



# Atlantic Community Board

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CN is proud to create a volunteer-driven community board to guide our CN Stronger Communities Fund's decisions and strengthen community partnerships in Atlantic Canada.

Through the **Atlantic Community Board**, CN is putting funding decisions into the hands of local community and business leaders who know their region best.

Bringing community leaders together enhances local decision-making, strengthens community relations and increases the impact of local community investments.

**[www.cn.ca/community](http://www.cn.ca/community)**

## Alan R. Abraham Jr. Atlantic Community Board Chair



**Al Abraham**, of Halifax, NS, was appointed Vice-President of the Environmental Services Group in 2017. Mr. Abraham has 30 years of experience in the waste removal industry. He founded Green Waste Systems in 1989 and grew it into the second-largest waste removal company in Atlantic Canada

before it was purchased by the Royal Environmental Group in 2010. Prior to entering the waste removal industry, Mr. Abraham held executive positions in both Nova Scotia and New Brunswick in the moving, storage and warehousing industries following graduation from Saint Mary's University. Mr. Abraham was active with industry associations, serving on their Board of Directors as well as the Fredericton Chamber of Commerce and Better Business Bureau of New Brunswick. Mr. Abraham currently sits on the Saint Mary's University Board of Governors. In 1999, Mr. Abraham was appointed a Director of the Halifax Port Authority and was elected Chairman of the Board in March 2002

## Robert Dempsey



**Robert Dempsey** is a strategist with an eye for innovation, entrepreneur and co-owner of The Binnacle Yachting Equipment. He balances risk taking with integrity and giving back to the community. After leaving the federal government in 1993, Robert and his business partner purchased a faltering Halifax retail

business with one employee. In 1999, The Binnacle launched the first online marine store in Canada and one of the very first in North America—a daring decision and investment at the time. Today, The Binnacle, with over 25 employees, has become Canada's leading online marine store with reach across Canada and into the United States. Robert attributes this success to good decisions, focus and community involvement. Robert was an avid sailor and raced large boats for many years. The Binnacle is a proud supporter of the sailing community's youth programs and has sponsored new aspiring sailors and Olympic Team hopefuls alike. Robert is a former Vice-Commodore of the Royal Nova Scotia Yacht Squadron and a graduate of Saint Mary's University.

## Robert Ghiz



**Robert Ghiz** served as Premier of Prince Edward Island from 2007 to 2015. He was born and raised in Charlottetown, PEI, and attended Bishop's University where he earned a bachelor's degree in political science. Robert moved to Ottawa where he worked as a political aide for Deputy Prime Minister Sheila

Copps before joining the Bank of Nova Scotia in 1998. In 2001, Robert joined the office of Prime Minister Jean Chrétien where he served as Atlantic Canada advisor before leaving to run for leader of the Prince Edward Island Liberal Party in 2003. Robert is currently President and CEO of the Canadian Wireless Telecommunications Association. He is a member of the Board of Directors of The True Patriot Love Foundation, the Advisory Council of the Prince's Charities Canada and is a former member of the Board of Ducks Unlimited.

## Martin Guimond



**Martin Guimond** was appointed Vice-President, Eastern Region in June 2022, based in Montreal, QC. He is responsible for portions of CN's network, from Ontario to Nova Scotia.

Martin joined CN in 2017 as Vice-President, Multimodal

Operations and was responsible for all intermodal terminal operations, including the CNTL trucking fleet. Prior to joining CN, he held progressively senior roles at British American Tobacco in a variety of areas, including operations and supply chain, sales, marketing, warehouse and manufacturing plant management.

Martin holds a Bachelor of Business Administration with a specialization in operations and production management from the École des Hautes Études Commerciales (HEC) in Montreal.

## Gina Kinsman



**Gina Kinsman** is Assurance Partner at EY. She has over 20 years' experience providing audit and advisory services to a wide range of public and private companies. At EY, Gina was Atlantic Canada's Talent Leader, member of the Audit Quality Review program and Instructor Development Workshop leader throughout North

America. Gina currently leads the Atlantic EY Entrepreneur of the Year Award program, the world's most prestigious business award for entrepreneurs who are building and leading successful, growing and dynamic businesses. Gina's community involvement includes being a board member of the Canadian Mental Health Association (Halifax/Dartmouth), Bryony House, YWCA, Waegwoltic Club and as a council member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nova Scotia. She is currently Vice-Chair of the Public Accountants Certification Committee of CPA NS and is a Mentor with InnovaCorp's MentorFirst Program.

## Chris Lydon



**Chris Lydon**, Senior Vice-President, Regional, joined m5 Public Affairs in 2017 with over 17 years of public policy experience. He has served as a senior communications advisor to the Premier of Nova Scotia, lead in-house counsel on government and stakeholder relations at Atlantic Lottery, in Ottawa as Chief

of Staff to the federal departments of Labour and Status of Women Canada and an extended stint in the Regional Emergency Operations Centre leading the on-the-ground crisis communications and coordinated response of Canada's insurance industry to the Fort McMurray wildfire. Just prior to his arrival at m5, Chris served as the Campaign Director for the successful re-election of the Mayor of Halifax. Now, again a consultant in the private sector, he represents some of the largest employers in North America. Chris is the past-Chair of Big Brothers Big Sisters, serves on multiple non-profit boards, is a CBC Radio pundit, the voice of the Halifax Wanderers FC, Halifax Hurricanes and USPORTS Final 8, and received a Papal knighthood in 2013.

## Janet MacMillan



**Janet MacMillan** has devoted much of her professional and volunteer career to guiding and supporting successful organizations in their growth trajectories. As lead strategic counsel and former co-owner of NATIONAL Public Relations (Atlantic), Janet supports clients and teams in such areas as risk, reputation and

crisis management, community engagement/social licence. A member of the Institute of Corporate Directors as well as a fellow and accredited (life) member of the Canadian Public Relations Society, Janet holds considerable cumulative governance experience and currently serves on a number of international, national and regional boards. These include: COVE (Centre for Ocean Ventures and Entrepreneurship), Fundy Ocean Research Centre for Energy (FORCE Tidal), Dalhousie Medical Research Foundation, Halifax Dartmouth Bridge Commission, RCMP Foundation of Canada and Sail Canada. She is past board chair of Mount Saint Vincent University, the institution from which she received her degree in public relations.

## Daniel (Dan) Salvatore Atlantic Community Board Secretary



**Daniel (Dan) Salvatore** has been Manager, Public Affairs at CN since 2018 responsible for Ontario. In late 2021, he also began representing CN in the Atlantic Region and is now Secretary of the Atlantic Community Board. Working alongside the Chair and fellow Board members, Dan administers the applications

received and carries out the decisions of the Board. Prior to joining CN, Dan worked in a number of fields including the not-for-profit sector with the Mackenzie Health Foundation as Director, Client Relations. He also served in the office of a former Member of Parliament and federal Cabinet Minister from 2010 to 2014. Dan volunteers at a number of local organizations, including as a Board Member for the Children's Aid Foundation of York Region. Dan holds a Bachelor of Arts with Honours in Political Studies from Queen's University