



Election of Directors to the HI Canada Board

NOMINATIONS

NOTICE AND INVITATION TO ALL MEMBERS

The Board nomination process leading up to the 2024 Board election began last fall. The Board considered gaps in its own composition in light of its established competency matrix, the need to have geographic, linguistic and cultural diversity on a truly national Board of Directors, all in order to ensure an effective Board for HI Canada.

In accordance with our bylaws, the Board's Nominating Committee proposes a slate of candidates for Board approval at the last Board meeting prior to issuing a general call to members. There are five 3-year board positions up for election in 2024.

The current endorsed Board slate includes candidates that the Board feels best ensure a functional and effective Board. The candidates outlined below will join any other nominations duly completed and received from members prior to 4:00 pm PDT on Monday, June 24, 2024. A short description of each candidate on the Board slate is included.

- Victoria Oppenlander, Regina, SK (incumbent)
- Kevin Pals, Vancouver, BC (incumbent)
- Brandon Sousa, Toronto, ON
- Nathalie Lemyre, Verdun, QC
- Veronique Lescaut, Westmount, QC

The Nominating Committee of Hostelling International – Canada is now accepting nominations for election to the Board of Directors.

Candidates for the Board should be someone who:

- has previous Board experience
- has experience at senior levels in environmental sustainability, youth development, or tourism (current gaps identified by our board competency matrix)
- is supportive of hostelling principles
- is a member of HI Canada
- is nominated by five (5) voting members of HI Canada
- has the ability to contribute views in a courteous, articulate, and constructive manner, and to hear and respect differing views
- has sufficient time and interest to prepare for and participate actively in each board meeting and in committees as required

The election will be conducted by on-line voting.

Candidates are required to provide a brief biography of 250 words, and a completed nomination form as represented at the bottom of this page, and endorsement by five (5) other members in good standing. This information will be e-mailed out to all validated members, along with the on-line ballot, should there be a contested election.

Directors serve without remuneration.

The candidate should send his/her nomination form to: boardelections.pm@hihostels.ca

The deadline for the receipt of nominations to the Nominating Committee is 4:00pm PDT on June 24, 2024.

For additional information, please email the Nominations Committee at boardelections.pm@hihostels.ca and we will reply or call you.

For election

Victoria Oppenlander (incumbent)



Born and raised in Saskatchewan, Victoria has been an avid hosteller for over a decade. Through her work on the board, she is eager to continue fostering the sense of community that hostelling brings. In her free time, you can usually find Victoria on an adventure, or planning the next one!

Kevin Pals (incumbent)



Growing up in Alberta, Kevin enjoyed all the outdoor activities offered in the Rocky Mountains. He has also lived, worked, and travelled to several countries and has experienced first-hand the value that hostelling brings to young people. Combining his passion for travel with a career in tourism, Kevin currently works at a travel technology company in Vancouver. He supports strategic planning, community engagement, and destination development in his role. Kevin is excited to help HI Canada's network grow coast to coast.

Brandon Sousa



Brandon is an experienced corporate communications professional who has worked for some of Canada's largest brands and publicly traded companies. He is a passionate traveller, having over 50 countries stamped in his passport. He believes that adventure can foster personal development and create positive economic impacts.

As a former accredited travel writer, Brandon actively chooses to stay in hostels as an opportunity to connect with fellow backpackers. Brandon brings eight years of board and governance experience, serving as a director with a provincial members association for professional craft artists.

Nathalie Lemyre



After a 32-year career in the airline industry, Nathalie still has jet fuel in her bloodstream and is looking to contribute her knowledge and experience towards the development, innovation, and personalizing the guest experience of Hostelling International.

Having herself experienced HI in Australia and Europe, Nathalie feels it is now time to give back to the community of travellers while supporting collaborative work with other board members.

Beside travelling, during her spare time, Nathalie enjoys gourmet cooking, biking, hiking and cross-country skiing in the Laurentians, where she now resides permanently.

Veronique Lescaut



With extensive travel experience throughout Latin America, Veronique has cherished memories of staying in hostels, which fueled a passion for tourism and sustainability. After living and working in Europe, the Middle East and Asia Veronique moved to Canada a few years ago with her Quebecois husband and three boys for them to grow up at home. She spends a lot of her time discovering the joys of outdoor life in Canada though she has yet to become friends with the black flies!

Veronique brings valuable expertise in corporate management in the travel and tourism industry and a dedication to fostering connections among travelers. Excited to contribute to HI Canada's mission, Veronique believes in the organization's power to create meaningful travel experiences.



NOMINATION FORM

CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Name of Candidate:
Membership #:
Tel:
Address:
City:
Postal Code:
Email address:

I accept the nomination for election to the Board of Directors of Hostelling International – HI Canada. If elected, I consent to serve as a member of the HI Canada Board of Directors

Signature of Candidate:

Date:

NOMINATORS:

1) NOMINATED BY:

Full Name:
Membership #:
Address:
City:
Postal Code:
Email Address:
Telephone #:

Signature of Nominator:

Date:

2) NOMINATED BY:

Full Name:
Membership #:
Address:
City:
Postal Code:
Email Address:
Telephone #:

Signature of Nominator:

Date:

3) NOMINATED BY:

Full Name:
Membership #:
Address:
City:
Postal Code:
Email Address:
Telephone #:

Signature of Nominator:

Date:



4) NOMINATED BY:

Full Name:
Membership #:
Address:
City:
Postal Code:
Email Address:
Telephone #:

Signature of Nominator:

Date:

5) NOMINATED BY:

Full Name:
Membership #:
Address:
City:
Postal Code:
Email Address:
Telephone #:

Signature of Nominator:

Date: