



# Continuing Directors and Candidates for Election to the Board

for the  
WFNS Annual General Meeting on Zoom  
7:00PM, June 16, 2025

Link to digital ballot:

<https://writers.ns.ca/digital-ballot-board-election-2025/>

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|---|----------|
| <b>PAST-PRESIDENT</b>                       | <b>2</b> |
| <b>CONTINUING DIRECTORS</b>                 | <b>2</b> |
| <b>CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION TO THE BOARD</b> | <b>2</b> |
| Candidate: Sonja Boon                       | 3        |
| Candidate: Joanne Gallant                   | 4        |
| Candidate: Renée Hartleib                   | 5        |
| Candidate: Kathy Mac                        | 6        |
| Candidate: Danica Roache                    | 7        |

## PAST-PRESIDENT

Previous Board President **Philip Moscovitch** (Writers' Council & General Member) will serve as Past-President (a non-voting position on the Board) for the 2025/2026 governance year.

## CONTINUING DIRECTORS

Each Director's term of office is normally two governance years. The following Directors were elected or re-elected at the 2024 Annual General Meeting and are continuing into the second year of their current terms. They are, therefore, not included on the ballot.

- **Becca Babcock** (Writers' Council & General Member)
- **Habiba Diallo** (Writers' Council & General Member)
- **Lindsey Harrington** (Writers' Council & General Member)
- **Cory Lavender** (Writers' Council & General Member)
- **Whitney Moran** (Writers' Council & General Member)
- **Tiffany Morris** (Writers' Council & General Member)
- **Carol Shillibeer** (General Member)
- **Steve Vernon** (Writers' Council & General Member)

## CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION TO THE BOARD

Each Director normally serves a maximum of two *consecutive* terms, or four governance years. There is no limit on non-consecutive terms.

The following candidate profiles include these details:

- Membership status
- Term status, whether seeking election for a first Board term (ever or after some time away from the Board) or seeking re-election for a second consecutive Board term
- Positions sought on the Board and on Board Committees, included for informational purposes only \*
- Biographical statement
- Aims statement
- Endorsement, if applicable, from the Recruitment & Nominating Committee, which must endorse one candidate per Board seat available

\* General Members vote at the Annual General Meeting to determine only who joins the Board of Directors. Subsequently, the incoming Board meets to determine by vote who among them will compose the Board Executive (i.e., President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary, all others being Directors-at-Large) and to determine by appointment who among them will chair specific Board Committees.

## Candidate: Sonja Boon

(Writers' Council & General Member)

Seeking election for first Board term

Position sought on Board: Director-at-Large

Positions sought on Committees:

- Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (EDIA) Committee
- Programs Committee

Sonja Boon is a mixed-race writer, researcher, flutist, and teacher. She's a relatively new transplant to Nova Scotia, having formally moved to Halifax with her family in the summer of 2023. Since her arrival in NS, she's been involved with WFNS in numerous capacities. A member of the Writers' Council, she has served as a volunteer, instructor, and book award jury member. She currently serves on the Board of *Riddle Fence* literary magazine (St. John's, NL) and is co-editor of the Life Writing series at Wilfrid Laurier University Press. She has previously served as Vice-President with WritersNL. In that position, she also chaired the Literary Awards committee. Finally, she's served on a number of book award juries in different Canadian provinces, an honour that is both overwhelming and humbling. In her previous lives, she was a professional classical musician and a professor of gender studies, and both of these continue to influence her life and creative practice. Before moving to Halifax, Sonja and her family lived in St. John's for 15 years and Vancouver for 11 before that! As an immigrant who arrived in Canada as a child, Sonja has lived in 7 provinces and on 3 continents.

*"I am already impressed with the wide variety of programming that WFNS staff coordinate and manage with the support of the Board. As a board member, my interests lie in the areas of equity, diversity, and inclusion and in expanding opportunities for youth writers."*

Endorsed by the Recruitment & Nominating Committee

## Candidate: Joanne Gallant

(Writers' Council & General Member)

Seeking re-election for second consecutive Board term

Position sought on Board: President

Positions sought on Committees:

- Fund Development Committee

Joanne Gallant is the current president of the WFNS Board of Directors and has served on the Board since 2023. She sits on the Cultural Federations of Nova Scotia board, is a member of The Writers' Union of Canada, and has taught writing workshops and youth writing camps through the WFNS. In 2020, Joanne was an apprentice writer in the Alistair MacLeod Mentorship program, and she is the author of one book, *A Womb in the Shape of a Heart*, which won the Margaret and John Savage First Book Award for Non-Fiction. She's had pieces published in *Oh Reader* and *Mutha* magazines, has served as a reader for the CBC Non-Fiction Prize and Nova Writes Competition, and has attended two self-directed writing retreats at Jampolis Cottage. Joanne is entering her second year of an MFA in Creative Fiction at the University of King's College. Outside of writing, Joanne works as a registered nurse at the IWK Health Centre and lives in Halifax with her family.

*"I wish to seek re-election as President of the WFNS Board of Directors. As President, I will continue to be an active board member by participating in events, providing input when needed or requested, and leading the board through any challenges that arise. As we continue to focus on our outreach work, I strive to ensure everyone's voice within the Federation is heard and that the community the WFNS serves is always our top priority. As President, I will be fiscally responsible, assist the Executive Director with decision-making, and conduct our monthly Board meetings in a professional and timely manner. I hold the utmost respect for the work the WFNS does and, should I not be re-elected, will continue to be a part of the WFNS community through committee work, fundraising events, and any other things that come up. It would be a pleasure to sit on the Board of Directors for another year."*

Endorsed by the Recruitment & Nominating Committee

## Candidate: Renée Hartleib

(Writers' Council & General Member)

Seeking election for first Board term

Position sought on Board: Director-at-Large

Positions sought on Committees:

- Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (EDIA) Committee
- Membership Committee

Renée Hartleib is a writer and writing mentor based out of Halifax, Nova Scotia. She has authored two books: *Writing Your Way: A 40-Day Path of Self-Discovery* (2022) and *Solo Camino: An Empowering Guide for Women* (forthcoming, 2025). A graduate of the Humber School of Writers, her short stories have been published in anthologies and literary journals across Canada. She has also worked as a professional writer and editor with a long list of clients. As a writing mentor, Renée considers it an honour to work one-on-one with writers who are completing book drafts or who require a sensitive and thorough review of completed manuscripts. Renée understands and appreciates the important work of the Writers' Federation of Nova Scotia, having been one of the first mentorees in the Alistair MacLeod Mentorship Program and also having served on the WFNS Board of Directors in the past.

*"If elected to the Board, I look forward to giving back to an organization that has supported me over the last two+ decades of my writing career. I am keen to put my time and energy toward helping WFNS continue its important work of fostering writing and enhancing the vibrant writing community in our province."*

Endorsed by the Recruitment & Nominating Committee

## Candidate: Kathy Mac

(Writers' Council & General Member)

Seeking election for first Board term

Position sought on Board: Secretary

Positions sought on Committees:

- Fund Development Committee
- Programs Committee
- Strategy & Policies Committee

Kathy Mac belonged to the WFNS from the mid-1980s until she got an out-of-province job in 2002. She was a member of the Writers' Council and was very active in the local poetry and writing scenes. Kathy left Nova Scotia to teach at St. Thomas University in Fredericton, where she developed their creative writing program. She has taught introductory, poetry, prose, script, and visual text creative writing courses and supervised numerous theses and independent studies. While in NB, she twice served as Secretary to the Board of the WFNB. She also hosted semi-annual conferences three times at St. Thomas. In terms of writing, Kathy has published three books of poetry with Fernwood (Halifax), two books of writing instruction with Wording Around Press (her independent publishing house), and a book of essays with Wolsak & Wynn (Hamilton). Kathy's first book of poems was nominated for the Governor General's Prize and won the Gerald Lampert Award; her third was nominated for *The Fiddlehead* Poetry Book Prize."

*"Serving on the WFNS Board will be mutually beneficial: it will help me to reconnect with the writing community here. In return, I can bring my experience and wily enthusiasm to the tasks of helping the WFNS achieve some of its goals and dreams for the province's writers."*

## Candidate: Danica Roache

(General Member)

Seeking re-election for second consecutive Board term

Position sought on Board: Director-at-Large

Positions sought on Committees:

- Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (EDIA) Committee
- Membership Committee

Danica Roache is a mixed-ancestry mother of four and a member of Glooscap First Nation currently living in Punamu'kwati'jk (Dartmouth). She holds a BA with combined honours in English and Creative Writing from Dalhousie University. Danica's work has been published in *The Dalhousie Review* and long-listed for the CBC Poetry Prize. Her debut novel, *Five Seasons of Charlie Francis*, is set for publication with Vagrant Press in Fall 2025. A current member of the Board, Danica has chaired the Membership Committee and served on the EDIA Committee for the past year.

*“If re-elected to the Board, I would like to continue serving as chair of the Membership Committee. I would also like to keep serving on the EDIA Committee. Over the coming year, I hope to help facilitate growth and new membership outreach.”*

Endorsed by the Recruitment & Nominating Committee