

Meet Your Board Candidates

The following individuals have put their names forward for nomination to serve on the Board of Directors for the 2024-2026 term. Director positions and elections are in accordance with our society's [bylaws](#).

Positions up for election include:

- 1 x Large Accommodation - North
- 1 x Large Accommodation - South
- 1 x Member at Large - North
- 2 x Member at Large - South

Two of the available positions only had one nominee, and thus will be elected by acclamation (no vote necessary):

- Large Accommodation - North acclaimed by Chris Tait, Klahoose Wilderness Resort
- Member at Large - North acclaimed by Gary Shilling, qathet Film Society

The remaining positions have multiple candidates and will be elected by the voting stakeholders in good standing (listed in alphabetical order):

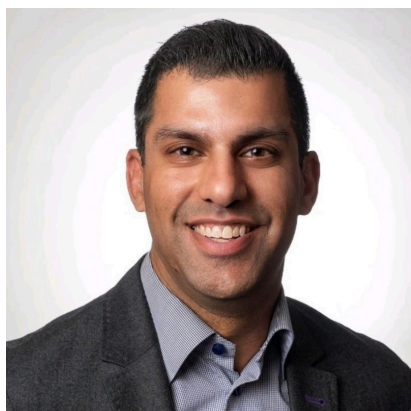
- **Large Accommodation - South - ONE (1) Seat Available**
 - Shaez Allidina, Evergreen Hospitality Group (*includes the Rockwater Secret Cove Resort, The Oceanside Coast Hotel, The Spot at Porpoise Bay, Sunshine Lodge, and the Marine Inn*)
 - Qaid Jivan, The Stonewater
- **Member at Large - South - TWO (2) Seats Available**
 - Shaez Allidina, Evergreen Hospitality Group
 - Qaid Jivan, The Stonewater
 - Cheryl MacKinnon, Wellness Travel BC
 - Heather Newman, Pointhouse Suites
 - Gina Ray, Gibsons Public Market

Note: While Board Nominees may be eligible for multiple positions, no member can serve in more than one position. Once the voting for the “Large Accommodation - South” position is complete, the winner will be removed from the nominees for the election of the “Member at Large - South” position.

Full Bios & Nomination Submissions Below

Shaez Allidina - Evergreen Hospitality Group

Position(s) eligible: Large Accommodation - South; Member at Large- South



Shaez is a Managing Partner of Evergreen Hotel Group, one of the fastest-growing hotel groups in British Columbia with 20+ hotels in the portfolio across the Lower Mainland, Vancouver Island, and the Sunshine Coast. Shaez is responsible for overseeing and managing revenue management, repositioning the hotel portfolio, acquisitions, and asset management.

Shaez holds a degree in Neuroscience and Economics from Bowdoin College and an Honors Business Administration (HBA) degree from the Richard Ivey School of Business at Western

University with a concentration in Finance. Shaez currently served as the Chairman for British Columbia for the Aga Khan Economic Planning Board for Canada, where he led a Board in achieving the overall mandate to improve the economic well-being of the community by providing guidance and assistance towards a sound financial base. Shaez also serves as a Board Member for Eagle Ridge Hospital Foundation.

Shaez is focused on the Sunshine Coast operations and growth for the hotel portfolio and would be excited about the opportunity to contribute to the Sunshine Coast Tourism's Board of Directors.

Sunshine Coast Tourism's Board of Directors is responsible for governance and strategic oversight of the organization. What does this mean to you, and how do you believe you will add value?

From Evergreen Hospitality's presence on the Sunshine Coast with 5 hotel properties, I confidently feel that we can add value to the Board of Directors and work in collaboration to make positive strategic decisions that will benefit the Sunshine Coast overall. I look forward to the opportunity and excited to see how we can all work together.

Qaid Jivan - The Stonewater

Position(s) eligible: Large Accommodation - South; Member at Large- South



Qaid began his career in technology project management at BC's health authorities. In 2016, he founded a recruitment technology company with just \$3000, which he grew to 10 staff and a large venture capital round in 2021. Simultaneously, as a hobby he was also creating installations in the music festival industry. It was at these music festivals where he realized his true passion laid in building communities and creating spaces where people could come together and have a good time. By 2021, Qaid had sold most of his shares and left his startup to pursue hospitality

development. He purchased and redeveloped a century home in Vancouver that featured an Airbnb. That Airbnb went on to become one of the top rated places to stay in Vancouver, and was featured in magazines like Business Insider.

By 2022, Qaid began mentoring under his friend John deC. Evans, the founder of OPUS Hotels and lead developer of Whistler Blackcomb. Qaid's goal was to learn as much as he could from Evans in order to develop his own hospitality projects on the Sunshine Coast.

In February of 2024, Qaid took over The Stonewater Motel and rebranded it to become The Stonewater – a boutique hotel that boasts glamping sites and a private circuit spa. After spending years taking frequent getaways to the Coast and now as a hotel-owner out here, Qaid is passionate about building tourism to the region. His goal is to promote projects that align with the history, communities, and natural beauty of the area. Qaid has a degree in Business Administration from SFU, has experience working on the Board of the Project Management Institute (Canada West), and has spoken at a variety of engagements and workshops for students at SFU, BCIT, UBC, and Emily Carr.

Sunshine Coast Tourism's Board of Directors is responsible for governance and strategic oversight of the organization. What does this mean to you, and how do you believe you will add value?

Now is an important time to be part of the tourism board's strategic planning. As the Coast continues to grow as a tourist destination, it is essential that it maintain its authenticity. Local business owners, as a driving force of the economy, will assist in helping vision set in an organic, true-to-the-Coast way. To me, this role means two things: collecting input from other tourism-focused business owners to ensure our voices are heard as the SCT makes decisions that will directly impact us; and ensuring transparent and effective communication between the SCT and small business owners. If those two facets of the job are in good standing, everyone wins. Good governance is, in short, all just transparent and regular communication.

Were I to be selected to join the board, I'd add value in three different ways:

1. Sharing my insights and perspectives from the Pender Harbour/Egmont region: We're one of the smallest (by people) and fastest growing parts of the Sunshine Coast. As such, we need to make sure the needs of this part of the region are being met.
 2. Sharing my insights and perspectives as an entrepreneur. We want to ensure longevity and foster a community for more businesses/business owners to not just survive, but thrive on the Sunshine Coast. As someone who is actively engaged with other business owners at similar stages in their work, I'm well positioned to offer just that.
 3. Sharing my insights and perspectives as a board member for other organizations. I'm no stranger to the work being a board member entails, and my work at the health authorities was building governance systems for a series of oversight boards. I also have an extensive network and am a natural connector, which offer direct results to the boards I am a part of.
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Cheryl MacKinnon - Wellness Travel BC

Position(s) eligible: Member at Large- South



Having previously served on the board of Sunshine Coast Tourism, it would be an privilege to once again work closely with colleagues here on the coast. As an industry leader and media personality, I have worked in hospitality, tourism and travel media for over 30 years, continually demonstrating powerful results for clients and audiences by thinking outside of the box.

As the founder and CEO of Wellness Travel BC, we are growing the wellness travel sector of which SCT is a founding marketing partner, by providing marketing, business development, and communications for clients in the wellness and Indigenous travel

sectors of BC and Yukon.

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Now a 14 yr+ resident, and a local business owner, I have been involved with strategic planning and execution with SCT in various capacities since its inception in 2007. I believe tourism is vital to the economic resiliency of the Sunshine Coast, and would like to take a more active role once again with the organization. To be a part of providing support and knowledge our residents need to benefit from year-round visitors, while educating visitors on the value of sustainable tourism in our region would be very rewarding.

Heather Newman - Pointhouse Suites on Sargeant Bay

Position(s) eligible: Member at Large- South



Heather is a seasoned entrepreneur with deep ties to the Sunshine Coast, particularly through her ownership of Pointhouse Suites on Sargeant Bay, a Gold Certified Green Tourism property. With a background in Rehabilitation Medicine, Heather made the leap into tourism in 2003 when she opened her first B&B. Since then, she has become known for her ability to create sustainable and unique guest experiences that connect visitors with nature.

Her extensive board experience includes serving as Treasurer on the Sunshine Coast Tourism board, where she currently holds the position, and leadership roles in other policy-driven organizations such as Canadian Parents for French BC/Yukon and the BC

Association of Child Development Centres. She is passionate about sustainable tourism development and fostering regional collaboration to drive economic growth on the Sunshine Coast.

Heather's commitment to environmental stewardship and sustainable hospitality, coupled with her financial oversight as treasurer, makes her a strong candidate for another term on the SCT board

Sunshine Coast Tourism's Board of Directors is responsible for governance and strategic oversight of the organization. What does this mean to you, and how do you believe you will add value?

Governance and strategic oversight mean ensuring that Sunshine Coast Tourism remains aligned with its mission and values while adapting to industry changes. It involves setting clear policies, managing resources responsibly, and shaping long-term goals that meet both community and visitor needs.

I can add value through my operational experience in sustainable tourism, and my roles on various boards, including my position as Treasurer on the SCT board. My background allows me to contribute a strong focus on fiscal responsibility, sustainability, and innovative tourism strategies that will drive economic growth and enhance the region's appeal.

Gina Ray - Gibsons Public Market

Position(s) eligible: Member at Large- South



As a born and raised Coaster, I have watched this small town grow and develop into the beautiful community it is today. I take pride in sharing how amazing the Sunshine Coast is with anyone who is willing to listen. I've often taken on the role of a tour guide, while working and chatting with tourists, to give them a rundown of all the go to spots to check out first. Tourism is such a vital piece of our economy here on the Sunshine Coast and I think it's really important to have support and understanding within the community.

Sunshine Coast Tourism's Board of Directors is responsible for governance and strategic oversight of the organization.

What does this mean to you, and how do you believe you will add value?

SCT's Board of Directors plays a vital role in ensuring SCT operates within the guidelines set out in our mandate. They develop strategies and plans to implement initiatives to ensure SCT has the tools it needs to achieve desired results. As someone who has great local connections I think I bring value in being a voice for the younger generations. Having such an extensive background in customer service, I have a way of connecting with people that allows me to create the space to highlight all the amazing things SCT does to help grow our tourism industry while educating tourists on things necessary to be sustainable.

Elected by Acclamation (No Vote Necessary)

Gary Shilling - qathet Film Society

Position: Member at Large- North



Gary is actively engaged in the cultural community of qathet Regional District. A marketing and communications professional – he applies his practical knowledge to all aspects of the artistic visioning, financial stability, and organizational readiness of the qathet film society, their annual Film Festival, and the Patricia Theatre. As Executive Director for the Society, Gary is focussed on strengthening the role that film plays in the cultural and economic fabric of the region.

Sunshine Coast Tourism's Board of Directors is responsible for governance and strategic oversight of the organization.

What does this mean to you, and how do you believe you will add value?

Strategic oversight is a core responsibility of a board. And how the board executes that role can contribute to the success of the overall strategic plan. Key to that success is helping management address obstacles, find opportunities, out-think competitors, bypass disruptors and fine tune its direction. Having a diverse board improves strategy and risk oversight. As executive director of the qathet film society and owners of the historic Patricia Theatre, I oversee the implementation of strategies to attract locals and visitors to qathet's most important built attraction. With 7 year's experience in this leadership role, I believe my knowledge and experience will be an asset to the SCT board.

Chris Tait - Klahoose Wilderness Resort

Position: Large Accommodation - North



Chris Tait is the Tourism Manager at Klahoose Wilderness Resort, where he champions authentic Indigenous tourism experiences in Klahoose First Nation Territory, along with neighbouring Homalco, Kwakiutl, and Tla'amin Nations. With over 25 years in the Canadian travel industry, Chris has transformed the resort into a globally acclaimed destination on the Sunshine Coast. His work also includes partnerships such as Klahoose Coastal Adventures and the re-opening of Gorge Harbour Marina Resort all owned by the Klahoose Nation. Driven by a passion for sustainable and regenerative tourism, Chris connects visitors with Indigenous heritage, culture, and meaningful experiences.

Sunshine Coast Tourism's Board of Directors is responsible for governance and strategic oversight of the organization. What does this mean to you, and how do you believe you will add value?

To me, governance and strategic oversight of Sunshine Coast Tourism means ensuring the organization operates effectively, ethically, and in alignment with its mission to promote sustainable and culturally rich tourism. It involves guiding the organization in setting clear priorities, making informed decisions, and maintaining accountability while adapting to the evolving tourism landscape.

I believe I will add value through my extensive experience in the Canadian travel industry, particularly with Indigenous tourism, travel trade and destination development. My focus on collaboration, sustainable tourism practices, and regenerative tourism aligns with the Sunshine Coast's vision. With a proven track record of building strong partnerships and transforming Klahoose Wilderness Resort into a globally acclaimed destination, I will bring strategic insights that support growth, foster inclusivity, and enhance the visibility of the Sunshine Coast as a world-class tourism destination.

Additionally, my commitment to amplifying Indigenous voices and creating meaningful, culturally immersive experiences would contribute to further showcasing the region's unique heritage and natural beauty. This approach not only drives tourism but also strengthens community engagement and environmental stewardship—critical for the long-term success of the region.
