nova Scotia, Hope Cottage and Chefs for Unicef.

Jaison Sandhu - Owner/Operator, Slumber Inn, Best Western Glengarry Truro, Best Western Liverpool

Jaison Sandhu is a finance professional with a rich background in the banking industry, where he spent several fruitful years developing his expertise in financial management and strategic business operations. In 2017, Jaison made a significant career shift, transitioning from finance to the hospitality industry and relocating to the scenic province of Nova Scotia. Currently, Jaison owns and operates three hotels: Slumber Inn Hotel, in New Minas, Best Western Glengarry Truro and Best Western Plus Liverpool. Since taking the helm, he has focused on ensuring that these properties not only thrive but become preferred destinations for travelers seeking comfort and excellent service. Jaison's finance background has been crucial in steering his hotels toward profitability and sustained growth, enabling him to effectively manage financial strategies and adapt to market dynamics. He is deeply committed to enhancing the guest experience and contributing to the local tourism industry, actively participating in community and regional development initiatives. This journey from banking to hospitality has been both challenging and rewarding, highlighting Jaison's adaptability and passion for new opportunities that drive both personal and community advancement.

Pamela Wallace - Co-Owner/Operator, Trout Point Lodge

Pamela Wallace owns and operates Trout Point Lodge in East Kemptville, NS, with her husband Patrick. She grew up in Singapore and graduated from the University of Singapore with a BSc in Computer Science. She has spent more than 21 years in travel and hospitality. Prior to taking over Trout Point Lodge, Pamela was Hilton Worldwide's Director of Online Distribution for Asia Pacific and responsible for Hilton's sales with key Online Travel Agencies (OTAs) such as Expedia, Booking.com, CTrip, MakeMyTrip and Rakuten. Before Hilton Worldwide, she was responsible for the partnerships and affiliates division for Zuji.com, a business unit of Travelocity in APAC, where she set up and expanded a distribution network across South-East Asia, HK/China, India, Japan and Korea. Currently in the forests of Trout Point Lodge, when not helping team members in housekeeping and cocktail making, Pamela devotes her time to building social media and web presence for Trout Point Lodge which has grown from 0 to >17K followers on Instagram and >8K on Facebook in 4 years.

Leslie Wilson - President and General Manager, Ski Wentworth

Leslie Wilson spends her winter on the slopes of Ski Wentworth, where she has been President and General Manager for over 20 years. She's co-chair of Kerr Controls and part of the management team at Wilsons Fuel. Leslie graduated from the University of Toronto with a degree in physical and health education, and earned a journalism degree from Humber College. Leslie worked in print and TV journalism at CBC Newsworld, MITV (now Global), the National Sport Centre-Calgary and the Calgary Sun. A former national team track and field athlete, Leslie has been inducted into the University of Toronto Sport Hall of Fame and the Truro Sport Heritage Society Sport Hall of Fame, and was Nova Scotia female athlete of the year. Leslie previously sat on the boards of the Canadian Ski Council and the Colchester Community Workshop Foundation.