



# Member Memo

TO: TIANS Members

FROM: TIANS Nominating Committee

DATE: April 2025

SUBJECT: Proposed Slate for 2025/2026 TIANS Board of Directors

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We are pleased to provide you with the approved Slate for the 2025/2026 Board of Directors. The Slate will be presented to Membership for acceptance at the Annual General Meeting taking place at Fox Harb'r Resort on Monday, May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

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

We look forward to hosting you.



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**TIANS Annual General Meeting | May 26 & 27, 2025**

**Fox Harb'r Resort**

# PROPOSED SLATE 2025-2026 TIANs Board of Directors

Annual General Meeting – May 26, 2025

BOARD MEMBER		OFFICER
<b>HRM</b>		
<b>Marie Manning</b> Halifax International Airport Authority	Transportation	Vice Chair
<b>*Juanita Peters</b> Africville Museum	Recreation & Entertainment	Director
<b>Jaison Sandhu</b> Hampton Inn Dartmouth, Best Western Liverpool and Woodstock, Slumber Inn	Accommodations; Food & Beverage	Director
<b>NE NOVA SCOTIA</b>		
<b>Wes Surrectt</b> Ignite Atlantic	Tourism Services	Past Chair
<b>Leslie Wilson</b> Ski Wentworth	Recreation & Entertainment	Director
<b>SW NOVA SCOTIA</b>		
<b>Pamela Wallace</b> Trout Point Lodge	Accommodations; Food & Beverage	Director
<b>John Simon</b> Canadvac/Hygge Life Travel	Travel Services; Transportation	Secretary/Treasurer
<b>CAPE BRETON</b>		
<b>Shauna Austin</b> Clairestone Inn	Accommodations; Food & Beverage	Director
<b>Kelly Deveaux</b> Parks Canada	Recreation & Entertainment	Director
<b>INDUSTRY AT LARGE</b>		
<b>*David Hovell</b> Magic Winery Bus Limited	Tourism Services; Transportation	Director
<b>CHAIR OF TIANs</b>		
<b>Kevin Toth</b> Fox Harb'r Resort	Accommodations; Recreation & Entertainment; Food & Beverage	TIANs Chair
<b>CHAIR OF NSTHRC</b>		
<b>Sean Doucet</b> The Hollis/Manga Hotels	Food & Beverage; Accommodations	NSTHRC Chair

\*Indicates NEW Board Member for 2025/2026

## 2025-2026 TIANS Board of Directors | Biographies

### Officers:

#### Kevin Toth - President, Fox Harb'r

Kevin Toth is the Chair of the Tourism Industry of Nova Scotia (TIANS) Board of Directors and Nova Scotia's Representative on the Atlantic Canada Agreement on Tourism (ACAT). Kevin is also 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 has enjoyed being a long-time Member of Skål, La Chaine des Rotisseurs and Confrerie des Chevaliers du Tastevin.

#### Wes Surrett - COO, Ignite Atlantic

Wes Surrett 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 was one of the first hotel managers in Nova Scotia to receive the Professional Certification for Hotel General Manager offered through the Emerit program with support from NSTHRC and CTHRC. Wes is a committed community volunteer and passionate advocate for rural innovation. He actively supports the growth of rural entrepreneurs and industries across Nova Scotia through his work with Ignite Atlantic. His past volunteer leadership includes serving as Chairman of the Tourism Industry Association of Nova Scotia, Chairman of Destination Eastern and Northumberland Shores, and Chairman of the Ship Hector Society. He also served on the Board of Directors for the Pictou County Chamber of Commerce, among 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.

## 2025-2026 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.

### 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 currently a board director with Destination Cape Breton, on the Executive for Inns of Nova Scotia, former VP of Trade on the Board of the Isle Madame Trade and Tourism Association, and served on the Board and Marketing Committee of the Commission du Tourisme Acadien du Canada Atlantique (CTACA) from 2020-2022..

#### 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.

#### Jaison Sandhu - Owner Hampton Inn Dartmouth, Best Western Liverpool & Woodstock, Slumber Inn

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. 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.

## 2025-2026 TIANS Board of Directors | Biographies

### [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 24 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 & Bike Wentworth](#)

Leslie has been President and General Manager of Ski Wentworth and now Bike Wentworth 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.

### [Juanita Peters - Executive Director, Africville Museum \(INCOMING\)](#)

Juanita Peters is the Executive Director of the Africville Museum where she continues telling the stories of one of Canada's most significant historical black communities. She is an actor, film and stage director, and playwright. Juanita directed two seasons of the Film Nova Scotia Award winning dramatic series "Studio Black" and the multi-award-winning television series DIGGSTOWN. She is a Founding member of Women in Film and Television Atlantic and Founding member of Atlantic Canada's newest multicultural festival, Nova-MultiFest. Member of Playwrights Atlantic Resource Centre, Canadian Actors Equity, Actra and the Directors Guild of Canada. Board member of The Robert Pope Foundation and Matchstick Theatre. Named the 2023 Portia White Prize Winner by Creative Arts NS and the 2022 Woman of the Year by the union representing 28,000 professional actors across the country, ACTRA. Juanita Peters is also a recipient of the Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee medal and the King Charles III Coronation Medal.

### [David Hovell, Owner/Operator, Magic Winery Bus Limited \(INCOMING\)](#)

An Acadia University Bachelor of Business Administration graduate, David's pursuits in entrepreneurship were inspired by a project to become a John Deere dealer. In 1995, his dream was achieved, and he became a founding partner in Planters Equipment Limited, a John Deere agriculture and consumer equipment dealership serving the Annapolis Valley; now Green Diamond Equipment, the single store has grown to fifteen locations throughout the Maritimes. David, started a marketing and public relations consultancy which led to work in the Office of the Premier. He became the Executive Director of the Wolfville Business Development Corporation and co-led a rebranding project to become Atlantic Canada's premier wine and culinary destination. In its 14<sup>th</sup> season, Magic Winery Bus Limited has been recognized by TIANS with its prestigious Innovator Award and was named a top ten NS experience by Destination Canada. For three seasons, it operated in the Niagara, Ontario wine region and remains North America's only wine tourism experience on board an authentic British double-decker bus. Committed to community, he is a lifelong champion of positive youth development and is a 4-H Club leader and past chair of the Canadian 4-H Foundation and 4-H Canada. He has served as a director of the Annapolis Valley Apple Blossom Festival, Acadia University Alumni Association, District Health Authority and is the past chair of the Valley Regional Hospital Foundation. David resides in Port Williams with his daughter Taylor, a fourth-year Bio-Chemistry student at Dalhousie University.