



Continuing Directors and Candidates for Election to the Board

for the
WFNS Annual General Meeting on Zoom
7:00PM, June 15, 2026

Number of Board seats vacant: 8
Number of candidates: 10

Link to digital ballot:
<https://writers.ns.ca/agm-2026-digital-ballot>

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PAST PRESIDENT

In addition to elected Directors, WFNS's Board includes an unelected, non-voting Past President, who chairs certain Committees. This position is normally filled by the most recent former President. If a single President is re-elected for consecutive years, then a single Past President will be asked to serve for that duration.

Joanne Gallant, whose term as 2025/2026 President concludes with this AGM, is the only continuing Director or candidate for election who intends to run for 2026/2027 President. Assuming she is acclaimed as President, she will be unavailable for the position of Past President.

Philip Moscovitch, who has served as Past President for the 2024/2025 and 2025/2026 governance years, will be stepping down as of this AGM and so is unavailable to continue in the position.

Following WFNS's Governance & Elections Policy, **the incoming Board will determine whether (a) to continue asking former Presidents, in order of their presidencies, until the position is filled or (b) to leave the Past President position vacant** for the 2026/2027 governance year, in which case Past President duties will be assigned to one or more Board Officers.

CONTINUING DIRECTORS

Each Director's term of office is normally two governance years. The following Directors were elected or re-elected at the 2025 Annual General Meeting and are continuing into the second year of their current terms. They are, therefore, not included on the ballot.

- **Sonja Boon** (Writers' Council & General Member)
- **Joanne Gallant** (Writers' Council & General Member)
- **Renée Hartleib** (Writers' Council & General Member)
- **Danica Roache** (General Member)

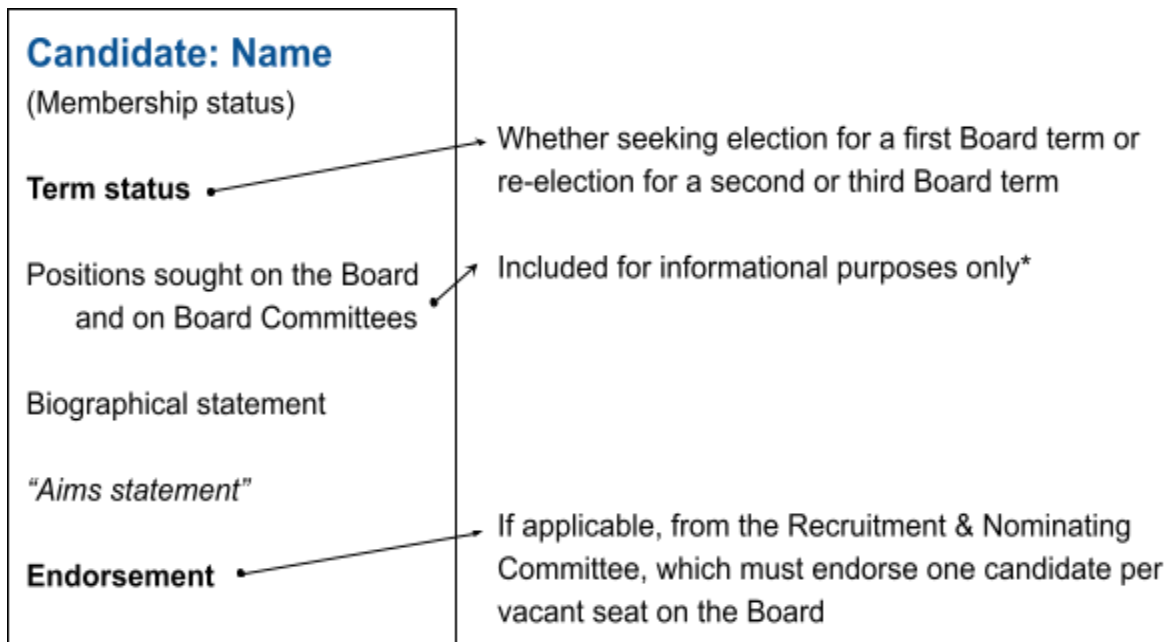
CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION TO THE BOARD

Each Director normally serves a maximum of two consecutive terms, or four governance years.

The 2025/2026 Recruitment & Nominating Committee asked certain outgoing Directors to run for re-election to third consecutive terms, which is noted on the relevant candidates' statements below. The Committee has provided this background for its decision:

“Normally, directors serve two consecutive terms at most, but because of the recent cuts to our operational funds, WFNS has entered a period of uncertainty. The 2025/2026 Board of Directors believes that maintaining consistency into the 2026/2027 governance year will help guide the WFNS through these uncertain times.”

Candidacy statements are structured as follows:



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* General Members vote at the Annual General Meeting to determine only who composes the incoming Board of Directors. Subsequently, the incoming Board meets to elect the Board Executives (i.e., President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary, all others being Directors-at-Large) and to appoint the chairs of Board Committees.

Candidate: Becca Babcock

(Writers' Council & General Member)

Seeking re-election for second consecutive Board term

Position sought on Board: Secretary

Positions sought on Committees:

- Membership & Engagement Committee
- Strategy & Policies Committee

Becca Babcock is a writer and a writing instructor, having published three books of fiction (*Some There Are Fearless*, 2023; *One Who Has Been Here Before*, 2021; and *Every Second Weekend*, 2011), with a fourth forthcoming (*Driving Into the Sun*, NeWest Press, 2026), as well as several short stories in literary journals in Canada and abroad. Since 2023, she has served as the WFNS Board Secretary. Previously, she served on the Board of Directors and Audience Engagement Committee for Eastern Front Theatre (2016 – 2019) and the Edmonton International Women's Day Planning Committee (2003 – 2005), as well as several university and national student organization boards and committees, and other organizations in volunteer roles.

"I hope to support the Federation in regaining financial stability following the provincial funding cuts in 2026; I hope to help find ways to achieve the goals set forth in our most recent Strategic Plan, even in these difficult financial circumstances."

Endorsed by the Recruitment & Nominating Committee

Candidate: Lindsey Harrington

(Writers' Council & General Member)

Seeking re-election for second consecutive Board term

Position sought on Board: Director-at-Large

Positions sought on Committees:

- Fund Development Committee
- Membership & Engagement Committee
- Recruitment & Nominating Committee

Lindsey Harrington is a Nova Scotian writer with Newfoundland roots. Her debut memoir, *Nobody's Mother*, is forthcoming with Nimbus Publishing in Fall 2026. She has been an active member of WFNS since 2020 and originally joined the board in 2025. Outside of writing, she works in training, facilitation, and mediation in the field of labour relations. Her twenty-year career spans the non-profit, private, and public sectors, and she holds an MBA from Memorial University.

"I currently chair the 50th Anniversary Committee. I hope to continue to contribute zany ideas and the follow-through to help make them a reality. If needed, I'm happy to bring my HR, training, and conflict resolution skills to the table as well."

Endorsed by the Recruitment & Nominating Committee

Candidate: Leslie Hawco

(General Member)

Seeking election for first Board term

Position sought on Board: Treasurer

Positions sought on Committees:

- Fund Development Committee

Leslie Hawco's professional experience spans two decades of corporate finance. She started her career at Deloitte, where she spent over 12 years in financial advisory, with a focus on business valuations, mergers, acquisitions, transactions and corporate finance. Her expertise with value was shifted with the surge of corporate awareness on the environment, and businesses' contribution to the global carbon footprint. She spent years advising companies on mitigating their risk and capitalizing on strategic opportunities that were coming with the increased attention and pressure to this area.

In 2021, Leslie left Deloitte to become the CFO of a pre-revenue sustainable protein company based in Halifax, a job that she loved. Late in 2025, she was unexpectedly inspired by an idea to write a novel, which propelled her to make the unexpected move of leaving corporate finance to pursue writing. Leslie has been the Treasurer for a number of volunteer Boards in the community, including but not limited to Alice House, Nova Scotia Regional Tennis Development Association, The Waegwoltic Club, and Neptune Theatre.

"My experience at Deloitte and in industry has exposed me to a multitude of industries and I have developed a strength in quickly understanding new industry, its challenges and its opportunities. My experience at Neptune gave me an understanding of the arts landscape in Canada, and the economic struggles that are faced by such important industries. If elected, I hope to contribute to the Board in meaningful ways, but believe I can contribute immediately to the Finance Committee through

- *supporting financial stewardship, including budget management and oversight, financial planning and reporting;*
- *contributing to Federation governance by supporting the intersection of operational needs and financial constraints to ensure organizational sustainability;*
- *supporting collaborative leadership through consistent demonstration of working successfully across diverse teams to achieve shared objectives with transparency and accountability; and*
- *advocating for the diverse needs of emerging authors and established voices.*

I am deeply committed to the success of the WFNS and would be honoured to serve the membership in this capacity. Thank you for your time and consideration."

Candidate: Michelle Hébert

(Writers' Council & General Member)

Seeking election for first Board term

Position sought on Board: Director-at-Large

Positions sought on Committees:

- Membership & Engagement Committee
- Programs & Special Projects Committee
- Strategy & Policies Committee

Michelle is the author of *Every Little Thing She Does is Magic* (Vagrant 2024), *Enriched by Catastrophe: Social Work and Social Control after the Halifax Explosion* (Fernwood 2007), and *A Good Girl's Guide to Lying: Losing My Memory, Searching for Truth, & Confronting Complex Trauma* (Nimbus, September 2026). She has an MFA in creative nonfiction from King's, degrees and experience in journalism and social work, and her creative work has appeared in magazines and newspapers across North America and on CBC Radio. Her writing has been long listed for the CBC Nonfiction Prize. Michelle has worked as executive director of a nonprofit, held director-level roles in government, and had a consultancy business which helped nonprofits with communications, engagement, and to address governance and policy issues. She lives in Halifax with four cats and a dog, where she teaches creative writing with a focus on using trauma-informed practices to support both writers and readers.

"I have extensive experience working for nonprofits, both as an executive director (Eating Disorders NS) and board member (including NS Talent Trust, Bide Awhile, and Equal Voice NS). I am familiar with nonprofit communications, personnel recruitment and management, and board governance issues. In my consultancy business, I helped nonprofit boards strengthen their ability to carry out their mandates by identifying and addressing governance and policy issues. Additionally, I've held leadership roles in federal and provincial governments and served as a political researcher and advisor in a provincial political party. In a time of cuts to the arts, I bring an understanding of government decision-making processes and opportunities for influence. I've led strategic planning and evaluation initiatives for both government departments/projects and for nonprofits. I've also held director-level government roles in community engagement. Finally, I bring a perspective as a person with a disability."

Candidate: Jonté Jyne

(General Member)

Seeking election for first Board term

Position sought on Board: Treasurer

Positions sought on Committees:

- Fund Development Committee
- Membership & Engagement Committee
- Programs & Special Projects Committee
- Strategy & Policies Committee

Jonté Jyne has 15+ years' professional experience in management, sales, HR, and talent acquisition/development, and philanthropy; 5 years' committee experience for Relay for Life, American Cancer Society; and 2 years' in content strategy (freelance marketing and consulting). She has started a Substack blog, aimed to provide articles and resources to help emerging and established writers, that was recently published in *Orange Blossom Magazine*. She has been writing poetry and fiction for the last 25 years and is currently navigating the publishing world for the first time. Her previous studies have been in business administration, and she is currently pursuing studies in English Literature and Linguistics at Université Laval.

"I am passionate about writing and actively contributing to the success of writers and artists, emerging and established. I believe I have the experience and skillset to help WFNS meet their goals and sustain continued growth."

Endorsed by the Recruitment & Nominating Committee

Candidate: Cory Lavender

(Writers' Council & 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
- Jampolis Facilities Committee
- Programs & Special Projects Committee
- Recruitment & Nominating Committee

Cory Lavender is a poet of African Nova Scotian and European descent living in the Kespukwitk district of Mi'kma'ki (Southwest Nova Scotia). His work has appeared in journals such as *Grain*, *Prairie Fire*, *Riddle Fence*, and *The Fiddlehead* and in *Watch Your Head: Writers and Artists Respond to the Climate Crisis* (Coach House Press, 2020). His full-length collection, *Come One Thing Another* (Gaspereau Press, 2024), won the 2025 Maxine Tynes Nova Scotia Poetry Award.

"I have served on the WFNS board for one term so far, and I feel like my time has been quite productive. I make it to the meetings, from the monthlies to the committee work, and enjoy thinking things over and putting forward suggestions, debating about options, etc. I am chair of the Jampolis Facilities Committee currently and would like to get a bit more on the ball with meetings, but I would like to generally continue the work we've been doing with staff to help keep the cottage in good shape. Generally speaking, my aim is to continue to be a dedicated board member who works to support the Fed, helping make it the most it can be for its diverse membership."

Endorsed by the Recruitment & Nominating Committee

Candidate: Whitney Moran

(Writers' Council & General Member)

Seeking re-election for third consecutive Board term

Position sought on Board: Vice President

Positions sought on Committees:

- Fund Development Committee

Whitney Moran is the managing editor of Nimbus Publishing and has worked in the Atlantic Canadian publishing industry for nearly fifteen years. She has facilitated a number of workshops for the WFNS during that time and has been grateful to serve on its Board of Directors since 2022, first as a Director-at-Large and for the past three years as Vice President and Chair of the Fund Development Committee. Whitney has also participated in the Writers In The Schools (WITS) program since 2023. The author of two books, *East Coast Crafted* (co-written by Christopher Reynolds) and *I Want to Build a Seahouse* (illustrated by Josee Bisailon), she brings a wealth of experience with writers, event planning, and fundraising to her role on the WFNS Board of Directors, as well as an infectious passion for the distinct literary arts of this region.

"A strong and knowledgeable board is imperative as we move into a time of austerity and uncertainty in Nova Scotia's arts and culture industries. For that reason, fundraising for the WFNS is more important than ever. If re-elected to the Board of Directors, I am committed to continuing to lead the Fund Development Committee in planning and delivering marquee events like the annual Writing Rumble, which generates several thousands of dollars each year, and working with the board and WFNS staff to reimagine our innovative new initiatives, like the popular Just My Type poetry fundraiser and last fall's successful Gather 'Round winter storytelling fundraiser, as well as tried-and-true fundraisers like online raffles, which can be accessed by members across the province. I am also excited to help explore opportunities for focused legacy and charitable giving, and as VP I'll continue to work with the Personnel Committee to ensure WFNS staff is well supported.

"With my last four years serving on the board as well as my fifteen years in Nova Scotia's publishing industry, I will bring a wealth of institutional knowledge, contacts, and experience to this role if I'm granted the opportunity to serve our membership for a third term."

Endorsed by the Recruitment & Nominating Committee

Candidate: Tiffany Morris

(Writers' Council & General Member)

Seeking re-election for third consecutive Board term

Position sought on Board: Director-at-Large

Positions sought on Committees:

- Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (EDIA) Committee
- Fund Development Committee
- Programs & Special Projects Committee

Tiffany Morris is an L'nu'skw (Mi'kmaw) writer from Nova Scotia. She is the author of the horror novella *Carnalis*, the Indie Ink Award-winning novella *Green Fuse Burning*, and the Elgin Award-winning horror poetry collection *Elegies of Rotting Stars*. Her work has appeared in the Indigenous horror anthology *Never Whistle At Night*, as well as in *Nightmare Magazine*, *Uncanny Magazine*, and *Apex Magazine*, among others. She is a current Director-at-Large for the Writers' Federation of Nova Scotia and one of the founding Directors of Tricon: The Trident Conference for Speculative Fiction.

"I believe strongly in the power of literary citizenship, and believe that writers are at our best when we are uplifting each other and our communities. Part of the work I like to do in the literary community is with the WFNS Board, where I have brought my experience in Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Accessibility leadership to help ground our work in anti-oppressive, treaty-based practices. I would love the opportunity to continue to contribute wherever necessary and am honored by your consideration."

Endorsed by the Recruitment & Nominating Committee

Candidate: Jamie Samson

(General Member)

Seeking election for first Board term

Position sought on Board: Director-at-Large

Positions sought on Committees:

- Programs & Special Projects Committee
- Strategy & Policies Committee

Jamie Samson is a former lawyer and current Master's student in philosophy, who has always had a passion for reading and writing. Though not a professional author, words are the greatest joy of her life, and she loves to support local initiatives that inspire other community members to explore the joy of language. She is a current member of the Writers' Federation of Nova Scotia's Programs Committee.

"My aim as a board member is to help support writers in Nova Scotia—professionals, amateurs, and hobbyists alike—and to spread love for reading and writing across the province. I especially hope to encourage more events, contests, and workshops for those interested in beginning writing, or who write mostly for their own enjoyment. As a hobby writer myself, it has always been a special feeling to participate in a broader writing community, and to receive advice and encouragement from professional writers.

"With the recent cuts to arts funding in the province, I would also be very interested in helping to develop and grow fundraising initiatives within the Federation to ensure the continuity of as much programming as possible."

Endorsed by the Recruitment & Nominating Committee

Candidate: Carol Shillibeer

(General Member)

Seeking re-election for third consecutive Board term

Position sought on Board: Director-at-Large

Positions sought on Committees:

- Strategy & Policies Committee

Carol is an artist and poet and has worked as support, administration, and staff in the non-profit sector for decades, bringing with her a long history of work with artist-run nonprofits. As a retired academic, she blends her long-established interests in art and anthropology with investigations into what it means to be a writer in the contemporary world. She has published more than 200 poems in a variety of literary journals under a variety of heteronyms and published a chapbook in 2023 with Dancing Girl Press.

“I am currently a Board member and Treasurer. Normally, I would be leaving after my second consecutive term, but because these are financially unpleasant times, stability seems important. My role in the recent restructuring of the finances has been intense and wonderful, but the changes are not quite complete. With the recent defunding of arts programming and consequent reduction of some of our key programming, it seems important to remain on the board to get through this turbulence.”

Endorsed by the Recruitment & Nominating Committee