



Member Memo

TO: TIANS Members

FROM: TIANS Nominating Committee

DATE: April 24, 2026

SUBJECT: Proposed Slate for 2026/2027 TIANS Board of Directors

We are pleased to provide you with the approved Slate for the 2026/2027 Board of Directors. The Slate will be presented to Membership for acceptance at the Annual General Meeting taking place at the Gaelic College, St. Ann’s Cape Breton on Monday, May 25th, 2026.

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

We look forward to hosting you.

May 25 and 26 in Beautiful Cape Breton

REGISTER NOW AT
2026TIANSAGM.eventbrite.ca

Book Your Accommodations at Inverary Resort by May 15th!
Mention TIANS AGM for Special Delegate Rates
Call 902-295-3500 Ext. 1

You're Invited!
TIANS 2026 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

TIANS 2026 AGM Business Meeting will be held at the historic Gaelic College in St. Ann's, Cape Breton on Monday, May 25th

We Can't Wait to Host You!

TIANS The voice of tourism | INVERARY RESORT | COLAISDENA GAIDHLIG THE GAELIC COLLEGE

TIANS Annual General Meeting | May 25 & 26, 2026
Gaelic College & Inverary Resort

PROPOSED SLATE 2026-2027 TIANS Board of Directors

Annual General Meeting – May 25, 2026

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

*Indicates NEW Board Member for 2026/2027

2026-2027 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 | Founder, Discover the Strait | Partner, Ellevan Services](#)

Wes Surrett is a senior tourism and economic development leader with more than 20 years of experience as a business operator and executive across Atlantic Canada. He has led organizations and initiatives spanning hospitality, destination development, and rural innovation. A recognized champion for Pictou County and the broader region, Wes was the 2015 inaugural recipient of the Fleur Mainville Tourism Ambassador Award. He was also among the first hotel managers in Nova Scotia to earn the Emerit Professional Certification for Hotel General Manager. Through his leadership at Ignite Atlantic and entrepreneurial ventures, Wes actively supports the growth of rural businesses and innovation ecosystems across Nova Scotia. His governance experience includes serving as Chair of the Tourism Industry Association of Nova Scotia, Destination Eastern and Northumberland Shores, and the Ship Hector Society, as well as board roles with the Pictou County Chamber of Commerce and other community organizations. Wes lives in Pictou with his wife Kate and their 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. With over more than 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, Journeys Across Canada & Hygge Life Travel](#)

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 Canadvac Travel Services and Journeys Across Canada, the firms together representing a leading receptive travel specialist for Canada. The companies pride themselves in offering quality tourism products, highlighting smaller accommodations and unforgettable experiences showcasing the unique diversity of Canada.

2026-2027 TIANS Board of Directors | Biographies

Sean Doucet – NSTHRC Chair, Hospitality and Business Consultant

Previously Sean held 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 as well as General Manager of both Hotel Halifax and The Barrington Hotel. Prior to Sean's tenure with SilverBirch, he managed the Operations team at the Delta Halifax as well as having held the position of Executive Chef from May 2002 to September 2009. Sean holds a culinary arts diploma, is a certified sommelier 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. Over the years, Sean has also served on a number of tourism related boards and committees including TIANS, the Hotel Association of Nova Scotia, Hope Cottage and Chefs for Unicef. Sean is a proud Acadian from Clare, with his wife Tina they have raised three boys in Hammonds Plains.

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.

Cal Martin - Parks Canada Field Unit Superintendent, Cape Breton

A graduate of the University of Winnipeg, Cal holds a BSc in Biology and is responsible for the management and operation of Cape Breton Highlands National Park, Fortress of Louisbourg, Alexander Graham Bell Museum, and several smaller national historic sites, cumulatively welcoming hundreds of thousands of visitors a year and putting tens of millions of dollars in the local economy. Over his career, he has managed 8 national parks in 5 different provinces including 2 World Heritage Sites and more than 10 national historic sites. With a strong background in connecting people and places, Cal was National Chair of Interpretation Canada for 7 years, leading the professional organization that supports heritage interpreters in parks, museums, historic sites, zoos, aquariums, and art galleries across the country.

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.

2026-2027 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 25 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](#)

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](#)

An Acadia University Bachelor of Business Administration graduate, David was a founding partner of Planters Equipment Limited, a John Deere agriculture and consumer equipment dealership serving the Annapolis Valley, now Green Diamond Equipment. David started a marketing and public relations consultancy which led to working in the Office of the Premier. He later became Executive Director of the Wolfville Business Development Corporation and co-led the rebranding of Wolfville making it Atlantic Canada's premier wine and culinary destination. In its 15th season, Magic Winery Bus has been recognized by TIANS with its Innovator Award and is a top ten NS experience declared 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.